March 2019 District Manager’s Report

In response to our request for a meeting with the United States Postal Service, Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez’s Office asked for a list of addresses and associated mail complaints, which her office has forwarded onto the Bronx Post Master.

I’ve only received the following complaints thus far:

1. Astor Avenue: We get mail past 6 o'clock most days, and we constantly get the wrong mail, also we had a valuable package delivered to someone a block away recently. The person was nice enough to bring it to us in the freezing rain.
2. Esplanade station at 2488 Williamsbridge Road should not be closed from 1pm to 2:30pm.
3. Seymour Ave: Sometimes mail does not arrive until 7:30pm or no mail at all. Sometimes, certain sensitive mail arrives more than a week late.
5. Waring Ave: Often, sensitive mail arrives more than a week late, if at all.
6. Morris Park Community Association requested a meeting with the post office.
7. The Baychester station only has one staff member at the service window.

And as for requesting that the Congresswoman come to one of our full board meetings…the problem is the Congressional calendar:
We need to request a meeting outside of our normal meeting schedule, i.e. a day Congress is not in session.
The City Department of Health said that 2735 Yates Avenue passed inspection in February in response to a rat and rodent complaint.

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At the request of a board member, I reached out to the City Conflicts of Interest Board re Bronx Community Board 11 Day at Yankee Stadium. The new restriction I got from the COIB is that if you’re a board member and your child has not received the Yankee Award or if you’re a board member and you’re not going to be a part of the on-field ceremony for BxCB11 at the Stadium, you will not be able to pick up game tickets from the office, even if you’re picking them up on the behalf of an organization or someone outside of yourself. So, in other words, please don’t ask the staff to personally give you any tickets because you won’t be receiving them from us.

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As discussed since January, we contracted an organization called Fedcap to clean up certain parts of our district. In addition to what was cleaned in my previous reports, so was the Bronxdale-Amtrak overpass:

![Image of graffiti being painted over](image-url)
Fedcap removed graffiti from a total of three utility boxes at this location in addition to cleaning up lose garbage and litter:

We’ll see how long this lasts. Graffiti has returned already on the locations we had cleaned up on Tremont Avenue.

At the February full board meeting, discussion took place on the Executive Board’s desire to hire a fourth staff member. During that discussion, a question was raised regarding my salary compared to my colleagues. As a result, you may be interested in the following document:
As a result of the Pelham Parkway Reconstruction Project Task Force meeting earlier this month:

1. I was asked to schedule a public meeting for the north service road construction sooner than expected. That meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 at the New York Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Parkway North at 7 p.m.

2. I asked the Parks Department to provide in writing why the temporary path at Stillwell Avenue is no longer feasible. Their response:

   Parks pursued the paving of a desire line stretch from Stillwell to the bus stop on Pelham Parkway in 2018. This initially was looked as a favor to the community, and a concession from CAC (The Pel. Pkwy. contractor). The initial complaints came from the path becoming muddy and hard to traverse during snow and rain events. Parks looked at mulching the path to alleviate the muddy conditions, but in doing this we would have created another difficult condition for any handicap people that use wheelchairs or any assisted walking devices.

   Parks Operations, Forestry, CAC, and Liro met on site to determine the action plan for the paving. We hoped that it could be done with little impact on that section of the park, and the current project. Upon inquiring with our inter-agency facilitation director, it was determined that the process would be more involved than we initially though. Because of the involvement beyond the contract, CAC pulled the concession from the table and the Community Board pulled the request because of objections from board members. Parks then stopped the process. The bus stop will be move to the other side of the intersection and new sidewalks will be installed as part of the current construction project. This should eliminate the need to use this desire line in the park.

3. I followed up on the guardrail issue, to which Parks responded with:

   We inspected the eastbound main lanes of Pelham Parkway for areas where the structural integrity of the guardrails has been compromised. There is one section that will be replaced by Parks. Many of the wood sections have deep scrapes on them, these will not be replaced as it is just cosmetic damage.

   This is a traffic sensitive job that needs proper coordination and planning. We should have it completed this spring.
In response to the DSNY’s survey request for littering from motor vehicles in our district. I gave the DSNY the following complaints:

1. Fish avenue between Astor and Pelham Parkway north. Usually seemingly hospital employees (the hospital is directly across from the street on the South side) since we often find latex gloves, snack and drink containers, etc. on the grassy areas near our homes. I suspect the problem is on Seymour between Astor and Pelham Parkway north as well.
2. Lydig Avenue -- we get EXTENSIVE litter from the stores. Up and down Lydig Avenue from Wallace to Bolton Street.
3. Morris Park Avenue transit wall from E. 180th Street to Garfield.
4. Sacket Avenue between Eastchester Road and Bronxdale Avenue. Particularly west of Williamsbridge Road, utility vehicles, delivery vehicles, cabs and others often park on the southside of the street, up over the curb, tossing their garbage out near the Amtrak fence line.

In response to last month’s motions re Columbus Day and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, I got a response from Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez’s Office that the Congresswoman would be informed of our position.

And from Congressman Engel’s Office I got:

1-He is a co-sponsor of the bill which makes the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund permanent. He was one of the original sponsors of the original legislation. I believe its called the Zadroga Act.. He is working quite hard on this.

2-I believe that he supports the Columbus Day concept.

Asked to confirm number 2, Engel’s staffer said “I am sure that he would support it.”

The Department of Transportation forwarded me the following email:

I have come across a dangerous situation in the Bronx yesterday. On Pelham Parkway North and Hering service road Ave Bx NY 10469.It is becoming increasing difficult to turn onto due to the two way oncoming traffic. The driver must inch out onto oncoming traffic two way to complete the turn. There is a blind spot due to the last parked car blocking driver's view on Hering Ave. This can be remedied by
removing the last parking spot. Please take action before a serious car accident occurs.

A board member and the office are looking into the complaint to see if it’s valid and requires action.

If you’re going to the Ocasio-Cortez event at Einstein College tomorrow, please let me know. I’m keeping a list to give to the Congresswoman’s Office.

The Office received a complaint earlier this week about litter along Pelham Parkway and Stillwell Avenue. I emailed various agencies to see who is responsible for the area. Parks Department claimed responsibility and said it should be cleaned by tomorrow.