



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

## Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

**November 2, 2017**

**Meeting Location:** BRONX CB9 OFFICE

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Nicholas Himidian, Juan Torres, Andrew Martinez, Jennifer Ellison Lackard, Henry Pelayo Jr, Brandon Ganaishlal & William Rivera DM.

### Introduction

Committee Description: The public safety & transportation committee represents the community's interests with regards to sanitation, crime, fire-ems, quality of life, NYS liquor license application recommendations, street activity permit applications, street re-naming application, transportation and acts as a liaison between community members and the New York Police Department & Fire Departments, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Department of Sanitation & NYS Liquor Authority.

### Liquor License

**A. Salome Latin Cuisine Corp. #1288985**

The first renewal was 2 years ago. It is located in Parkchester in Eddy's sector. The restaurant is usually closed Mondays. It is open Tuesday to Thursdays until 1-2 AM and it stays open until 4 AM on the weekends. The first time she came in, they went through the cameras and the only complaint was the music was too loud once two years ago. There weren't any restrictions the first round.

DM Rivera: I just ask to have a security guard on the weekends if you have a lot of people or a big party with a DJ.

The restaurant typically has a lot of regulars and a very small crowd, so the owner doesn't want to pay for a security guard. The DM allowed her to not have a security unless there's a larger crowd or big party.

There were no objections from the board nor police department.

**B. Lechonera Y El Pollo Sabroso Restaurant Inc. #1275056**

The location is not a problem for the restaurant and the police have confirmed

This restaurant didn't come to the meeting.

### Taxi/Limousine

**A. UNICAR Company Inc. (Support letter request)**

UNICAR needs a support letter to renew their re-cabbing license. The exact address is 1684 Gleason Ave and they have been there for 23-25 years. There aren't any problems besides drivers double parking in the front. The police department received complaints from the building in front. If the double parking continues, then UNICAR will get summons. The Captain will enforce this and make sure there isn't any more double parking.

There were no objections to writing a support letter for UNICAR.

## New Business

- A. LED street lighting are being installed. The lights are brighter and will last longer than regular bulbs. It already has been done under the Bruckner Blvd underpass.
- B. Near Bronx River Ave and East Tremont, there is an issue of cars going down the wrong way on Bronx River Ave. DM Rivera had sight visits with the residents. To prevent cars going down the wrong way, one resident suggested making a little portion of the road from a two way to a one way. DOT and DM Rivera both like the idea. DOT wants a commitment from the community group saying that they will maintain it.
- Nicholas Himidian: Where exactly? By Sotomayor?
- DM Rivera: Passed Sotomayor and keep going to the end of Rosedale like you're going to New Jersey taking the Cross Bronx Expy; if you're going down Rosedale and you make the left going down cross Bronx Expy, you keep on going straight only two more blocks up; at the end there is a little portion that's two way and they want to create a one way road instead
- Nicholas Himidian: What happens to the other traffic? What are they going to do with the opposite traffic?
- DM Rivera: They won't be able to turn
- Participant 1: There's no reason for them to turn that way because to turn that way they would have to go back to East Tremont
- DM Rivera: You know it's because that used to be a two way a long time ago and turning isn't really necessary now because now they made Bronx River Ave a one way; it doesn't really affect anything
- Nicholas Himidian: Do they actually use the two-way? No? I guess you should just do it then.
- DM Rivera: One of the only challenges is that they wouldn't be able to turn into the businesses. They're just going to have to go around.
- Participant 1: Small grocery store in the corner and an autobody place
- Nicholas Himidian: So what do they want from us?
- DM Rivera: Just a letter, so I'm going to do it and send you a copy.
- Nicholas Himidian: When is this plan going to take into effect?
- DM Rivera: I don't know. It might be quick because they're doing safety improvements in East Tremont Ave, so they started on the east part of our district from Castle Hill to the West towards Rosedale. It might be quick because they are already on location.

## Complaints/Announcements:

- A. The area in Sector 8 used to be terrible but the 43<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and Public Safety cleaned it up. However, there is no standing and no parking on one side of the street where the cab company is and where the laundry mat is but people park there anyway.
- Torres: It is a nuisance for people that are turning left or right from White Plains Rd. or right. The cabs are a big culprit but also the people who stop by there for the fish place, the laundromat and the 24 hour store, which has been a bane on the neighborhood but since the influence of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, that part of the neighborhood has been cleaned up tremendously.
- Captain: Precincts will reach out to traffic and have more enforcement agents.
- DM Rivera: This is a good area to give more attention to. The past Bronx Commander had their own 311 and own mini comp-stat.
- Participant 2: Since he mentioned no standing, on Bruckner between Pugsley and White Plains that whole street that's supposed to be no standing there are tractor trailers that stay there and the carriers are there too. If there's no standing, why are these trailers there? That street is never clear. There are trucks parked there for a couple of days. On Bruckner and Story Ave, the sweeper is not able to sweep because there are cars that don't move even with alternate side parking. Is it legal to tow a car in a private parking lot?

Captain: If it is a private parking lot, then they are contracted out to a towing agency and yes they can tow the car because it's like towing a vehicle; as long as they have signs posted, they can't park in a private parking lot.

DM Rivera: For the first issue, did you speak to the NCO's in that area from Bruckner and White Plains, recently?

Participant 2: No, I haven't.

DM Rivera: Did you hear about Bruckner and White Plains, the tractor trailers on both sides?

Everyone: Yes

DM Rivera: So, that's something that we've been dealing with forever so that's something we can put in the eye with the years of trafficking, depending on the time, it's usually at night. Sweepers is also enforcement, so Sanitation will work with enforcement. This is more NYPD and traffic but I will also send this to Sanitation, so it's on their radar

The three things for the NYPD: the no standing (Bruckner & White Plains Rd., Archer and White Plains Rd) also Bruckner and Story with the sweepers; sign enforcement; the legal parking lot, they can't go in unless they have a contract and sign posted like the captain said; if you lease it and you owe money, then they can come and take the car.

- B. Participant 3: There is double parking on Starling Ave. It is really packed around the afternoon. It took me 20 mins to get through 2 blocks. This includes all of Starling from Unionport to Castle Hill. The delivery trucks add to it.

Captain: I will pass it along to the NCO officers, who the sector belong to.

DM Rivera: That's Eddy. There are two things causing the traffic: the double parking and the signal timing. It is a very busy corridor; it's the enforcement. I will check again.

Nicholas Himidian: It is difficult to work with the delivery trucks because people need their commerce.

DM Rivera: Keep on complaining and when we contact them and call them it will get more of the officers out. The more 311 numbers you have the more it will be an area of concern. Go to 311 app and make the complaint for double parking. I will meet the new Bronx director for traffic.

- C. Nicholas Himidian: Can we call MTA before the year ends for the 5, 36 and 37 because the 5 is really bad now. There aren't enough buses; buses go out of service and only one bus is sent. We have the traffic but not the service. We also spoke to Jacqueline Carter (MTA personnel) to update her but doesn't respond. Also, can we have a survey with DOT for the Bronx River Ave and the Bruckner underpass because it was held off from last year June. DOT needs to do the survey and readjust the traffic light there. We also spoke about a red camera light in the box area to try to deter the traffic from messing up, so that everyone can flow correctly.

- D. Henry: On weekends in the back of 106, there's a group of guys smoking weed.

Parkchester: In the playground?

Henry: In the corner and I told them I was going to talk to the 43<sup>rd</sup> and Parkchester. Every weekend, they're there. They are around 17 and 18 years old.

DM Rivera: Eddy's sector

Participant 6: Parkchester doesn't cover that area. That's out in the streets

Captain: 106 is out of our jurisdiction. We are not allowed to go over there.

## **Old Business**

- A. DM Rivera: Update on Castle Hill Ave; they put up cameras, sensors and meters; they put cameras to study the cars that are in double park before they return it back to two lanes

Nicholas Himidian: Speaking of which, are they ever going to fix White Plains Rd? It's been approved for 2 years.

Angela: It's not double parking; it's the amount of traffic on castle hill. They made asinine markings and the double parking isn't going to do anything.

DM Rivera: It's the corridor that had serious injuries or deaths, so they wanted to decrease traffic flow to decrease injuries or deaths but the problem was that most of them were at night.

Angela: I remember you did the research.

DM Rivera: Yeah, I did a little more research. I've been advocating with very threatening emails. There's a new Bronx Commissioner and he's cleaning out the office and they have three new officers that come to our District Service meeting, which is great because we email them and sometimes we don't get responses. They're going through their own reengineering of the place. It's a good thing; hopefully they're just faster than before.

Angela: So, they aren't going to change the markings?

DM Rivera: No, they will. I'm not going to stop until it's done and White Plains Rd is another one.

Angela: Weren't those accidents up on Castle Hill going towards East Tremont and not on our side?

DM Rivera: They have this infatuation with this little section between Castle Hill and Westchester. I saw a fire truck there one time 15-20 mins trying to move. The Cross Bronx is the most congested corridor in the United States. You have Castle Hill and Cross Bronx, where you have a lot of traffic and to have that in the middle of the intersection, that friction of two lanes going into one there--

Angela: is absolutely asinine!

Nicholas Himidian: They should have at least made a turning light: one turning lane, one direct lane.

DM Rivera: The people who decided that don't work there anymore.

Angela: Good because they were useless!

DM Rivera: I specifically told the engineer that as long as two cars fit here; I'm okay with it now because we can always change it in the future. Two cars don't fit there and this is why I was so angry.

Nicholas Himidian: And then there's a bus stop right there. To Will's point, one time I saw fire truck stuck. The traffic was across the line; nothing moves. What happened to the fire department and their charging stations?

DM Rivera: They are still looking into another location.

Nicholas Himidian: So, they aren't going to do it on Castle Hill by Jimmy's?

DM Rivera: No.

DM Rivera: Does Parkchester have to say anything? The last time we spoke it was about the loading zones, you helped out with enforcing. Parkchester can help enforce the loading zones. They have some loading zones in Parkchester. Not a big fan of loading zones in Parkchester because they take parking but they are working and help enforce.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM**

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

#### **OFFICE INFO**

District Manager William Rivera - [wrivera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:wrivera@cb.nyc.gov)

Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email [bx09@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bx09@cb.nyc.gov) - Website [nyc.gov/bxcb9](http://nyc.gov/bxcb9)

Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM