



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2017

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

1. Introduction

- A. 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.

2. Liquor License

- Ellie's Diner #1290806

Didn't attend meeting

DM Rivera: I don't know if they're coming but it was really last minute. They've been in our community for a very long time. They're located in Parkchester. I don't know if anyone ever ate there but they're at Metropolitan Oval and they were more towards the Hugh Grant Circle. I've been there a few times; the complaints that they had were in reference to property management issues. It's a diner and they sell wine and beer. Does anyone of any issues with Ellie's Diner? So, if there aren't any objections, I'll let them know.

3. New Business

- Soundview Ave Corridor

NYCDOT considers Soundview Avenue between Story Ave and Clason Point as a "High Crash Corridor". They want to help improve. 226 injuries, 10 severe injuries and 2 fatalities. In summary, they want to get ideas from the community and will be outreaching on the streets, Rite Aid, two libraries. If anyone has any ideas or complaints, call our temporary office number, which is 718-541-8234.

They are doing things differently from how they were done with Castle Hill Ave and White Plains because usually they make suggestions but this time they are asking for issues and then they will go to board with recommendations.

Q: Statistics over 4 year period (2010-2014)? Yes.

DM Rivera: It's the Mayor's Initiative. They look at the whole Bronx and look for places with serious injuries. I would go further and ask what time of day it was and about the matter of the accident because it could have been different circumstances, which can't be avoided unless you educate people. It may not be traffic patterns; it could be speeding.

Angela: Question for DOT. What are the current stats? They should have updated stats because they have been around for about 4 years.

DM Rivera: One of the reasons [there hasn't been updated stats] was due to the launch of the ferry. I will find that out. They are going to do outreach to the business owners in Soundview. They asked for my opinion for places to go and I told them. I don't know how much outreach they are going to do but we are one of the first steps because we are the Community Board. I actually told them to send me flyers so I can send it to the community stakeholders because there are probably a lot of people who could give opinions and going out randomly with a clipboard would get them some crazy opinions. But there are people like us who are involved (pastors, community leaders and community stakeholders) and they'll get really good information. They can set up a table in Rite Aid, which is good but they should also contact the stakeholders.

4. Old Business

- **NYC Carshare Pilot**

DM Rivera will resend copy of the info of program to CB9 board members. Carsharing pilot program that DOT has to do by law. City Council introduced legislation requiring DOT to start a pilot program to have dedicated car share pilot parking spots in our district. It's like Zipcar and other companies, which would allow people in the community to carpool long distance within the community. This would work in Parkchester but they have to do homework to see how many people would use a car to go the shopping center or go to another hub. They are mandated by law and asked us where they should take away parking to make room for these cars. The answer is probably nowhere. This is premature and they still have time. They have identified 17 feasible areas, which is shown on the map.

Sheryl: There are two and there is another one in Brooklyn that does the same thing.

DM Rivera: So, based on our feedbacks and we will go into more detail in the next meeting. I need to do more homework and DOT is coming in the next meeting and that would be a good time to talk about this more in detail. But based on our feedback, DOT will select 10 locations out of 20.

Angela: Didn't they come already? They already came to our meeting. What their research said was because the city is the way it is where transit is pretty much available that if you take it away from one or two spots –not a whole block- where it's designated. People in the neighborhood may consider not having a car because they would have access to a non-expensive rental in a sense. They've done it in the neighborhoods they had in Brooklyn – South Brooklyn and Williamsburg. But they did come and I can find my notes.

DM Rivera: Thank you for reminding me because I had a conference call with the Commissioner. We were talking about 15 things and when this came up, he confused me because he was talking like he was already here. I wasn't here that day. I'll definitely still make copies for everybody and please give me any input.

Shirley: Assuming they want to park their cars in major areas like White Plains Road and Castle Hill, taking away parking around here.

DM Rivera: I specifically asked them if it's meter parking or residential parking. They said it's a combination of both. There are some in residential areas but they are all intersections. It's a Soundview Pilot Program.

5. DM Report

Future Meeting with MTA

DM Rivera: December 12th we will have a tentative site visit with DOT, the NYPD and possibly the MTA because of traffic. It's in the morning rush hour, we don't know the exact time but probably in the morning around 6:30 AM to 7 AM. 7 AM probably is the tentative that we are going to meet with NYPD, DOT and possibly the MTA. Then, they are coming back to our next public safety meeting on January 4th to give an update and recommendations based on what happens in our site visit. This is on Bronx River Avenue between Bruckner and Story Ave. Also, DOT and MTA are coming to our meeting January 4th to discuss BX5 and BX22 complaints and concerns. If anybody has any other issues or complaints on a bus line and specifically on what the complaint is, email me or email the office, so I can send it to MTA, so they know what it is and possibly have an answer or bring the supervisor to the next meeting. That is more toward Danny. I don't know if you got my email but if you have any issues or complaints on bus or train service. I need specific bus lines.

Jennifer Ellison-Lackard: So just for clarification, if we've already sent you information, do we recompile that or have you already forwarded it?

DM Rivera: I sent them already and it was a lot. Unless you have something new or recent within now until the next meeting. Try to get it to me ASAP but if something comes up, you can always email it to me as long as it's before the meeting, I can shoot it to her. This way she has a heads up.

Angela: I used to keep journals when I took the train. I'll send you the journals.

DM Rivera: Send me an email just saying the 4 bus, the 6 line to 125th St and I'll send it to her before the next meeting. She might bring one of the managers of the 4 bus or the 6 line.

Shirley: What about Access-A-Ride?

DM Rivera: Access-A-Ride hasn't been to our meetings in a while. If you have any Access-A-Ride complaints, then we deal with that in Social Services. They came to our Senior Connected meeting and were able to interact with the seniors.

Angela: They did and they made a lot of changes. You might want to go to the Access-A-Ride site.

DM Rivera: Before I wrap with the residents here, is there anything from the board members that they want to talk about? Transportation or Public Safety now that we have the NCOs? Or is there anything from the NCOs and the sergeants. We do pretty well throughout the month going back and forth with each other especially with the service request system that I created used in the office, so when it comes to these meetings there isn't much in the agenda because we're actually working but there are some things we have to talk about in the committee.

DM Rivera suggests calling 511 to document suggests coming to the next meeting because MTA is going to be here. But if you can call 511 and give the complaint and get a complaint #, so DM Rivera can give it to the MTA before they come. The same goes for everyone else if they want to take out the time. Also, if you have a computer, just google Bronx Community Board 9 and our page will come up. On the left, we have a service form. So, whenever you have time you can go on there in addition to the email, you can always write, attach a photo and that goes straight to our office going straight to our service request database. So you can email DM Rivera, do the form, call the office and come to the next meeting on January 4th at 7 PM because the MTA will be here. And if you have any issues between now and then, you don't have to wait, let us know beforehand so we can work on it.

Daniel Porro: How can we get the people in the community to get this information on the MTA and forward their complaints about the buses? How do we put this out?

DM Rivera: That's a challenge we have with anything, trying to get the community to know what we're doing but not a lot of people know about 511 and not a lot of people know about our website. We really heavily on increasing our likes on Facebook and on Twitter. We can do something that we could try to put out there so that people can give direct complaints. I can do a customized flyer.

DM Rivera: Your [Participant 2] letter was submitted and it went to DOT planning. Right now they are doing traffic and safety improvements they proposed to us on East Tremont, if you noticed the islands and they're working from Castle Hill all the way to the end where you are. Hopefully, by the time they get to where you are, they can make that a one way street. They said that City Planning really needed our letter, so they can take a look at it as soon as possible.

Participant 2: I want to thank everyone for that because it's long overdue—it's been 15 years.

DM Rivera: I've been working on that for at least a year with you. I want to close it but then they want somebody that can clean it and then we recommended the one way. I think that's a really good fix and the NCO's are here from where you live on Bronx River.

Resident issue with electric company on block.

Participant 2: It's in front of my house and they have not bought the property yet but I knew there were talks and when they finally bought the property, they were out of control. I have pictures, I want to show them around. They are unloading in the middle of the street using tractor trailers. They are using the front of the houses as if it's their yard.

Participant 3: They're blocking the streets, we can't turn down the street.

Participant 2: I wanted to actually ask if at some point, divide the street and make 2 solid lines because then people can't come through. If we want to make a left turn go south out of the houses, they would double park or triple park, they're all over the place, unloading on the streets, cars are sagging, fender-benders, a lot of stuff going on. They've only been there for 3 months and bought the property for 3 months. I've gotten

them towed and ticketed with traffic enforcement. I have worked with driving enforcement to help me out, so they can't do whatever they want but they're trying and they're massive. They are trying to take over. The building has two loading docks. You can have those pictures William. They have both buildings, so they definitely have the money for it but they are unloading in the street. You can't get a school bus, owned by a homeowner, to get through.

DM Rivera: What time of the day is this?

Participant 2: This happens between 7 in the morning and 10. Now they try to clear up a little bit. After they got towed, they clean up a little bit faster. So, I want to know if it's possible to put two solid lines and make it a two way, so we can make a left out of the homes. We haven't been able to do that since they took over because they take up both sides and leave just one lane open for us to come out and then we get ahead of other motor vehicles and arguments break out.

Participant 2: Trucks were ticketed. Cars were towed as you see in those pictures on the sidewalk. They're all over the place. They were ticketed and some cars were towed.

DM Rivera: By who?

Participant 2: Traffic police and they got the hint. They are pretty much operating out of the bottom of the building.

DM Rivera: It's definitely an issue. Short and long term solutions. Short term: You obviously got traffic involved, which is great but the other thing is the NCO sergeant for the 43rd precinct and the NCO officers are here, so I want you to speak to them at the end of the meeting and talk to them in detail about this, so they can be involved as well. The sergeant knows what he's doing and he might contact traffic as well to follow up with what they did already. The long term solution is that we are planning to do some zoning changes in the district in the future and that's not too far from that corridor. I would recommend that if Planning and Zoning, the community and the board is okay with it and we check off all the boxes we propose that to be a residential R5 instead of a manufacturing zone for where they are. So, in the future, if they want to do anything there it would have to be residential but if the community wants to keep it manufacturing then that's up to them. But keep in mind that when you change that to residential you take away the jobs that are there in the district. Hopefully, we can fix this problem with the long term solution. Hopefully, we can have a site visit there and the sergeant can arrange it with DOT. If I'm going to be up that early on a site visit over here, I was going to go directly after because you said 7 AM to 10 AM, so I can make it. I'll definitely be there after on the 12th but we will try to get the NYPD. Other than the site visit I'm going to go to and hopefully with the NYPD as well, that day or another day, I need you (Participant 2) to talk to the sergeant afterwards and give all of the information to him. The NCOs recommend that you get as much information as possible and recommendations because sometimes they give me idea on the double yellow line, as you mentioned, about meeting with the landlord there.

Participant 2: I just want the board to keep in mind that any sign changes in that area that they request so they benefit, we don't want that. They try to modify the signs; they chopped the sign off and made a curb, I took pictures and I got DOB on them. I put the sign back where it belongs, that was never driveway.

DM Rivera: Any sign changes DOT is supposed to let me know. It's an issue I had the last two years and in the last borough meeting, I made it a point that they should let us know and they have been. Sometimes, after the fact but I haven't gotten anything for that area. The recap: you're going to meet with the NCO officers and the sergeant for the enforcement and hopefully do a site visit. And what I'm going to do on the 12th or another day is meeting with the owner. The police usually gets the meeting really quickly. Also, we'll talk about the sign issues with DOT. The long term is the zoning. Right now we have to fix the problem now in the short term. So, you can meet with the NCOs afterwards. Just give all the photos to the officer and I can make copies of them.

Naming a Street after Claudette Colvin

Jennifer Lackard: So, it's been brought to my attention that there's a woman by the name of Claudette Colvin, she's the woman prior to Rosa Parks. She's the woman who did the original sit-in. The Real Rosa Parks, basically, lives in Parkchester and I wanted to make a recommendation that we name a street in Parkchester after her or somewhere in the district.

DM Rivera: So, there is a criteria and you can be living. It's very difficult but in this case, I know the senator and Sepulveda would write a letter of support. The councilmember, the NAACP in Parkchester and when all those groups get together, they can come to one of these meetings with all that information. Our criteria is

usually more than 10 years. It's not unprecedented to do it when they're still alive. It's sometimes good to do it while they're alive, so they can see. If somebody wants to reach out to the elected officials in the area, the NAACP and have them sign a letter, get a bio and bring it to the board. Our next councilmember is going to be Ruben Diaz Senior and then we can vote on it in the committee here and then it goes to the City Council. Ms. Lackard will be leading an initiative to have a street naming in honor of Ms. Claudette Colvin. Cheryl Marrow, Justin Westbrook-Lowery, and Danny Porro will be assisting Ms. Lackard.

Other Residential Complaints

Participant 5: I live on Caesar Place. You know where the angle parking is on Randall Ave making a left towards Pugsley? I mean it's really dirty at times, especially because some people throw a lot of garbage there and makes the neighborhood look really cheap and dirty. I did bring it up in the precinct last night. We seem to have a problem with out of state cars that just dump their bathroom for months.

DM Rivera: Bring the NCOs to that area. Okay, so after the meeting I need you to speak to Jennifer, she is the NCO of that district and she's very familiar with those complaints.

Participant 5: In the summertime it's even worse, people barbecue on the sidewalk

DM Rivera: That's going to be a little more tough because houses are responsible for the garbage in front of their houses but if it's in the street, call 311

Participant 5: Yeah that street in front of Kip's Bay.

DM Rivera: I need you to call 311 and then call me because sometimes it's a problem and the agencies don't know which agency is responsible, they like to play that game. That's when I have to get the Mayor's office involved.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 PM

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

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