



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

3165 East Tremont Avenue • Bronx, New York 10461

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Martin A. Prince
Chairperson

Kenneth Kearns
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10 MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:30PM

Villa Barone Manor

737 Throggs Neck Expressway

Bronx, New York 10465

AGENDA

1. Call to Order Martin Prince, Chairman
2. Public Participation 15 Minutes
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the November 20, 2014 Community Board #10 Meeting
4. Borough President's Report Tom Lucania
5. District Manager's Report Kenneth Kearns
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Board Martin Prince
 - b. Housing and Zoning Peter Sullivan
 - c. Economic Development Jim McQuade
 - d. Municipal Services Joseph Russo
 - e. Parks and Recreation Virginia M. Gallagher
 - f. Planning and Budget Julian Misiurski
 - g. Youth & Education Services Robert Bieder
 - h. Health and Human Services Deborah Hunt
7. Old Business
8. New Business



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RESOLUTIONS

1. “**Resolved**...to accept the minutes of the Bronx Community Board #10 meeting of November 20, 2014.”

2. “**Resolved**...at the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee of Bronx Community Board #10, that the following establishments have agreed to comply with the best management practice standards contained in the Stipulations, by signing them, and to further agree to attend ATAP training, and that their compliance be sent to the State Liquor Authority and a copy placed in the Board’s file:
 - Brady’s, 3201 Philip Avenue, between Vincent and Wilcox Avenues, License # 1004087, which expires on 1/31/15
 - Honey’s Thai Pavilion, 3036 E. Tremont Avenues, 10461, between Hobart and St. Theresa Avenues, License # 1196947, which expires on 1/13/15
 - Ray’s Café & Restaurant, 205 City Island Avenue, 10464, between Centre and Winter Streets, License # NEW
 - Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue 10464, between Ditmars and Bowne Streets, License 1003334
 - Morris Yacht Club, 25 City Island Avenue, 10464, between Rochelle and Belden Streets, License #1003332
 - Mon Ami Salsa Lounge, 2434 E. Tremont Avenue, 10461, between Lyvere and Seddon Streets, License # NEW
 - Marina Del Rey, 2894 Schurz Avenue, 10465, between Revere and Calhoun Avenues, license #1003391, which expires on 2/28/15
 - Redwood Pleasure Club, 2680 Schurz Avenue, 10465, between Buttrick and Graff Avenues, License #1003341
 - Westchester Country Club, 3341 Country Club Road, between Reed and Polo Places, License #1003344
 - Outback Steakhouse, 270 Baychester Avenue, 10475, between Bartow Avenue and the Hutchinson River Parkway, License # NEW

- Manhem Club, 658 Clarence Avenue, 10465, between Randall and Schley Avenues, License #1003340, which expires on 2/28/15
- Samuel Young Post #620, 1530 Hutchinson River Parkway, 10461, between Wellman and Zulette Avenues, License #1003323, which expires on 2/28/15

3. **Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community #10, that the Board approve City Council Int. No. 133, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to ferry service to Hart's Island and that the full Board support this legislation.
4. **Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community #10, that the Board approve City Council Int. No. 134, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to a transfer of jurisdiction over Hart Island from the department of corrections to the department of parks and recreation, and that the full Board support this legislation.



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**PARKS and RECREATION
COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 12, 2015

Present: V.M. Gallagher; M. Prince; P.J. Sullivan; B. Bieder; I. Guanill-Elukowich; A. Boller; J. Marano

Guests: J. Santiago; D. Poggi; A. Jaffe; S. and M. Siwieki, V. Smith; E. Joseph; M. Hunt, Hart Island Project; S. Conforto; M. Negret; J. Felder; I. Otto; M. Anderson, Department of Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Gallagher opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the topic of the Hart Island and Council member Crowley's legislation concerning the possible transfer of Hart Island from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

There ensued a period of discussion regarding the legislation and Mr. Kearns read a letter sent by Mr. Prince to the Department of Corrections requesting information on access for the Island. He further read a response from the Department concerning these matters. The correspondence is attached to this report. The Committee was asked to support **Int. No. 133**, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to ferry service to Hart's Island and, **Int. No. 134**: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a transfer of jurisdiction over Hart Island from the department of corrections to the department of parks and recreation.

Int. No. 133

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

By Council Members Crowley, Vacca, Lander, Rodriguez, Levine, Koo, Lancman, Palma, Reynoso, Rose, Menchaca, Torres, King, Arroyo, Cabrera and Gibson

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to ferry service to Hart's Island.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 3 of title 19 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 19-308 to read as follows:

§19-308 Ferry service to Hart's Island. The commissioner shall maintain and operate regular ferry service, which shall be open to the public, between City Island in the borough of the Bronx and Hart's Island. The commissioner shall expeditiously obtain all necessary state and federal permits prior to such maintenance and operation. The schedule of such service shall be determined by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of correction, provided, however, that the commissioner shall make available on the website of the city of New York information clearly stating how a member of the public may reserve in advance a ride on such ferry.

§2. This local law shall take effect ninety days after its enactment into law.

Int. No. 134

By Council Members Crowley, Vacca, Lander, Rodriguez, Levine, Cohen, Koo, Lancman, Palma, Reynoso, Koslowitz, Torres, King, Arroyo, Chin, Williams, Miller, Cornegy, Levin, Mendez, Cabrera, Gibson and Ulrich

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a transfer of jurisdiction over Hart Island from the department of corrections to the department of parks and recreation.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 9-103 of the administrative code of the city of New York is

REPEALED.

§2. Section 21-110 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to read as follows:

§21-110 Potter's field. The commissioner shall have charge of the Potter's Fields, and when the necessity therefor shall arise, shall have power to lay out additional Potter's Fields or other public burial places for the poor and strangers and from time to time enclose and extend the same to make enclosures therein and to build vaults therein, and to provide all necessary labor and for interments therein. The Potter's Field on [Hart's] Hart island, however, shall [remain] be

under the control of the department of [correction] parks and recreation, and the burial of deceased paupers therein shall [continue] occur under rules and regulations established by the joint action of the departments of social services, [and] correction[,] and parks and recreation or in case of disagreement between such departments, under such regulations as may be established by the mayor.

§3. This local law shall take effect one hundred eighty days after its enactment.

This meeting lacked a quorum. As a result, the Committee was not able to render an opinion. The matter was referred to the full Board, where two floor resolutions will be read regarding the Board's vote:

Resolved...at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community #10, that the Board approve City Council Int. No. 133, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to ferry service to Hart's Island and that the full Board support this legislation.

Resolved...at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee of Bronx Community #10, that the Board approve City Council Int. No. 134, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to a transfer of jurisdiction over Hart Island from the department of corrections to the department of parks and recreation, and that the full Board support this legislation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Attachments: 12/1/2014 Letter to DoC Commissioner Ponce
1/9/2015 Email Response from DoC

From: McLaughlin, Carleen
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 5:51 PM
To: BX10@cb.nyc.gov (CB)
Cc: Thamkittikasem, Jeff
Subject: Procedures for Entrance to Hart Island

Good Afternoon

As discussed in your conversation with Chief of Staff Jeff Thamkittikasem, we are providing the following information in response to your letter dated December 1, 2014.

1. How does one gain entrance to the Hart Island?

Hart Island is accessed via ferry, which leaves from a dock at the end of Fordham Street on City Island. All DOC staff, inmates, and visitors, get to Hart Island via this DOT ferry.

2. What is the frequency that one can visit the Island?

DOC offers public visits once per month (on the third Thursday). Visitors are welcome to attend as many monthly visits as they would like, but reservations are prioritized for those who have not been to the island before. If family members cannot come on the regular visit day (for example, if they are travelling from outside the NY area), DOC will do its best to accommodate a visit on a different day. It must be noted, however, that the ferry only runs on Tuesday-Friday mornings, so visits could only be scheduled for these times.

3. Is the Department's database whole and complete, can a family member access the location of the section where their loved one is interred and can they ever go beyond the gazebo site?

The database contains records for all burials going back to approximately 1977. Through the public database on the DOC website, one can find the deceased's name, age at time of death, date of death, and place of death. The burial location is available only to DOC staff. Older burial records (except for those that were lost in a fire) are maintained by the Archives at the NYC Department of Records. DOC does not usually permit visitors to go beyond the gazebo site to the burial locations.

4. How long can one stay on the Island?

The length of the closure visit is at the discretion of the visitors. Most visitors stay between a half an hour and an hour. DOC personnel usually leave Hart Island at around 1230, so if a visitor were interested in staying, he/she could stay until around 1200 or so (for a three hour visit).

5. Are those wishing to visit the Island subject to security check procedures?

As Hart Island is a correctional area that is staffed by inmates, visitors are asked to leave all contraband on City Island (DOC will store the items safely if the visitors do not have a vehicle or do not wish to leave items in their vehicle). Contraband includes all drugs, weapons, tobacco products, cell phones and electronic devices, etc. Visitors are not required to walk through a metal detector and they are not searched (DOC can search visitors and would do so if a visitors acted suspiciously, but this has not been done). Additionally, all visitors over the age of 16 are required to produce a valid, photo ID, just as if they were visiting any other DOC facility.

6. Can one bring flowers to the Island and can they be placed near the internment site?

Visitors are welcome to bring flowers or any token (that isn't contraband) and leave them near the gazebo. They cannot go to the internment site, but there is a symbolic headstone near the gazebo where visitors do leave flowers and other items.

7. What is the policy concerning disinterment?

To begin the disinterment process, one must send three documents to DOC: a copy of the deceased's death certificate, the original disinterment permit, and a formal request for disinterment on letterhead from a licensed funeral home. When these are received, DOC coordinates disinterment with the funeral home directly. The funeral home comes to Hart Island to take custody of the remains in the casket that

DOC disinters. DOC does not charge for disinterments, so the only costs to the family are the funeral home's charges.

Once the process is started, a disinterment can take as little as 1-2 days or as long as 4-6 weeks. Location of the burial plot, age of the case, condition of the casket (and surrounding caskets), weather, and number of pending disinterments may factor into the time. In general, DOC is confident that remains that have been buried for up to ten years or so can be disinterred. For remains older than that, it might be possible to disinter, but it is not as certain.

Information about where to send documents can be found on page 3 of the FAQs on DOC's website: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doc/downloads/pdf/hart-island/FAQ-HartIsland040813.pdf>

8. Are there any procedures governing the observance of religious events?

Some religious events are observed at Hart Island. Each year, members of the local church, St. Mary's Star of the Sea, and students from Fordham Prep hold a ceremony on the island to celebrate the Ascension Thursday. Additionally, when Picture the Homeless comes to the island (traditionally once per month), a chaplain usually accompanies the group and blesses those who are interred. Each month, the group invites a chaplain of a different faith.

Should family members want to bring chaplains or have a small ceremony in the gazebo area, they are welcome to do so. Generally, if a formal ceremony is being held, we prefer that this not be on the regular visit day, because we do not want to intrude on others' closure visits.

9. Will the Island be used for its present purposes in perpetuity, or does the Department envision any long range changes?

DOC's responsibility for the Potter's Field on Hart Island is set forth in the New York City Administrative code §21-110. At current burial rates, DOC believes that Hart Island can continue to be used for the next 15-20 years, more if some of the collapsing buildings are taken down. DOC does not have plans to use the island for any other purpose and does not know what the city will choose do with the island when there is no burial space remaining.

10. What is the role of the detainees assigned to the Island and how do they come to this assignment?

Sentenced inmates work on Rikers Island. Inmates (under DOC staff supervision) are responsible for burying and disinterring remains, as well as landscaping and general upkeep around the island. There are usually between six and twelve minimum custody inmates in the work detail, who are supervised by several officers and a captain.

Inmates who work on Hart Island choose to work on Hart Island. All sentenced inmates are required to work, but no one is assigned to the Hart Island detail unless he wants to be there. The inmates who work on Hart Island are respectful of their important jobs and appreciate the solemnity of the task. Other inmates, who work with the Horticulture Society of New York, and HSNY staff come to Hart Island about once per year to landscape the area immediately around the gazebo and plant fresh flowers in the area.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please let us know if there is anything else we can provide.

Best,

Carleen McLaughlin

Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Projects

Office of the Commissioner

NYC Department of Correction

75-20 Astoria Blvd., Suite 305

East Elmhurst, NY 11370

718.546.0912





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Martin A. Prince
Chairperson

Kenneth Kearns
District Manager

December 1, 2014

Mr. Joseph Ponte, Commissioner
New York City
Department of Corrections
75-20 Astoria Blvd.
E. Elmhurst, NY 11370

Re: Procedures for Entrance to Hart Island

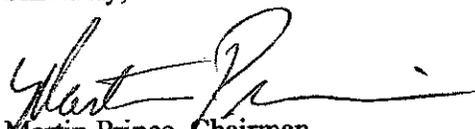
Dear Commissioner Ponte:

My name is Martin Prince and I am Chairman of Bronx Community Board #10 and my purpose in writing is to discuss the Department's procedures for visiting Hart Island. My Board has been contacted by community members, who have expressed a series of concerns regarding the procedures that the Department has in place for visitations to the Island. For the purposes of this letter, I am not going to list these concerns because our Board is not interested in a rebuttal. Instead, we would welcome the opportunity of entering into a dialogue with the Department on this issue, so that we may learn about the Island's visiting procedures and rationale in creating them. For the purposes of identification, Bronx Community Board 10's area includes City Island, which lies off the coast of Hart Island. Our questions are predicated upon the concerns of City Island residents, as well as others, and include the following:

1. How does one gain entrance to the Hart Island?
2. What is the frequency that one can visit the Island?
3. Is the Department's data base whole and complete, can a family member access the location of the section where their loved one is interred and can they ever go beyond the gazebo site?
4. How long can one stay on the Island?
5. Are those wishing to visit the Island subject to security check procedures?
6. Can one bring flowers to the Island and can they be placed near the interment site?
7. What is the policy concerning disinterment?
8. Are there any procedures governing the observance of religious events?
9. Will the Island be used for its present purposes in perpetuity, or does the Department envision any long range changes?
10. What is the role of the detainees assigned to the Island and how do they come to this assignment?

We are seeking answers to the questions that are posed to us by our constituency. We look forward to a productive conversation and thank you in advance for your efforts in framing a response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Prince", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Prince, Chairman
Bronx Community Board #10