

## On AIR



# THE BRONX TALKS

## ON Bronx Talk AM

Host: GARY AXELBANK

The issues discussed recently on BronxTalk included the special election in the 15th Council District. Also, the State Comptroller talked about supporting Bronx neighborhoods and there was dialogue about the Brooklyn museum and the Iroquois pipeline controversies. Here are excerpts:

**COUNCILMAN JOEL RIVERA:**

The voters in the 15th Council District voiced their opinion. They said, "Our votes cannot be bought. They must be earned." That is something that we did. We kept our campaign on the high road. We worked hard every single day with all the residents and organizations. A person's character says a lot about him. If someone's going to try to doctor a photo to try to deceive the community, the community has a right to know. I'm an individual and I will work hard to make sure the people in the 15th Council District get represented to the best of my abilities. But I am also a strong believer in team effort. One person cannot change the entire city. If you try to do it by yourself, you will never achieve success.

**EDWIN O. ORTIZ, JR.:**

Joel Rivera had two influential individuals, both Freddie Ferrer and José Serrano, who came out at the last stop and literally went door knocking with him and pulled out the votes. The people were very impressed and felt honored having someone of that stature knocking at their door soliciting their vote for Joel Rivera. That's what really made the difference. What's surprising to me is that none of these individuals, aside from an election, has ever gone to anyone's door and asked them for anything. Here they are knocking on their door and then when the election is over they're going to forget about the people. Most of the people have never really benefited from anyone that's elected into office. Their votes are going to be taken for granted once again. I just hope the people realize what went on--the dirty smearing, the dirty campaigning that my opponent had against my campaign. This is what they're all about. They even pressured some members of the police force to really put pressure on us when we went to visit various schools and people in the community.

**JONATHAN HICKS, NEW YORK TIMES:**

It's a race that measured the might of two different organizations. It had less to do with issues and less to do with ideology and political philosophy than it had to do with this sort of Hatfield/McCoy kind of battle

that's going on in the Bronx. On the one hand, you had the Democratic Party Organization, which really had its political prestige on the line after five embarrassing defeats in last year's primaries. You had an emboldened Mr. Ortiz's campaign backed by the Espadas, the State Senator and his son, the city councilman. It's the beginning of several skirmishes that are yet to come. Certainly Mr. Ortiz has nothing to be embarrassed about. A 43% showing in a special election is certainly respectable.

**H. CARL MCCALL, NYS COMPTROLLER, ON A STATE DEPOSIT IN A BRONX BANK:**

This program allows me to put state money in banks in neighborhoods that have not traditionally had banking services. If banks have moved out or closed their branches, then the people in that neighborhood can't get loans or mortgages or loans for business. If a bank is willing to put a branch in that neighborhood to provide those services, we put state money in that bank so that they have the capital to distribute to the community. I brought a check for \$50 million and deposited it in a branch of the European American Bank (EAB). This bank now has additional money to make loans to people in the community. It's helping to develop businesses. It's helping people to buy homes. It's helping people to have loans if they want to send their child to college.

**ASSEMBLYMAN STEPHEN B. KAUFMAN:**

We in the borough of the Bronx feel besieged. We feel that every time they want to dump something, it gets dumped in the Bronx. They take a pipeline going from Canada. It doesn't go through Westchester County. It doesn't go through Fairfield County, where all the rich people live. But it goes into Long Island Sound in the water for 31 miles. Low and behold, the last mile, they have to go on to the Bronx and they want to go through our neighborhood.

It's going to transport 2.2 million cubic feet of natural gas a day, which creates a hazardous situation. The pipe is only buried three feet deep.

This is going to under the highway. You have gigantic trucks shaking the highways, rapping the pipes. You could have a massive leak or you could have a horrible explosion that could bring a mini-catastrophe to the people in the Bronx.

**JENNY DIXON, BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS, ON MAYOR GIULIANI'S PLAN FOR A DECENCY COMMISSION:**



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I don't understand why the mayor would do it. There's a lot of pressure because we're going back to a conservative time. But we also have a responsibility to stand up for the principles of this democracy which have to do with freedom of expression. You can't deny an artist what their body of work is. A lot of it is also the intent of the artist. When someone's quietly building a body of work and it's being approved and supported and endorsed in the larger cultural arena, and then locally in the City of New York, the greatest city in the world, then there's a provincialism that is suggesting a decency panel. You do not expect this from the City of New York.

**ASSEMBLYMAN CARL HEASTIE:**

I requested a technology upgrade for our public schools. Also, I've requested to have a grant for a lighting engineer to look at redoing the lighting along White Plains Road. I'm also trying to get a business outreach center to help the small businesses in our area. Those are the priorities that I've outlined.

**LAUREN RAYSOR, NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

There is a state law that says that store owners cannot manufacture or duplicate or produce an imitation toy gun which substantially duplicates an actual firearm. They cannot produce an imitation toy gun that is colored either black, blue, silver, or aluminum. The state law says you can't sell a toy gun that is black, blue, silver, or alu-

minum. But the administrative code, which was passed in 1999 says that when you sell these imitation toy pistols or revolvers, they must be in colors that are bright red, bright orange, bright yellow, bright green and blue and pink and purple. They have to be translucent, transparent --which almost looks like one of those water guns where you can see through them.

**MARIA TORRES, MOTHERS ON THE MOVE, ON COMMUNITY SCHOOL REVIEWS:**

We believe that it takes a village to raise a child. A community school review would be an independent review or evaluation of the school. It's different from the other evaluations because parents could participate in it.

Also we parents would be involved in the school year-round. We would be building a relationship with the teachers and the school staff.

**MILLIE VELEZ, MOTHERS ON THE MOVE:**

Our schools are not getting any better. They're getting worse. Our children are failing. Out of ten children, eight of them cannot read. We don't have that good communication with the teachers. If a child is failing, they wait and they expect the parent just to pick it up at that specific moment that the child is failing instead of working with the parent over a period of time. The school review would include seven educators and eight parents. We would train these parents to go into these schools three times a week. Then we would evaluate all the findings.