

On AIR



THE BRONX TALKS

ON Bronx Talk AM

Host: GARY AXELBANK

THE BOROUGH PRESIDENT ADOLFO CARRIÓN TALKED RECENTLY ABOUT THE MAYOR'S TRASH PLAN ON BRONXTALK. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF STATE POLITICS, POWER SHORTAGES, FATHER'S RIGHTS, LEAD POISONING, LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE, AND MORE. HERE ARE EXCERPTS:

Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Bronx Borough President:

The overall plan is a good plan. It achieves some of the objectives that we've been working on for some time. When we were working with the last mayor on the Solid Waste Management Plan, one of the key objectives of the plan was to remove truck traffic from the streets and to have a system that took trash out by barge and rail. This concept achieves that. However, under this plan, we'd food alongside a marine transfer station that's been closed for five years. There's a conflict there between the uses and we have to be very careful about how we handle that. There are other facilities in the Bronx that provide the opportunity to both rail and barge in the same locations. We should really look at their capacity and make sure that we exhaust that capacity before we even consider the marine transfer station in Hunts Point that's near the food center.

Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr.:

The Democratic Party in the Bronx is more united than ever under the leadership of our chairman, Jose Rivera. However, the one thing that I warn --whether it's Carl McCall or Andrew Cuomo-- is that we can no longer take the Democratic Latino vote for granted. You have Republican Party individuals like Bloomberg and Pataki who are reaching out. The people in my community like the fact that the governor comes in and is putting his money where his mouth is, that he's putting money into restoring the Bronx River, that he's putting money into housing. Look what Bloomberg is doing in terms of a waste transfer station. My advice to the Democratic Party is they have to come into our community. They have to show our community that they're not being taken for granted. Bloomberg got 42 percent of the votes in the general election. That's unprecedented for a Republican to get that in the Soundview area of the Bronx.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein, on a health care an for senior citizens:

The model we used for the asthma van in bring it right to the schools, we're trying to replicate for senior citizens health care. One of the things I find is that everyone is very, very busy. The best way you can insure that people get adequate health care

is by making it very accessible. Through medical research and science, we have a society of people living longer. We want to make sure that their quality of life is good. In it we're going to do glaucoma screening, blood pressure screening, and offer basic health education. You don't have to go to your doctor all the time to get your blood pressure checked on a regular basis. Let's say you have some questions about your HMO. Does Medicare cover this? Does my HMO cover this prescription drug? We're going to have a computer on board with social workers that are going to be able to access those things.

Maureen O. Helmer, NYS Public Service Commission, on alternative fuel:

Everyone believed that the added turbine power plants y were absolutely necessary for the 2002, 2003, 2004 time frame. That's proven to be true.

But, I never said that this was enough power for the city. Every new, clean power plant that goes up either displaces a dirty old power plant or is needed for the growth in the demand for electricity. In July, Con Ed has set a new record for the amount of electricity it sold even though we lost over the past year the World Trade Center and the various economic that we suffered in New York City. That demand is continuing to grow. I don't believe that anyone thought those turbines were enough to get us through.

Michael Benjamin, community activist:

The PSC lies. What they did say was that New York City needed additional power and the ten generators in the city would do that so the city would be able to supply the power necessary for itself. The major issue in this is that Con Edison has not upgraded the transmission capacity outside the city so that you could bring additional power into the city. That's the major issue and that's not being addressed by the PSC or the New York State Power Authority. With the loss of the World Trade Center, New York City has excess power. The same demands don't exist. When you go downtown to 42nd



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Street, what do you notice? You see all these neon lights, this huge wattage lighting up Midtown Manhattan. That's a criminally excessive use of power.

We need to have a program where we require all businesses south of 42nd Street to turn off excessive lighting in the evening.

Neil Pariser, SOBRO:

Our goal is to bring every company in Port Morris on line over the next 18 months. E-commerce is the way for companies to compete. If we don't have that Internet infrastructure, then we're not going to be able to do that. To being with, it's physical infrastructure, fiber optics, and T-1 access. We'll be working closely with the Internet service providers in really bringing to them what is a wonderful business opportunity because the Bronx is burgeoning. But also we need to bring education. A lot of these companies in our area have not had experience with the Internet. Many are not as computerized as they should be to remain competitive.

Donald Bluestone, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, on child care:

The need is tremendous. When I first started out in this field, day care was a dirty name. Women were supposed to stay home. But, the economy has changed over the years. In order to remain middle-class, you have more and more families where the husband and wife work. Your traditional day care has expanded. It used to start with three and four-year olds, then it went down

to two-year olds, now they start as young as one. Some centers even have infants below one. In the last five years, with the change in welfare-to-work, you cannot expect a parent off of welfare to go into job training or work a job if she does not have care for her child. The need is just astronomical.

Efrain Rodriguez, Fathers' Rights Association of New York, on child support:

Child support, under its current structure, bases the amount a parent pays on a percentage of their gross income minus FICA and Medicare. It doesn't take into account your federal, state, and local taxes, your insurance, 401's, and deferred comp. Those are savings that will allow a parent to retire. They've worked for years and they've set aside a nest egg. Child support formally does not allow for those items to be deducted before an amount is set. A true child support order can be as much as 60 percent of a person's take-home income. That forces many fathers to decide between seeing their children or day-to-day survival. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that a single person in this country only needs \$11,900 a year to live on. I don't know anybody in the Bronx or regional area who can live on \$11,900.

Basic needs'shelter, food, utilities, a car to go back and forth to see your child--are what the courts will grant you.

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