



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING INFORMATION						
Date	March 17, 2026	Start Time	7:00 PM	End Time	9:15 PM	
Meeting Held At	NYPD 50 th Precinct					
Address	3450 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463					
ATTENDANCE						
Present	Edward Green (Chair), Laura Spalter (Vice Chair), Angel Ortega (Vice Chair), Carol Blake, Michael Courtney (CCM), Margaret Della, Althea Eboh, Nick Fazio, Debra Harris				Total	9
Absent	Laura Levine-Pinedo				Total	1
Guests	C.O. Captain Oktrova (NYPD), Julie Reyes (Chairperson, Bronx CB8), Detective Jamsheer (NYPD), Kate Theobald (BXDA), Sophia Morris (BXDA), Burim Namani (BXDA), Christine Scaccia (BXDA), Tyson Jones (BXDA), Michelle Mullin (Riverdale Press), Elizabeth Thompson (Guest), Joe Ben-Meir (Guest)					

Chair Ed Green called the meeting to order at **7:00pm**

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

Roll Call of committee members. Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the February 17th, 2026, Public Safety Committee Minutes

The February 17th Public Safety Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Guest Speakers: ADAs Christine Scaccia & Burim Namani of the Bronx District Attorney’s Office

Topics of Discussion:

- Recent Murder of 16-Year-Old on West 238th Street & Broadway
- How Young Criminals are Prosecuted (Family Court vs Criminal Court)
- Potential Amendments to the “Raise the Age Law”

1 arrested and 2 indicted (indictments sealed) in murder of 16-year-old Christopher Redding. Police trying to locate 2 individuals. Incident does not appear to be gang related.

Young people were harassed at the memorial for Christopher Redding by other young people.

Crime Victims Assistance Program (CVAP): If someone thinks they are a victim of a crime the program will offer them counseling and other services. For more information call the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau (718) 590-2115.

Young people are reluctant to report crimes due to fear of retaliation, peer pressure, social media harassment and are often hesitant to go to school. DA stated there is a slim chance of retaliation.

Resident stated her 17-year-old son was murdered 33 years ago and parents are not involved enough with their children.

Federal task force (ATF) works with NYPD on gun related cases, but DA stated kids generally obtain guns from people in their community, not from other states, as is commonly mischaracterized. Finding out where guns are bought locally is an ongoing problem for law enforcement.

There's a delicate balance in youth related cases. In many cases the problem is systemic within the household.

The Community Engagement Bureau serves as a liaison between the DA and Bronx residents and keeps residents informed of specific cases as they progress through the criminal justice system. Issues of importance to the community can be brought to the DA through this unit. (718) 590-2272.

16 & 17-year-olds are adolescent offenders. They can only be charged as adults by displaying a firearm, committing a sex crime or causing injury to a victim, otherwise they're remanded to family court.

DA presented literature providing examples of youths committing non-fatal shootings, multiple robberies and possession of loaded guns that ultimately get adjudicated in family court.

Disclosure laws apply to youth cases and judges have discretion to allow time extensions to the DA to provide evidence. DA is usually granted an extension upon request.

DA has publicly called for changes in how young people are prosecuted.

Changes to the Raise the Age Law proposed by Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark:

- Make all firearm charges (Penal Law Article 265) eligible for retention by the Youth Part in Criminal Court (There is currently only a criminal charge for displaying a gun, not for gun possession).
- Allow Youth Part Judges to access family court records, and such records should be made available to all parties to a Youth Part case for the purposes of setting bail, sentencing and alternatives to detention (Judges currently do not have the authority to access Family Court records, which may contain relevant information. By not knowing a defendant's prior history of family court cases, in effect, it is always a youthful offender's first and only charge).
- Give Family Court Jurisdiction over 18-year-olds if the offense with which they are being charged is alleged to have been committed when the defendant was 16 or 17-years-old.

Victims should be allowed to access case information (defendant's age should not be priority over victim safety).

Youths diverted to alternative to incarceration programs (as lesser sentences for their crimes) are often not in compliance with mandated programs. Adequate funding is not available to properly monitor these programs or provide treatment.

\$50 million dollars in resources that go to non-profit organizations are available in NY State but none of that money goes to NYC.

\$1.5 billion dollars was appropriated by the State for supportive services and alternative interventions but only a third of it was awarded to localities and none to NYC. New York City is ineligible to receive these funds. DA argues the Bronx should be able to access the funds due to high poverty rates and a disproportionate share of city crime.

DA Clark is scheduled to testify before the City Council this week. Event will be recorded and available online.

4. NYPD Report (*See attached NYPD CompStat Report, Quality of Life Team Report, Traffic Report) –

C.O. Captain Oktrova read the NYPD CompStat report. Issues discussed:

- Shooting of two brothers from Middletown (one killed) at 242nd Street & Broadway on 1/25/26: Two of the three suspects are in custody and were indicted by a grand jury on various charges including 2nd degree murder. A 26-year-old female Department of Education Project Manager and a 37-year-old man from Bedford Park were charged. The third person has been identified but not apprehended yet. The victims left Tijuana Nites bar prior to the incident. 50th Precinct will deploy extra patrol officers around 242nd Street.
- 25 new Officers were assigned to the 50th Precinct on 3/16/26. NYPD can temporarily reassign them if needed elsewhere.
- 2 Officers assigned to foot patrol duty around McDonald's restaurant on Broadway by 238th Street.
- Two teenagers stabbed and injured near Marie Curie High School on Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights in February: All parties involved were students. Case was diverted from criminal court to family court.
- Special Victims Unit relocated into the 50th Precinct.
- 17 of 19 felony assaults reported were domestic violence incidents.
- A young crew of 16 & 17-year-olds are committing burglaries & car break-ins in the Kingsbridge Terrace area.
- Frequent scams on the elderly. Seniors are getting scammed out of their life savings by telephone and online fraudsters. The Public Safety Committee recommends the Aging Committee provide scam prevention education to seniors.
- Auto theft ring at large. 25 to 30 people in the crew. Thieves commonly target Honda CRV's and steal tires, rims and catalytic converters. Jerome Reservoir area and Henry Hudson Parkway are highly targeted locations.
- Man struck and killed by a vehicle while walking on the Major Deegan Expressway through Van Cortlandt Park near West 233rd Street.
- Committee member reported people are walking dogs off leashes in Ewen Park and Seton Park and sometimes these dogs are aggressive to people and other animals. 50th Pct stated summons can be issued by law enforcement to people walking dogs without leashes.
- Man shot in head by off duty Police Officer on West 231st Street near Albany Crescent in critical condition. Officer (not from 50th Pct.) was apparently tracking his stolen car and shot the individual in the car. No further information available yet.
- Resident claimed parking tickets he received are unjustified, disputed tickets with Judge and was found liable to pay fines. Resident argued many Judges presiding over traffic tickets are incompetent and the justice system is corrupt.

5. FDNY Report (*See attached FDNY statistical report) –

No representative from FDNY was available to present the FDNY report.

Fire at 3410 Kingsbridge Avenue on 3/17/26. 15 people taken to hospitals with minor injuries. No further information available yet.

6. NYS Liquor Authority (SLA): Renewal Applications

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

The Riverdale Steak House, located at 5700 Riverdale Avenue applied to the Public Safety Committee to renew their license for liquor, wine, beer and cider.

Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior significant disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Approve in favor (9): C. Blake, M. Courtney, M. Della, A. Eboh, N. Fazio, E. Green, D. Harris, A. Ortega, L. Spalter

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

7. Old Business

Update: 311 Flyer and Web Information

311 informational flyer will include a QR code that links to Bronx Community Board 8.

Public Safety Chair and other Board members will begin a working group that focuses on technology-based information.

311 information will be added to the Bronx Community Board 8 website and social media accounts.

An updated 311 flyer will be presented to the Public Safety Committee for input and approval before public distribution.

The committee will continue to evaluate informational material.

FY28 Budget Priority Requests

Committee received a list of budget items requested by the 50th Precinct.

FY28 Capital Budget Requests:

Argus Cameras: Cameras capture continuous (24 hour) high-definition video footage, with a range of up to two blocks distance from the camera. The footage can be accessed by any 50th Precinct Police Officer and is often reviewed to identify perpetrators, license plates and can also be a deterrent to crime (auto theft, local business security, etc.).

Locations:

- West 238th Street & Broadway
- West 238th Street & Bailey Avenue

- Van Cortlandt Park South & Bailey Avenue
- West 239th Street & Independence Avenue
- West 261st Street & Riverdale Avenue
- Fort Independence Street (facing 3353 Fort Independence Housing)
- East Side of Broadway between 5240 Broadway and 5360 Broadway
- Allen Shandler Park Entrance at 3545 Jerome Avenue
- Reservoir Avenue & Webb Avenue
- 2831 Exterior Street (facing North bound)

Argus cameras are funded by allocations from elected officials for use within their districts. Specific location recommendations should be provided to the local precinct commander for submission to the Information Technology Bureau once funding is allocated. NYPD will attempt to accommodate specific location requests whenever funding is provided but reserves the right to place cameras as appropriate due to current crime trends and operational needs.

FY28 Expense Budget Requests:

John Deer Gator Utility Vehicle: Used for NYPD park patrol. Item patrols areas that are inaccessible to police cars. Especially useful for areas of Van Cortlandt Park (i.e. trails). Increases police accessibility and visibility in remote areas of the park.

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register response: *“Agency supports but cannot accommodate. The NYPD is working with the Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget to secure additional funds to maintain lifecycle replacement of its current fleet. Supplemental funding would be needed if there was a desire to increase this count even further.”*

Five (5) Vehicle Anti-Theft Boots for Vouchered Vehicles: Applied to the wheels of cars that have been seized by NYPD, preventing the cars from being moved.

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Register response: *“Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Additional NYPD resources for this project are unavailable at this time due to funding constraints.”*

The committee will continue to make budget request inquiries and have a finalized budget request list at the 4/21/26 Public Safety Committee meeting.

8. New Business

Office of Cannabis Management informed Bronx Community Board 8, as per OCM policy, the Board’s March OCM application resolution did not have applicable reasons for disapproval. OCM stated Homeless Shelters did not meet the defined criteria of a community facility. Members of the Public Safety Committee dispute OCM’s claim that Homeless shelters do not qualify as community facilities.

The Board sent OCM correspondence with the Department of City Planning supporting the notion that homeless shelters qualify as community facilities. The Board is awaiting a reply.

OCM requested the Board send them any additional letters of support for the resolution, including statements from elected officials.

The Board requested area elected officials send OCM a letter supporting the Board’s resolution. Assemblyman Dinowitz and Councilman Dinowitz sent letters of support for the Board’s resolution to OCM. The Board is awaiting a response from Senator Rivera.

Due to recent amendments to New York State law, there are less restrictions on where cannabis retail dispensaries can operate. The 500 ft or 200 ft distance from community facilities, schools and houses of worship, etc. was changed. The allowable distance is no longer measured by property lines; it is now measured by entrance-to-entrance points of locations (front door to front door). The change in law allows dispensaries to be closer in proximity to the property of previously restricted locations.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Minutes submitted by Public Safety Committee Chair Ed Green