

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 20, 2021 VIA ZOOM (Pending Committee Approval)

#### PRESENT

<b>Edward Green (Chair)</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Margaret Donato</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Nick Fazio</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Ted Morris</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Georgia Santiago</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee
<b>Jyll Townes</b>	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: Donnell Leverett

Guests: Audrey Bleier, Alvin Chen (New Tokyo House), Jen & Kathryn Brohier (Kingsbridge BID), Kelly B (Community Member), Marion Spencer (Keenan's Bar), Stella Hagen, Elvis Manchuca, Tabatha Gadsden, Captain Melendez, Joyce Bernard, James Langstine (Bronx Alehouse), Araceli F. (LINC), Joyce-Bernard, Jonathan Greenspun, Kelli B, Marilex Santana-Tavarez, Laura Spalter (BXC8 Chair), Richard Velez (FDNY), Tishawn Brown (MMCC), Cesar Sala (50<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Affairs), Farrukh Jamal, David Gellman (BXC8), Ethan Stark-Miller (Riverdale Press).

Chair Edward Green called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

#### 1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

#### 2. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Approve in favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, T. Morris, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

#### 3. NYPD Report – presented by Captain Melendez

- Grand larcenies and vehicle thefts are what's driving crime.
- As the weather gets warmer, crime goes up. The precinct is prepared to deal with it.
- There was one shooting, it is already solved.
- Georgia asked re motorcycles on sidewalks. Melendez said legislation is needed.
- Ted Morris commended the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct on clearing up the cars on Broadway.
- Ed asked officer Sala about graffiti on the steps from Orloff down to VCPS. Said to call 311.
- Kathryn Brohier – re scooter problem: city is encouraging scooters and bikes. DOT removed muni meters and tripled # of bike racks.
- Elvis Manchuca: Spoke about large gatherings: marijuana usage. There is a Kindergarten across the street. What is PD doing about large gatherings? Captain said anywhere you can smoke a cigarette you can smoke marijuana.
- Ed asked about Lt. Soriano teaming up with DEP joint operations re noise. Targeting parks.

- Farrukh Jamal talked about his issues with the noise from his upstairs neighbor. Neighbor “weaponized” noise – loud music, stomping. Mr. Jamal has been through the landlord, police, assemblyman. No one has helped. Melendez said he should address this with the landlord. Take the landlord to court. He has started the process with a lawyer. Melendez suggested Mr. Jamal might be able to withhold the rent. Landlord told him to stay away from the guy because he is a dangerous guy.

**Compstat Report**

**28 days, ending 4/18/21**

	2021	2020
Murder	0	0
Rape	1	0
Robbery	3	5
Fel. Assault	10	13
Burglary	7	5
Gr. Larceny	21	18
G.L.A.	13	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>47</b>

**4. FDNY Report**

Richard Velez reported:

- March 22 structural fires, 74 for the year, 0 suspicious
- Mr. Velez said he will get info on the circumstances of the fires.
- 253 EMS runs.
- Still holding virtual fire safety and CPR classes 718-999-1436
- Close the door PSA.

**5. NYS Liquor Authority → RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

Blue Bay Restaurant (3533 Johnson Ave.)

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Alex Katechis, Owner.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, T. Morris, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

New Tokyo House Inc (5648 Riverdale Ave.)

Wine, Beer & Cider

Alvin Chen (Jessie Zheng, Manager)

No problems or issues at that location

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 (E. Green, T. Morris, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Bronx Alehouse (216 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street)

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

James Langstine representing

Nick Fazio thanked them for their service during the pandemic.

Captain Melendez said there have been no issues at the location.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, T. Morris, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Siam Square Thai Cuisine (564 Kappock Street)

Beer & Wine

Kong Duan Chen, Owner

Captain Melendez stated there were no issues at that location.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, T. Morris, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

## 6. Old Business

### Finalization of Public Safety Budget Request Items

Capital Budget:

- Argus Cameras: 231<sup>st</sup> St & Kingsbridge Ave, 234<sup>th</sup> St & Bailey Ave, 260<sup>th</sup> St & Riverdale Ave. (Joint request with Economic Development committee).
- Argus Camera at University & Reservoir Avenue (Joint request with Parks Committee).
- Argus Cameras request at 242<sup>nd</sup> St, 238<sup>th</sup> St, 231<sup>st</sup> St & 225<sup>th</sup> St subway stations on #1 Line (Joint request with Traffic and Transportation Committee). Falls under transit bureau. Captain Melendez says Transit Bureau has to make request.

Expense budget:

- School Crossing Guard at Sedgwick and Hillman Avenues intersection (Joint request with Traffic and Transportation Committee).
- John Deer Gator for officers to patrol park (Joint request with Parks Committee).

A vote in favor to accept budget items in priority order (unanimous approval): (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, T. Morris, J. Townes)

## 7. New Business

### Discussion of Police Reform Report:

- Ed asked if Melendez had comments.
- It is about transparency and accountability.
- Only thing it did not address is how to fight crime.
- Jyll asked about verdict on Chauvin trial. Captain Melendez said they were told not to talk about the case.
- Georgia asked why they never see officers at the Marble Hill projects. Melendez said the project has very low crime compared to other projects in the Bronx.
- Ed asked if Melendez thought there were going to be more NYPD budget cuts. Melendez said with the new NYS budget they will be getting more money.

### Discussion of Marijuana Legalization:

- Link to Colorado MADD report on traffic deaths going up since legalization: [https://www.madd.org/hawaii/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/02/ImpactUpdate\\_ColoradoLeagaliztionMarijuana\\_10.18.pdf](https://www.madd.org/hawaii/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/02/ImpactUpdate_ColoradoLeagaliztionMarijuana_10.18.pdf)
- Melendez said laws were shoved down their throats but they were filling up jail cells with kids on marijuana. Going to create a black market.
- Nick said that the positive impact on the economy is overrated.
- Nick Fazio asked about how DUI's will be enforced for marijuana. Captain Melendez said it's based on police observation.
- Only way to tell marijuana levels is by a blood test.
- Ted Morris stated the NYPD did not have much input on the law and the law was not well thought out. He asked if there was any more review to be done.
- Elvis Manchuca asked if there a legal age limit for marijuana smoking. Captain Melendez said it was 21 years old.
- Laura Spalter stated today's marijuana is stronger and more potent than marijuana in the 1960s and she believes NYC will suffer because of the legalization and lack of ability to test levels.
- Ed stated one of his concerns was similar to Ted's: He didn't want to walk out his door and get engulfed by smoke.
- Ted asked about marijuana sale & distribution: Captain Melendez stated legislation is being worked out for that.

## **8. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm**

Minutes submitted by Vice Chair Myra Joyce, reviewed by Chair, Ed Green.