

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 21st, 2023
MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM
(Pending Approval)

PRESENT

Ed Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Mary Ellen Gibbs (CM)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Scott Krompinger	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: Ingrid Deleon, Bob Kaplan, Sergio Villaverde

Guests: Captain Srour (NYPD), Lieutenant Haney, (NYPD), Officer Jamsheer (NYPD), Officer Cornejo (NYPD), Michelle Rossetti (Wave Hill), Mindy Birnbaum (Wave Hill), Gemmy Quelliz (Mamajuana Café Prime), Jesse (New Tokyo House Inc.), David Gellman (BXC8), Camelia Tepelus (BXC8), Jason Godlewicz (Guest), Osvaldy Jesus Jimenez (Guest)

Chair Ed Green called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Rollcall of committee members.

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of the January 17th, 2023 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Minutes were not officially voted on (Committee did not have a quorum).

3. NYPD Report (**See attached NYPD CompStat Report*) –

Captain Srour, the newly appointed Commanding Officer of the 50th Precinct introduced herself to the committee and presented the NYPD CompStat report.

A pattern burglar was arrested breaking into a construction site. Captain Srour stated she deployed the 50th Pct. Public Safety Team on overtime past their tour and this factor resulted in the arrest.

Catalytic converter hot spots are being identified and resources have been deployed to these areas. One suspect was arrested with burglar's tools, multiple catalytic converters, and narcotics. Southern portion of the district near the 225th Street bridge is an area of attention.

Chris Calhoun stated he called 311 to report a traffic disturbance and a Traffic Officer responded swiftly to address the problem. Captain Srour stated she has been working to reduce response times on 311 calls and is building a partnership between NYPD Officers and Traffic Agents to address these issues more effectively.

Mary Ellen Gibbs stated there is a makeshift structure behind 3220 Arlington Avenue that is an obstruction to traffic and creates a potentially dangerous situation. Captain Srour stated she would send Officers there to survey the area and assess the situation.

Jason Godlewicz stated there are cars illegally double-parked that are preventing busses and cars from turning, which creates dangerous situations. The areas of concern are Jacobus Place / Corner of 228th Street and Marble Hill Avenue / Corner of Fort Charles Place and Marble Hill Avenue / Corner of Adrian Avenue and 225th St.

Mr. Godlewicz stated the public can access license plate information on the website HowsMyDriving.com, and some of the license plates he's looked up have dozens, and sometimes over a hundred, violations. Some of these vehicles are accruing thousands of dollars in fines, yet never get towed. There are also cars with fake or altered license plates. Captain Srour stated she would dedicate an entire team of officers to handle this situation.

Captain Srour stated she is monitoring how responses to 311 calls are handled by the 50th Precinct Officers.

If 1 license plate is missing from a car, the owner of the plate needs to report it as lost property. If both license plates are taken, they should report as stolen.

NYPD is not able to forcibly remove homeless people and put them into hospitals or shelters unless they appear to be a danger to themselves or others.

4. FDNY Report

No report was given.

5. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

No Representative for Jakes Steakhouse, located at 6031 Broadway, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

No Representative for Aroma Restaurant & Bar, located at 5523 Broadway, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

No Representative for Flame, located at 5740 Broadway, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

Michelle Rossetti and Mindy Birnbaum of Great Performances/Artists as Waitresses, Inc. and Wave Hill Incorporated, located at 675 West 252nd St., appeared before the committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Captain Srour of the 50th Precinct stated there were no complaints or notable disturbances at the business.

All committee members were in favor of approving this application but there were not enough committee members in attendance for a quorum, so an official vote could not be taken. A vote will be taken at the Full Board meeting in March.

A Representative of An Beal Bocht, located at 445 West 238th Street, appeared before the committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Captain Srour of the 50th Precinct stated there were no complaints or notable disturbances at the business.

All committee members were in favor of approving this application but there were not enough committee members in attendance for a quorum, so an official vote could not be taken. A vote will be taken at the Full Board meeting in March.

No Representative for Buffalo Wild Wings, located at 193 West 237th Street, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

No Representative for Smashburger #1485, located at 193 West 237th Street, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

No Representative for Neem Indian Cuisine Inc., located at 3549 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

A Representative of New Tokyo House Inc, located at 5648 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Captain Srour of the 50th Precinct stated there were no complaints or notable disturbances at the business.

All committee members were in favor of approving this application but there were not enough committee members in attendance for a quorum, so an official vote could not be taken. A vote will be taken at the Full Board meeting in March.

8. NYS Liquor Authority: New Applications

Gemmy Quelliz, Owner of Mamajuana Café Prime, located at 3541 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the committee for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit.

Chair Green stated he had contacted SLA about the procedural aspects of this business applying as a new application, rather than a corporate change in ownership, and SLA gave their assurances that the application was being properly submitted.

Gemmy Quelliz stated she was willing to sign a 2AM closing agreement for their first year of operation.

All committee members were in favor of approving this application, contingent upon the Board receiving a signed 2AM closing agreement, but there were not enough committee members in attendance for a quorum, so an official vote could not be taken. A vote will be taken at the Full Board meeting in March.

7. Old Business

Illegal Cannabis Retail Stores:

New cannabis laws have prevented the NYPD from making many of the arrests they were previously allowed to make. Arrests can still be made concerning business inspections, tax violations (untaxed cigarettes) and sales to underage customers. NYPD is working periodically with various agencies (Consumer Affairs, Sheriff's Department) to enforce the law on these businesses via special operations. Some products are confiscated.

Unlicensed cannabis retail stores are not being ticketed and fined every day because there are too many of them and not enough law enforcement personnel to enforce the laws.

These types of businesses are multiplying in the neighborhood. Captain Srour stated she gave her Officers a deployment package that identified 11 smoke shops in our area. She wants Officers to keep an eye on these businesses because they have significant amounts of cash and drugs on their premises, are often targeted by criminals for robbery and frequently attract various forms of criminal activity.

Updated Public Safety Committee Budget Requests:

2 Sound Meters (to measure noise decibel levels).

4 Tint Meters (to measure tint levels on car windows).

BXCB8 Budget Chair David Gellman stated the budget request list should ideally be prioritized by March and finalized in April. Capital budget would be any items over \$35,000.

Captain Srour stated Argus cameras record for 24 hours and capture a very wide picture, so they are very useful for dealing with issues like catalytic converter theft and robbery. She said she would provide our committee with a list of areas these cameras are needed.

Pole Cameras are cameras positioned closer to the ground and are good for facial recognition. Captain Srour thinks a couple of these cameras would be beneficial. She will update the committee on preferred locations.

Rat problem in the 50th Precinct parking lot. Rats are consistently gnawing at police cars, causing them to go out of service. The Captain would like to request additional cars or something to eliminate this problem.

Interior Lighting for Marble Hill Playground (Between 230th & 228th St. & Kingsbridge Ave).

Argus Camera locations:

- Mosholu Ave & Tyndall Avenue
- 235th Street Pedestrian Overpass by Henry Hudson Parkway West
- 230th St & Kingsbridge Avenue

8. New Business

None.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.