

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 17, 2022 MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM (Pending Approval)

PRESENT

Edward Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Stephen Vazquez	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Sergio Villaverde	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Robert Kaplan	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: T. Morris, N. Fazio.

Guests: Rafael Mangual (Manhattan Institute), Robert Swetnick, Debbie Allen, Ryan Acquotta, Laura Spalter (CB8), iPhone de Jose, User2 (Marie Claude), Rasha Jamsheer (50th Pct.), Captain Francis Drummond (50th Pct.), David Gellman (CB8), Dan Padernacht (CB8), Joy Campbell-Priveterre (CB8), Karen Pesce (CB8).

Chair Ed Green called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Roll-call of committee members

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of the April 19, 2022 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Approve in favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, M. Donato, G. Santiago, R. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1 (S. Villaverde)

3. Guest Speaker from The Manhattan Institute, Rafael Mangual

Topic: Criminal Justice Reform:

- There has never been a bail reform study that has found no increase in crime.
- Bail reform increases the size of the retrial population. This indicates an increase in crime in that population. Community is at greater risk of offenders out on bail reform committing crime.
- Share of total arrests increased 2020 over 2019.
- 25.1% of violent cases were committed by individuals released due to bail reform. Should be categorized as avoidable.
- New York is only state where judges are prohibited from considering dangerousness.
- New requirement for judges to go on the record with their reasoning.

- Second re-arrest is not counted in the re-arrest data.
- Leaves us with the problem of what do we do?
- Reorient pretrial bail around dangerousness.
- Algorithmic risk assessment tool. There are tools that are very effective at predicting probability of rearrest. Equally predictive across all racial groups.

New discovery laws are pushing ADAs out of the job:

- It makes the job much more difficult.
- Picking and choosing arraignment because of the discovery regulation.
- 25% of gun arrests resulted in dismissals in NY.
- Raise the age law: Difficult to try young offenders as adults.

Sergio Villaverde: Recidivism: Was told last time that there is no data on that. NYC analysis of supervised release programs.

Rafael: 41% recidivism rate. Reality – central critique: We don't allow Judges to look at dangerousness. NYPD is limited in ability to share data re rearrests. Partially due to litigation. Impact of Raise the Age: 50% in recidivism rate. Loudest advocates are blocking the data that would give us some real-world perspective.

Bob Kaplan: Adjustments in the bail reform and raise the age. We are seeing similar rises across the country.

Rafael said it is misleading that crime has gone up. The vast majority of the city does not see murders and shooting. Crime is geographically concentrated. It has gone up in those historically concentrated crime areas.

Stephen Vazquez: More concerning is the specific kinds of people committing crime. Always seems to be blacks and Hispanics committing these crimes. How do we address that from a policy standpoint?

Rafael: Personality disorders prevalence in populations. There is some relationship between socioeconomic indicators in non-violent offenses. There is not a majority of any demographic group committing crime. The way to address this is to do everything to reduce crime. Crime breeds more crime. Investment in community, educational attainment go up as crime goes down.

Dan Padernacht: Reducing crime – how do we get there? Any data on broken windows policing?

Rafael: Mischaracterization to conflate broken window policing with arrests. Core of broken window policing gives cop discretion to arrest or not arrest. That signals to public that someone is in charge. There has to be an answer to the question “or what?” motivated offender / vulnerable victim.

David Gellman: Have you spoken with counterpart to having a conversation to discuss conflicting stats?

Rafael stated he regularly participates in debates on bail reform. Testified before Senate and House. Campus events. These events do happen.

Ed Green: Dangerousness factor. All other states allow judges to take this into account. How do we change this here in NY?

Rafael stated we have to get lawmakers to a point where they are willing to act. Information sharing. Engage with the NYPD to bring these issues up the chain of command. Problem is that the data is not available. Suggests start making demands that the data become publicly available.

4. NYPD Report –

Officer Jamsheer gave report:

- Captain Frances Drummond, has been at the 50th Precinct for a couple of weeks.
- The uptick in arrests happen as crime increases.
- 1 Homicide (shooting). Domestic in nature.
- Up 66% in gun arrests.

Compstat Report

28 days, ending 5/15/22

	2022	2021
Murder	1	0
Rape	1	0
Robbery	15	1
Fel. Assault	7	14
Burglary	15	9
Gr. Larceny	60	24
G.L.A.	21	5
TOTAL	120	53

Stephen Vazquez: Asked if there is any data on where arrests are occurring.

- Doesn't have data.

Myra Joyce: Brought up report of a man exposing himself at the Metro North station.

- Drummond said to come to precinct. If this happens again call 911. Give location.

Chris Calhoun: Anyone apprehended in Key Food stabbing?

- Yes, an arrest was made.

Ed Green: 2 emails received:

1) Homeless encampment at 238th St. by BJs.

2) Friends of Van Cortlandt Tail had to cancel event due to unsanitary conditions. This is also related to homeless encampment.

- Officer Jamsheer spoke with a homeless person there. Individual knows about shelter, but police cannot force them to go to a shelter. This one individual is the only homeless person she has seen.
- Ed said he saw multiple homeless set-ups at Van Cortlandt Tail and asked how we deal with this. Officer Jamsheer said they are not allowed set up camps. She suggested she and Ed meet so he can show her the locations.

Chair Green stated he met with 50th Precinct Capt. Girven, BXC8 District Manager Ciara Gannon, BXC8 Chair Laura Spalter and various Parks Department Officials regarding chronic noise and partying in the parks. As the weather gets warmer this is going to be an issue.

- Officer Jamsheer said they should call 911 because they are not allowed to be in the park after dark. She will check with sector cops to address this.

In last couple of months there have been multiple complaints about location that used to be Barcelona Bites. Resident came with petition to close the place.

User2 (Marie Claude): Fireworks are starting around Bailey and 231st St. Is there a plan to reduce the fireworks?

- Was told it is tough to make arrests on fireworks.

Large groups in motorbikes and ATV's.

- Strict policy
- Souped-up cars.

5. FDNY Report

No report.

6. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

none

7. NYS Liquor Authority: New

Jose Jimenez, representing Estrellita Poblana Taqueria Express, located at 5975 Broadway:

- Mexican restaurant.
- Previously approved for a wine and beer.
- Never picked up wine and beer license.
- Does not have a bar. Only has sit down.
- Been there 3.5 years.
- They are requesting a temporary retail license because they want to start ASAP.

Vote to approve in favor:

8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, M. Donato, G. Santiago, R. Kaplan, S. Villaverde)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

8. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change

None

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Bob Kaplan stated that he wants to invite speakers that have different opinions on criminal justice reform.

Ed Green stated the committee has one more meeting before the summer break, which will be in-person at the 50th Precinct; we won't be bringing in guest speakers on this topic at that meeting but we'll revisit it again after the summer break.

Bob Kaplan stated he was under the impression the committee was going to have a vote on hybrid meetings at this month's meeting.

Ed Green stated he never said we would vote on hybrid meetings at this month's (May) Public Safety Committee meeting, but we should consider putting it on a future agenda once we know more details about what the process entails.

David Gellman stated that hybrid meetings are an option. We can't do Zoom only, but can opt-in to the hybrid model if we want.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes submitted by Committee Vice Chair Myra Joyce; reviewed by Committee Chair Ed Green.