

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 2021
MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM
(Pending Approval)

PRESENT

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

Committee members absent: Ted Morris

Guests: Marilex (BX DA), Captain Girven, Cesar Sala, Dahlia (Tobala), Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Elba Tamara Rodriguez, Elvis Manchuca, Eson Chen (Palace of Japan), Jillian Baez, Lorenzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz), Margaret Della (CB8), Sue Dodell, Moriah, MK, Iggy Khoury (The Hill), Maria (Community Resident), Dan Padernacht (CB8), Larry H, Shajada Brown, Sylvia Alexander (CB8), Jonathan Greenspun.

Chair Edward Green called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Roll call of committee members

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of the September 9, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, R. Kaplan, S. Vazquez, C. Calhoun)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

3. NYPD Report –

Property crime increased.

Compstat Report

28 days, ending 10/17/21

	2021	2020
Murder	0	0
Rape	2	1
Robbery	9	8
Fel. Assault	13	9
Burglary	13	15
Gr. Larceny	47	42
G.L.A.	13	13
TOTAL	97	88

Continuing attention to vehicle speed enforcement.

Quality of Life – Focus on parks.

- Complaints in Shandler Park: Large groups gathering
- Fort Four Park
- VCP – 262nd, 260th and 242nd Streets.
- Loud noise an ongoing issue
- 2 shootings: Marble Hill / 231st & Godwin on Columbus Day. One suspect was apprehended, another identified.

Other issues raised:

- Noise complaints and closing out 311 complaints before they are resolved.
- Rikers closing down. There has been talk about opening facilities in each borough to compensate.
- Crime in adjacent communities, specifically 34th, 46th and 52nd Precincts. Manpower is assigned to where crimes are happening.
- Cars going through stop sign at Kappock St. and Johnson Ave. Requesting more police presence at that intersection.
- Paper license plates & excessive vehicle noise.
- Catalytic converter thefts.

4. FDNY Report

No Report.

5. RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

- Palace of Japan (3505 Johnson Avenue) - Eson Chen
 - Captain Girven said there were no issues at that location.

In favor of approval: 8

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

- The Hill Bistro (3541 Riverdale Avenue) - Iggy Khoury
 - Captain said no issues at that location
 - Ed asked if establishment will bring in promoters – Owner said no
 - Owner stated that prior to covid the business had live music
 - Change name and change concept to Mamajuana
 - Margaret asked if principles will change – Iggy says Carlos from Mamajuana will manage, but won't be a principle.
 - S. Vasquez – Are you going to give up business to Mamajuana? Owner said No.

In favor of approval: 7

(E. Green, N. Fazio, M. Donato, G. Santiago, R. Kaplan, S. Vazquez, C. Calhoun)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1 (M. Joyce)

- Montezuma Mexican Restaurant (119 West Kingsbridge Road) Magdalena Domiguez
 - Captain Girven said there were no issues at that location.
 - Ed inquired about live music & DJ and asked if the business would be having any promoters. Owner said there would just be the usual entertainment, as it was before Covid and stated the DJ would just be a person playing music.
 - Nick – Asked how many years had the establishment been in business. Owner said since 1983 and Magdalena took over from her father in 1996.

In favor of approval: 8

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

6. NEW APPLICATIONS

- Tobala (3732 Riverdale Avenue) - Dahlia Roma Merc.
 - Captain Girven said there were no problems in that area.
 - Owner stated there would just be a DJ playing music.
 - Owner said no music would play into the street to disturb residents or adjacent restaurants.

Approve in favor: 8

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Old Business

School Safety Agents: PS 24 reassigned a Safety Agent and he was not replaced. Ed reached out to the school Principal who stated the Safety Agent was reassigned due to PS 24 not being classified as a “high-needs” school and a male Officer was needed at another school (PS 95). Captain Girven stated he has no control over placement of School Safety Agents and they are allocated under the School Safety Division. Captain Girven stated he would provide the Board contact information for the School Safety Division.

8. New Business

Homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway at 262nd St.

- Margaret asked if there were registered sex offenders in the shelter, would the 50th Precinct be made aware of that? Captain Girven stated he believes the 50th would be made aware.
- Stephen Vasquez inquired about checking 911 or 311 calls for current shelters for the purpose of assessing public safety risks.
- Ed asked if the committee can get some statistics on the correlation between general population shelters & crime and questioned whether our area would need more police presence if the shelter were built.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm

Minutes submitted by Committee Vice Chair Myra Joyce, approved by Committee Chair Ed Green.