

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**  
**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD ON December 20, 2022**  
**MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM**  
(Pending Approval)

**PRESENT**

Ed Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Ingrid Deleon	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Bob Kaplan	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: Scott Krompinger, Ted Morris, Sergio Villaverde

**Guests:** Captain Ozuna (NYPD), Lieutenant Haney, (NYPD), Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr (FDNY), Mary Ellen Gibbs (BXC8), Matt Abrams Gerber (CEO Riverdale Y), Miguel Acosta (Ezili Luxury Hall), Sandra Klipstein (TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale).

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

Roll-call of committee members.

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

**2. Approval of the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Public Safety Committee Minutes**

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, Ingrid Deleon, E. Green, B. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

Chair Green provided information about reporting quality of life complaints and abandoned vehicles to proper agencies.

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

Captain Ozuna and Lieutenant Haney of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, presented the NYPD report:

- Chris Calhoun stated people are blocking fire hydrants with their vehicles and leaving them overnight. Captain Ozuna stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct would investigate.
- Mary Ellen Gibbs asked what can be done about loud music coming from apartments that is disturbing to neighbors. Captain Ozuna stated people need to call 311. Lieutenant Haney stated Oath summons were the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct's greatest tool to combat noise complaints and the 50<sup>th</sup> has several trained Officers that have access to sound meters, which can be utilized to measure the

noise. If noise exceeds certain sound levels - the fines on the summons would increase. Also, tenants should mention if there was a previous complaint.

- Ed Green inquired about increased police presence in Van Cortlandt Park. Captain Ozuna stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct had a meeting with Van Cortlandt Park Police and there would be a joint operation to patrol the park.
- The Board received complaints about 2 Cannabis retail businesses at 206 W 231<sup>st</sup> St and 5565 Broadway. Captain Ozuna stated she would have a Crime Prevention Officer monitor the locations. Lieutenant Haney stated he reached out to NYPD's legal department and was waiting to hear back from them because he wanted them to brief Officers on what type of offenses were enforceable under new marijuana legalization laws. He stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct can also team up with the Cannabis Enforcement Agency and the Sherriff's Department, which can enforce consumer affairs violations.
- Matt Abrams Gerber, CEO of the Riverdale Y inquired about what was being done to prevent hate crimes targeting houses of worship. Captain Ozuna stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct requested more Officers for this purpose and she thought the Borough was going to send her some from the Yankee Stadium detail, but hasn't heard from them yet and she'll follow up. The 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct currently has Community Affairs Officers covering houses of worship. Bob Kaplan asked if BXC8 or any of the agencies he represents can be advocates for more Officer deployment. Captain Ozuna stated it would be helpful, and if she had enough Officers she could post them in front of houses of worship. Bob Kaplan and Matt Abrams Gerber discussed coordinating an effort to send letters from houses of worship to appropriate authorities to express the need for additional Officers for houses of worship.
- Nick Fazio, BXC8 Economic Development Committee Chair, stated his committee asked the Bronx Borough President's office for more guidance on cannabis legalization laws and how they apply to licensing and businesses operating legally. The BBP office seems to be in the process of trying to figure it out. Cannabis trucks operating illegally are currently being removed by cannabis enforcement agencies. It appears businesses have gotten ahead of legislation and everyone involved is in the process of sorting it all out.
- Lieutenant Haney stated he contacted the Department of Buildings about the abandoned house at 6041 Fieldston Road. The house has not been secured by the DOB yet. The house is still considered private property but the owner is deceased.
- A man in a car was shot on the Major Deegan expressway; he drove away from the site of the shooting but his car eventually crashed on Sedgwick Avenue and he died. Captain Ozuna stated this was potentially a drug sale gone bad and the parties involved were from out of town. There is an ongoing homicide investigation into this matter.

#### **4. FDNY Report**

FDNY Battalion Chief, Gregory Lehr presented the FDNY report:

- Greg Lehr gave November FDNY area statistics: 28 structural fires, a 7.7% increase from October.
- Water Christmas trees. An un-watered tree is easily combustible and catches fire easily.
- Vincent Dunn, retired Fire Fighter wrote an article on the Department of Transportation's efforts to narrow streets and add bike lanes, and how this is slowing FDNY response time to fires and endangering lives. DOT's efforts to narrow the streets is preventing fire and medical emergency vehicles from meeting the national fire protection standard. Traffic experts are calling this method "traffic calming", while fire prevention experts are calling it "slowing down life-saving emergency response time". Greg stated it has gotten harder to navigate fire trucks in the streets over the last 10 years.
- Mary Ellen Gibbs expressed concern about fire trucks being able to navigate around extended curbs and fireworks being set off on building roofs.
- Fires caused by lithium-ion battery fires are happening a lot. E-bikes and scooters are usually the cause of the fires.

## **5. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals**

Miguel Acosta, Representative of Yukka Latin Bistro, located at 5684 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Captain Ozuna of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there have been no notable complaints about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, Ingrid Deleon, E. Green, B. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

No Representative appeared for Bronx Post 95 War Veterans, located at 3960 Orloff Avenue. The application was tabled until further notice.

Sandra Klipstein, Representative of TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale, located at 2600 Netherland Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Captain Ozuna of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there have been no notable complaints about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, Ingrid Deleon, E. Green, B. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

No Representative appeared for Jakes Steak House, located at 6031 Broadway. The application was tabled until further notice.

### **6. NYS Liquor Authority: New**

Miguel Acosta, Representative of Ezili Luxury Hall Corp, located at 5540 Broadway, appeared before the committee:

A 2AM closing agreement was signed by the owner and received by the Board.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, Ingrid Deleon, E. Green, B. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

### **8. Old Business**

None

### **9. New Business**

Chair Green stated Mayor Adams had recently proposed an expansion of criteria for involuntarily placing homeless in mental health facilities and Governor Kathy Hochul indicated she supported the Mayor's plan. Lt. Haney stated NYPD cannot force homeless individuals into mental health facilities without their consent and the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct has not received any directive yet from the Mayor's office on this matter. NYPD's current policy regarding involuntary placement of individuals into mental health facilities is guided by EMS.

Mary Ellen Gibbs stated she's seen many cars with blocks underneath their tires that have been robbed of catalytic converters. Lt. Haney stated more Officers were being redeployed through the midnight hours, specifically to address this problem. He stated unmarked cars were

presently being used to try to catch thieves and a decoy car was previously used but produced less than desirable results.

The committee watched a short FDNY video on how fires caused by lithium-ion batteries spread rapidly. FDNY Battalion Chief Greg Lehr stated overcharging and wear-and-tear on e-bikes & scooters were the primary reason these fires occur, but he's also seen computers and cell phones catch fire, although not as frequently.

**10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm**

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.