

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**  
**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD ON April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 (CCM)	CB8 Public Safety Committee

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

**Guests:** Captain Filastine Srour (NYPD), Officer Cesar Sala (NYPD), Battalion Chief Greg Lehr (FDNY), Raymond Pultinas (JBLOC), David Gellman (BXCB8), Nick Fazio (BXCB8), Emily Weisberg (Moss Café), James Langstine (Bronx Alehouse), George Ballis (The Johnson), Jae Yu (China 21 Restaurant), Belinda's iPad (Guest).

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

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

Rollcall of committee members.

**2. Approval of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Public Safety Committee Minutes**

The minutes for March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, were not voted on due to lack of quorum.

**3. Discussion: Detective Martin Brown Lee (Police Commissioner's Liaison Unit) – Fostering greater community dialog with the Police Commissioner's Office.**

Guest speaker was unable to attend. Chair Green stated he will attempt to reschedule this presentation at a future date.

**4. Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) – Pending Application: JBOLC Garden Community Farmers Market (#702975)**

Raymond Pultinas presented an overview of the JBLOC Garden Community Farmer's Market.

Committee did not have a quorum to vote on this application - but had consensus that a motion should be brought from the floor of the next Full Board meeting to approve this application.

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

Captain Sorur of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct presented the NYPD CompStat report:

- Pattern of purse snatching by thieves riding mopeds. One suspect is responsible for three of the robberies.
- Pattern of smoke shops being robbed at gunpoint for money and merchandise.
- Trend of burglaries in the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct. 16 burglaries where the criminal came through apartment windows. 1 private house also burglarized. 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct is shifting Officer priority to investigating and preventing burglaries. The precinct is investigating known recidivists.

Committee Member Chris Calhoun stated he's noticed a lot of quality-of-life crimes being addressed recently by 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct Officers.

Committee Member Mary Ellen Gibbs had concerns that constituents are not being heard or treated with respect by some 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct Officers.

Police Officer was hit in the head with a bottle by an emotionally disturbed man while Officers were inspecting a cannabis retail store on 231<sup>st</sup> St & Broadway. Man was arrested. NYPD is working with the Sheriff's Department and other agencies as a task force to address illegal cannabis retail stores; each agency can enforce certain laws within their legal parameters against these businesses. DOB, FDNY and NYPD Special Forces are also involved in these raids on occasion.

Chair Ed Green stated 231<sup>st</sup> St. & Broadway has become a haven for panhandlers and illegal vending and suggested that a greater police presence in the area could be a deterrent for some of these activities.

Captain Srour stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct only has 72 full-duty Officers available, or 24 Officers per shift, and considering her Officers rotating days off, the Precinct has an average of 12 Officers per shift, so it's difficult to maintain police presence in problem areas with so few Officers.

Homelessness and panhandling are decriminalized, so unless an individual exhibits behavior that causes an Officer to believe they present a danger to others or themselves, there's nothing that Officer can legally do.

A man on the elevated subway tracks at 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway had a gun and was menacing people. The man pointed his gun at an Officer and received several commands from the Officer to drop his gun but did not comply. The man was eventually shot in the hand by the Officer and arrested for assault and criminal possession of a firearm.

Several cannabis dispensaries in the area were raided and \$40K worth of merchandise was confiscated. Arrests were made.

Illegal parking at the corner of Fort Charles and Marble Hill Avenue: School busses and garbage trucks are being forced to back down the street and find a new route. Captain Srour stated she was aware of illegal parking in that area and Officer's will be instructed to monitor the situation more carefully moving forward.

The Board received a complaint from a business on Riverdale Ave., stating that an illegal smoke shop is being built at 3734 Riverdale Avenue. The business owner claims there is no proper permit posted on the storefront and applications have not been submitted to the DOB or Department of Community affairs. Chair Green stated he will send the specifics of the complaint to the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Captain Srour stated she would investigate it.

## **6. FDNY Report**

Chair Green stated FDNY received more than 93 million dollars in funds for FDNY EMS Ambulances and asked how much of that money or ambulances is allocated to the BXC88 area. FDNY Representative Greg Leher stated his role is as a local response unit for the community and that question should be posed to FDNY Headquarters.

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

Officer Sala of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there were no notable complaints about any of the business appearing before the Committee tonight:

Emily Weisberg, a Representative of Moss Cafe, located at 3260 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the Committee for renewal of their liquor license.

The Committee did not have a quorum to vote on this application - but had consensus that a motion should be brought from the floor of the next Full Board meeting to approve this application.

James Langstine, a Representative of Bronx Alehouse, located at 216 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared before the Committee for renewal of their liquor license.

The Committee did not have a quorum to vote on this application - but had consensus that a motion should be brought from the floor of the next Full Board meeting to approve this application.

## **8. NYS Liquor Authority: New Applications**

George Ballis, Representative of The Johnson, located at 3533 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the Committee for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit.

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

The Committee did not have a quorum to vote on this application - but had consensus that a motion should be brought from the floor of the next Full Board meeting to approve this application.

BXCB8 Economic Development Chair Nick Fazio stated that DOB has a new initiative: A small business support team that assists businesses with permitting and assigns businesses Project Managers to help them get started. Nick encouraged George to reach out to the Board Office for more information.

Jae Yu, Representative of China 21 Restaurant, located at 35-11 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the Committee for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit.

Chair Green stated a 2AM closing agreement had not been received by the Board and needed to be signed and received by the Board before this application could be approved.

Jae Yu stated the business was willing to sign the agreement. Chair Green stated the Board would email him the document the following business day.

The Committee did not have a quorum to vote on this application - but had consensus that a motion should be brought from the floor of the next Full Board meeting to approve this application, pending the signing of a 2AM closing agreement.

## **9. Old Business**

Final Capital & Expense Budget Requests:

### Capital Budget:

10 Argus Cameras:

- Mosholu Avenue & Tyndall Avenue
- West 230th Street & Kingsbridge Avenue
- West 238th Street & Bailey Avenue
- West 231<sup>st</sup> Street & Bailey Avenue
- Broadway & West 231<sup>st</sup> Street
- West 235th St. Pedestrian Overpass by Henry Hudson Parkway
- Bailey Avenue & Van Cortlandt Park South
- Sedgwick Avenue & Gouverneur Avenue (Reservoir Side)
- East 233<sup>rd</sup> Street & Jerome Avenue

- West 195<sup>th</sup> Street & Reservoir Avenue

3 Pole Cameras:

- 2 Cameras at the Courtyard of Marble Hill Houses (Capturing front of 5360 Broadway)
- 1 Camera at 5480 Broadway

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

5 Police Cars.

Expense Budget:

2 Sound Meters (to measure noise decibel levels).

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

1 School Crossing Guard at the intersection of Hillman Avenue & Sedgwick Avenue (Especially needed at PS 95 and Ampark Neighborhood School).

## **10. New Business**

Retail Cannabis Dispensary Query (Discussion):

Freshly Baked NYC, a cannabis dispensary, sent BXC88 an email asking if there are known areas where their business would be allowed/not allowed or preferred/not preferred in our area. They stated they were checking to see if they would be a “good match” for the community.

Belinda’s iPad (Guest) stated there are already too many cannabis retail stores in the community and she doesn’t want another one, legal or illegal.

The Committee and guests of the meeting came to a consensus that this business should appear before the Public Safety Committee for a discussion that would allow residents the opportunity to express their opinions on this matter.

Chair Green stated he would have the Board contact Freshly Baked NYC and ask them to appear at a future Public Safety Committee meeting if they chose to.

## **11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm**

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.