

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD ON March 21<sup>st</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
Scott Krompinger	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Sergio Villaverde	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: Ingrid Deleon, Bob Kaplan

**Guests:** Officer Cesar Sala (NYPD), Carlos Torres (BX DA), Deputy Chief Arleen Simmons (FDNY), David Gellman (BXC8), Leona Teten (BXC8) Meghan (Jakes Steakhouse), Clark Eastman (Smashburger), Elizabeth Basalo (Smashburger), Anil Ahmed (Neem Indian Cuisine), Shajada Brown (Guest).

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

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

Rollcall of committee members.

Carlos Torres of the Bronx District Attorney's Office introduced himself to the committee and stated the BX DA office was going to be hosting a re-entry resource fair, a youth summit, a gun violence prevention event and a walk against gun violence event. Flyers for these events were being created and the information would be distributed to BXC8.

**2. Approval of the January 17<sup>th</sup> & February 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Public Safety Committee Minutes**

Minutes for 1/23 & 2/23 were voted on and approved unanimously by the committee.

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

Ed Green specified the procedure for reporting quality of life complaints and how to properly report an abandoned vehicle.

Officer Cesar Sala of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct presented the NYPD CompStat report.

Officer Jamsheer is the handling issues of unlicensed marijuana shops. Illegal cannabis shops selling to minors are a concern. The PS Committee plans to invite a representative of the

Sheriff's Department to a future meeting (possibly in May) and give an informational session on the process of enforcing the law on illegal cannabis businesses. The agencies responsible for enforcing laws against these establishments all cite a lack of resources as the reason some laws aren't being regularly enforced. NYPD NCO's would likely be the Officers involved in this type of enforcement. There are 14 to 15 smoke shops in the area, as per the 50<sup>th</sup> Pct Crime Prevention Officer.

A shooting was reported at the 3800 block of Waldo Avenue. Officer Sala stated there were no reports of anyone being shot at that location. There is video available of the incident and NYPD is reviewing it and hoping to make an arrest quickly. 4 shell casings and 1 live round of ammunition were found at the scene. Officer Sala explained how the "Shot Spotter" system works and that reported shootings have been rising in the last few months.

Mobile homes (RV's) are parked by PS 24 School. There are concerns about the welfare of children.

Complaints about cars being towed at Key Food parking lot by an independent tow truck that only accepts cash to release the cars to owners. Customers are shopping at the businesses within the parking lot and getting their cars towed. Anyone this happens to should report it to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Every Tuesday at 9:30am the NYPD has meetings with local School Officials. There have been complaints about students getting sick from products purchased at smoke shops.

3220 Netherland Ave building mailbox was broken into. This needs to be reported to the US Postal Service. The Postal Police investigate this type of crime.

Check Washing: Officer Jamsheer is attempting to raise funds for victims of "check washing". "Wash resistant" gel pens are effective protection against check alteration. Mailbox "fishing" is the most common way thieves obtain people's checks.

Altered and stolen license plates complaints are not increasing, according to the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, but this issue remains a problem they're aware of. There is no specific team of 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct Officers working on this issue. The Officers are basically "multitasking" with various types of criminal cases.

S. Villaverde asked BXDA Representative Carlos Torres if the BX DA has any enforcement strategy regarding illegal cannabis businesses. BXDA Torres stated his role in the DA's Office focuses on community coordination and gang & gun violence, but he will pose this question to the DA office Bureau Chief and respond to the Board when he receives an official answer. BX DA Rep Torres stated he would share his contact information with BXC8 for further correspondence with our committee.

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

No report was given.

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

Meghan, a Representative of Jakes Steakhouse, located at 6031 Broadway, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there were no notable complaints about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 5 (C. Calhoun, M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, S. Villaverde)

Opposed: 0

No Representative for Aroma Restaurant & Bar, located at 5523 Broadway, appeared before the committee. Officer Sala stated the Precinct had received previous complaints about this business when it was a nightclub in a different location. 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.

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

Clark Eastman and Elizabeth Basalo of Smashburger, 193 West 237<sup>th</sup> Street, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there were no notable complaints about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 5 (C. Calhoun, M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, S. Villaverde)

Opposed: 0

Anil Ahmed, Representative of Neem Indian Cuisine, located at 3549 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated there were no notable complaints about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 5 (C. Calhoun, M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, S. Villaverde)

Opposed: 0

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

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

Committee Member S. Villaverde made a motion to approve the SLA renewal applications of the business that failed to attend the meeting.

There was no second to the motion.

S. Villaverde stated that appearing before the Public Safety Committee during the 7pm diner rush could represent a hardship for some businesses.

Committee concerns were:

- Businesses receiving preferential treatment over other businesses.
- Businesses disregarding procedural guidelines of the State Liquor Authority.
- Community relations with their neighborhood businesses.

### **7. Old Business**

Prioritized Budget Requests:

Ed Green requested the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct send the Board an updated list of Argus Camera locations in our area, as well as a list of new locations the 50<sup>th</sup> Pct. needs cameras.

#### Capital Budget:

Argus Cameras:

- Mosholu Avenue & Tyndall Avenue
- West 235<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Overpass by Henry Hudson Parkway
- West 230<sup>th</sup> Street & Kingsbridge Avenue
- West 238<sup>th</sup> Street & Bailey Avenue

Pole Cameras (Committee is awaiting the number of cameras and camera locations needed by the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct).

5 Police Cars.

Expense Budget:

2 Sound Meters (to measure noise decibel levels).

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

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

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

**8. New Business**

Deputy Chief Arleen Simmons (FDNY) introduced herself. She stated that due to technical difficulties she was unable to announce herself when the FDNY report was scheduled to be presented earlier in the meeting. She stated she did not have a report to offer the committee at this time but would present one at future meetings if she were invited. Statistics for lithium-ion battery fires are an area of PS committee concern.

236<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue is closed. S. Villaverde inquired if the NYPD put in for a remapping of the street? Officer Sala stated he did not know but would inquire with his Commanding Officer. Officer Sala stated ESU safety concerns as the main reason the street was closed. The Emergency Safety Units come out of that area and need the space to be able to move because the surrounding area of the Precinct is extremely congested. The area was originally closed as a safety measure for the Precinct due to anti-police protests.

Chair Green stated the next Full Board meeting would be on the third Tuesday in April, which is usually reserved for the PS committee meeting, so the date for our next PS meeting has not been determined yet.

**9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm**

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.