

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022
MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM
(Pending Approval)

PRESENT

Ed Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Bob Kaplan	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Scott Krompinger	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Sergio Villaverde	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: Ingrid Deleon, Ted Morris.

Guests: Cesar Sala (NYPD), Gregory Lehr (FDNY), Fran Hage (Mr. Vigg's), Jin Feng Chen (Moon Star Grill), David Lindsay (Kingsbridge Social Club), Franklin Vargas (El Economico), Benjamin Hoff (Bella Notte), Diostado Soto Mordan (El Tina), Franca Gaudio (Emiliano Gourmet Market), Maria De La Cruz (Khalle), David Gellman (BXC8), Joshua Pizzaro (Guest), Randi Martos (AM Dinowitz).

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 September 20th, 2022 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Chair Green made a correction to the September minutes: Khalle Bar and Grill address was incorrect (5686 Riverdale Ave), so a change was made to indicate the proper address (3638 Bailey Avenue).

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

Opposed: 0

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

Cesar Sala, Community Affairs Officer of the 50th Precinct, presented the NYPD report:

- Officer Sala stated crime is trending upward and the 50th Precinct has less staff than in previous years.
- Bob Kaplan expressed concern about hate crimes targeting houses of worship. Officer Sala stated the 50th Precinct does not have enough Officers to sit in front

of houses of worship around the clock but they do periodically patrol them and expect to have more personnel added soon for this purpose.

- Scott Krompinger inquired about a gun being brought into an area school. Officer Sala stated a student was arrested at JFK High School for bringing a gun into the school and the gun was detected by the school's metal detector.
- Ed Green inquired about an individual setting up a marijuana business under the scaffolding at 238th Street and Bailey Avenue. Officer Sala stated he was aware of it and will investigate the matter further with the 50th Precinct NCO's.
- Ed Green stated the Board was getting resident complaints about loud music being played late at night in various locations and the source of the music could not be identified. Officer Sala stated they do not know where the noise is coming from and the matter was referred to the NCO's for further investigation.
- Officer Sala stated Legacy Studios on Riverdale Avenue & 262nd Street, a business accused of disturbing residents with loud music, was shut down today and the building owner put a padlock on the front door so the owners could not gain entrance.
- Ed Green inquired about the effectiveness of the policy to register catalytic converters. Officer Sala stated he believes it will help reduce catalytic converter theft to some degree.
- Ed Green stated the Board had received complaints about cars parked in no standing zones at Orloff Avenue and Gale Place. Officer Sala stated he would notify the Highway Safety Officer.

4. FDNY Report

FDNY Battalion Chief, Gregory Lehr presented the FDNY report:

- Greg Lehr stated E-Scooters and E-Bikes with lithium Ion batteries cause many fires in apartments and businesses. He stated FDNY has a short video on how quickly these type of battery fires spread that he feels would be beneficial for the Public Safety Committee to watch.
- Greg Lehr stated there were 493 structure fires in the Bronx, the BXC8 area had 28, a 7% increase, and a response time of 4min 58sec. There were 8 non-structure incidents. EMS had 6129 runs for the Bronx. CB8 had 315, a 4.3% increase. Response time of 7 min 19sec.
- Scott Krompinger asked if it was ever safe to keep E-Scooters or E-Bikes with lithium Ion batteries indoors. Greg Lehr stated he would personally not store one inside, but unfortunately they are stored in numerous apartments.
- David Gellman stated FDNY needs to give city wide general advice on what to recommend on this matter.

5. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

Fran Hage, President of Mr. Vigg's, located at 5670 Mosholu Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50th 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, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Jin Feng Chen, President of Moon Star Grill, located at 3519 & 2525 Johnson Avenue (Store A & B) appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50th 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, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

David Lindsay, Owner of Kingsbridge Social Club, located at 3625 Kingsbridge Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50th 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, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Franklin Vargas, President of El Economico Restaurant, located at 5589 Broadway, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50th 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, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Benjamin Hoff, President of Bella Notte, located at 3524 Johnson Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Officer Sala of the 50th 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, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

6. NYS Liquor Authority: New

Diostrado Soto Mordan, President of El Tina, located at 308 West 231st Street, appeared before the committee:

2AM Agreement was signed and received by the Board.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

No Representative from Ezili Luxury Hall Corp, located at 5540 Broadway, appeared before the committee. The application was tabled until further notice.

Franca Gaudio, Manager of Emiliano Gourmet Market, located at 5626 Mosholu Avenue, appeared before the committee:

2AM Agreement was not signed and received by the Board. Franca Gaudio stated she would send the signed 2AM agreement to the Board.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application, on the condition the Board receives the 2AM closing agreement before the next full Board meeting.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

7. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change

No Representative of Tijuana Nites, located at 216 West 242nd Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to renew this establishment's liquor license and apply for a corporate change.

Officer Cesar Sala stated that, over the years, the 50th Precinct received many complaints about noise, parking violations and various other disturbances at this establishment and frequent complaints continue to this day.

Ed Green stated that Assemblyman Dinowitz's office notified Bronx Community Board 8 of various constituent complaints and provided a lengthy list of 311 complaints against this establishment in 2022 and had also sent an inquiry to the Department of Health about this establishment and several violations were found.

Joshua Pizzaro, a resident of 216 West 242nd Street stated Tijuana Nites caused frequent disturbances, and cited public drunkenness and drug use outside the club, harassment of building residents by the club's patrons and loud music that disturbs sleeping residents until 4am; he also stated he was concerned for the welfare of his wife and child because he suffered a broken jaw due to being assaulted by employees of the club.

Randi Martos of Assemblyman Dinowitz's office stated the Assemblyman's office has received many constituent complaints about this establishment that echoed much of the testimony from tonight's meeting.

The Committee voted unanimously to disapprove this application.

In favor of disapproving the application: 4 (C. Calhoun, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Maria De La Cruz, Representative of Kalle Bar & Grill, located at 3638 Bailey Avenue, appeared before the committee:

Application was for an alteration (Sidewalk on frontage / Private Sidewalk Café).

Ed Green stated the Board received an email from representatives of Kalle Bar & Grill stating the business has made several changes to address complaints. Those changes include:

- 2 additional parking lots: 1) Agreement with BJ's 2) Kalle Owner's car wash parking lot.
- Valet parking to ensure patrons do not double park and obstruct street traffic.
- Double-pane windows and double doors in the establishment's entrance to restrict noise from escaping the establishment.
- Exterior lighting installed on the perimeter of the establishment for pedestrian safety.

Maria De La Cruz stated the business alteration would be suitable to accommodate 130 people, as opposed to the 75 that existed before the alteration.

Officer Sala stated the 50th Precinct had not received any further complaints about the establishment since September's Public Safety Committee meeting.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 4 (C. Calhoun, E. Green, B. Kaplan, S. Krompinger)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

The committee discussed organized retail crime and the robbery at Rite Aid in Knolls Crescent shopping center, where 4 individuals wearing masks menaced employees of the store and stole merchandise, including nicotine products. Two males (21 & 27) from Brooklyn were arrested.

Officer Sala stated NYPD Officers in retail stores, like Walgreens at 231st St & Broadway, were working on a paid detail, meaning the store paid NYPD to guard their store against merchandise theft. He believes any commercial establishment can sign up for a paid detail, but he doesn't know the specifics of the arrangement.

Ed Green suggested BXC8 and the Economic Development Committee make this information widely known to area merchants so they're aware they have an option to have NYPD Officers guard their stores from would be thieves.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.