

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 17th, 2023
50th POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE
(Pending Approval)

PRESENT

Ed Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Joy Campbell-Priveterre (Vice Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Mary Ellen Gibbs	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Eliane Lobos	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Scott Krompinger	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Laura Spalter	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members absent: None

Guests: Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr (FDNY), (NYPD), Lieutenant Baez (NYPD), Officer Conejo (NYPD), Bobby Ping Liu (Kai Fan), Iggy Khoury (Mamajuana), Juan Gabriel Rosario (Cocina Chente), Glenda Santana (Tijuana Nites), Rob Spalter (Guest), Belinda Hancock (Guest).

Chair Ed Green called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

Rollcall of committee members. Committee members introduced themselves.

Joy Campbell-Priveterre was introduced as new Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

2. Approval of the September 19th, 2023, Public Safety Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Lieutenant Baez presented the NYPD CompStat report. Officers Conejo was present. Issues discussed:

- Criminals using online computers to bypass people's Key Fobs and break into cars.
- Police have mobilized units that track stolen cars by GPS. NYPD advises people to keep lock & clubs on cars to make things more difficult for would-be thieves.

- Catalytic converters are frequently stolen. NYPD is trying to identify suspects with street camera video.
- RFK School fighting incident: Teens and adults/parents were involved. Youth Officers responded. No arrests made yet.
- People obstructing streets and parking spots with construction cones.
- Three stores, Mamajuana Café, Riverdale Gourmet Deli & Delaj Studio, were burglarized on Riverdale Avenue. No arrests made. Police investigation is ongoing.
- Resident complaint about Broadway and 261st Street: People partying in park and disturbing the neighborhood at all hours. DJ blasting music. Toilet paper, food and garbage left all over the park. No police response. Why is it allowed? Lieutenant Baez stated he would inform officers to frequent the area more often and issue summons when appropriate.
- Cyber-harassment at the BXC8 Executive Board Meeting: Antisemitic statements made by multiple individuals in a coordinated effort to harass. Does not constitute a hate crime but could still be a prosecutorial offense. 50th Precinct will investigate.
- Extra patrol cars from different precincts watching houses of worship closely, considering recent attacks in Israel.
- 50th has confiscated over 60 illegal mopeds and e-bikes in the last few months.

4. FDNY Report

Battalion Chief Greg Lehr (FDNY) gave a statistical report on fires in the BXC8 area and discussed fire safety tips.

FDNY website has informational fire safety prevention literature available for the public.

Lithium-ion battery fires are a common cause of many fires. The batteries in scooters and e-bikes and are often overcharged or paired with incompatible appliances. FDNY is educating the public on proper storage and use of these batteries.

Chair Green requested FDNY give a fire safety prevention presentation at the Public Safety Committee in December, when weather gets colder and electrical appliances are used more frequently. FDNY Chief Lehr stated it can be arranged.

5. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

Juan Gabriel Rosario, representing Cocina Chenta Mexican Cuisine, located at 3535 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Lieutenant Baez of the 50th Precinct stated there were no notable 311 complaints or reports to NYPD about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 7 (C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, M. Gibbs, E. Green, E. Lobos, S. Krompinger, L. Spalter)
Opposed: 0

Bobby Ping Liu, Owner of Kai Fan, located at 3717 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Lieutenant Baez of the 50th Precinct stated there were no notable 311 complaints or reports to NYPD about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 7 (C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, M. Gibbs, E. Green, E. Lobos, S. Krompinger, L. Spalter)
Opposed: 0

Iggy Khoury, Representative of Mamajuana Café Prime, located at 3541 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Committee for renewal of their liquor license.

Lieutenant Baez of the 50th Precinct stated there were no notable 311 complaints or reports to NYPD about the business.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 7 (C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, M. Gibbs, E. Green, E. Lobos, S. Krompinger, L. Spalter)
Opposed: 0

No representative for Greek Express, located at 3733 Riverdale Avenue, attended the meeting. The application was tabled and will be on next month's agenda.

No representative for Yo-Burger Inc., located at 5757 Broadway, attended the meeting for the second consecutive month. SLA will be notified that the applicant failed to appear before the committee in successive months.

No representative for Game Day Sports Bar, located at 3720 Riverdale Avenue, attended the meeting for the second consecutive month. SLA will be notified by the Board that the applicant failed to appear before the committee in successive months.

6. NYS Liquor Authority: New Applications

There were no new applications.

7. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change

Glenda Santana, Representative of Tijuana Nites, located at 216 West 242nd Street, appeared before the Committee to apply for a corporate change.

Arturo Estevez is selling all his shares, representing 40% of the business, to Glenda Santana.

Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct and the Public Safety Committee stated there have been a significant number of 311 complaints about this establishment in the past.

Glenda Santana stated that college students were largely responsible for previous disturbances in and around the club, but Tijuana Nites recently raised the patron age from 21 to 25 to restrict the students.

Glenda Santana stated she's committed to running a reputable business and eliminating various problems the business has had in the past.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: 7 (C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, M. Gibbs, E. Green, E. Lobos, S. Krompinger, L. Spalter)

Opposed: 0

8. Old Business

Legal cannabis retail stores and illegal smoke shops were discussed:

- On 10/16/23, Bronx Community Board 8 was notified by representatives of The Higher Path, LLC that they were withdrawing their application and would not be appearing at tonight's Public Safety Committee meeting. The business owner stated that the location (next door to the incoming shelter for 140 homeless men located at 6661 Broadway) was the main reason they were withdrawing their application.
- Current OCM policy states Community Boards have 30 days to send comments to OCM and can apply for an additional 30-day extension. This guideline doesn't allow Boards

adequate time to prepare and vote collectively on proposals. Other community Boards in NY have documented similar sentiments. The committee discussed a possible resolution to request additional time (45-60 days) to send recommendations and comments to OCM. A draft resolution will be written, circulated among committee members for input and possibly introduced at November's Public Safety Committee meeting.

- Resident complaint about illegal smoke shops opening in various neighborhood areas: Why can't they be closed if they're illegal? Lieutenant Baez stated the 50th Precinct can only shut them down if they sell products to a minor. The Sheriff's Department, Department of Consumer Affairs and NYPD can do search and seizure raids if they work together as a joint task force.
- Pressuring Landlords, as per Local Law 107, for renting storefront space to illegal smoke shops is another tool law enforcement can use to potentially shut down illegal smoke shops.
- Police Commissioner's Liaison Unit and Elected Officials to be contacted by Board to discuss organization of law enforcement agencies to close illegal smoke shops in our area.

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Minutes submitted by Committee Chair Ed Green.