

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 BRONX**

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2022  
MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
(Pending Approval)**

**PRESENT**

Ed Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Stephen Vazquez	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Nick Fazio	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Robert Kaplan	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee members absent: T. Morris, M. Donato

**Guests:** Antonio (Homeland Security Investigations), User2, Terry Connaughton (Riverdale Steak House), Kevin Kuntz (Homeland Security Investigations), Officer Cesar Sala, Officer Sarantola (Community Affairs), Juanita Harris (Homeland Security Investigations), Eileen Montague (Riverdale Steak House), Camelia Tepelus (CB8), David Gellman (CB8), Timothy Haney (50<sup>th</sup> Pct), Kelli B, Jon ZefTel, Sylvia Alexander (CB8), Shajada Brown.

Chair Edward Green called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.  
Roll call of committee members.

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

**2. Approval of the December 21, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes**

Approve in favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, G. Santiago, N. Fazio, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan)  
Opposed: 0  
Abstain: 0

**3. NYPD Report –**

**Property crime increased.**

<b>Compstat Report</b>		
<b>28 days, ending 1/9/22</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Murder	0	1
Rape	3	0
Robbery	10	12
Fel. Assault	10	8
Burglary	6	12
Gr. Larceny	46	46
G.L.A.	29	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>89</b>

- Grand Larceny Auto is up significantly. One individual was apprehended for car theft.
- There was a shooting on Ames Place & Webb Ave: One person shot in leg over a parking space.
- Shot fired call at Broadway & 234<sup>th</sup> St. Shell casings were found.

#### 4. FDNY Report

No report.

#### 5. Human Trafficking Presentation

Kevin Kuntz, Homeland Security Investigations (HIS)  
 Juanita Harris and Antonio (HIS)

8,000 Special Agents; 700 in New York, Long Island and up to West Point.

Human Trafficking Task Force

- 10 special agent along with NYPD detective
- Investigate trafficking of children. Mostly children in ACS custody.
- Social media and the internet facilitates this crime

Special Agent Bolfo

- Uptick in children human trafficking
- 13 and 17 years old. Right under our noses.
- Offer training on how to identify possibly trafficked children.

Juanita Harris (Victims Assistance Specialist)

- Address the situation that got them into this in the first place
- ACS is a primary resource for the children. Juanita stays in contact with ACS case workers
- Adult victims, if undocumented or immigrants – they will supply ways to make transition.

The solution is to address the vulnerability: Counseling, therapy, and language skills.

Ed asked: Can we quantify how widespread these issues are within this community?

- NYC is massive dense hub of guns, drugs, human trafficking.
- Where you have poverty, you have trafficking. It is very prevalent in the Bronx.
- Mostly teenagers trafficked for sex.
- Hard to quantify.
- Number of identified possibly or confirmed exploited in 2020 is over 1,000 in ACS care.

Ed: How are these crimes brought to your attention?

- They will investigate. If someone is being trafficked, it doesn't matter if it's international or local: Using the Internet makes it a federal crime.
- They have a relationship with ACS, outreach like they are doing presently and operate a tip-line and national human trafficking hotline.

Stephen: re arrests made – Is there a way to look up arrests by zip code?

Community Affairs in the precinct can put us in touch with the Human Trafficking Unit. They track by office, which would cover all 5 boroughs, or prosecutorial district. A lot of arrests occur in the “hot sheet motels”.

Committee member Nick Fazio asked about coordination with the NYPD: Which part of the system prosecutes cases?

- Bronx falls under Southern District of NY, but the Bronx DA also prosecutes cases.
- There is a permanent NYPD unit with Homeland Security

BXCB8 member Camelia Tepelus asked if there are patterns related to areas, drugs.

- Antonio suggested speaking to local leaders for support.
- Patterns: Pimps buying kids. Kids travel through bridges and tunnels: Penn station, Times Square. They target displaced children in poor neighborhoods. Traffickers approach kids on the street; they know which kids are the most vulnerable and know what to say to entice them.
- There are more risk factors than patterns. One of biggest risk factors is an unstable home situation: Economic stability, family stability, single parent, and a home with emotional turmoil
- Social media is a recruiting ground for traffickers. Internet safety is a concern.

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

Welcome to the Family Coffee Shop (219 West 230<sup>th</sup> St.)

No show

Riverdale Steak House (5700 Riverdale Ave.)

Eileen Montague representing

43<sup>rd</sup> year in business

Vote to approve:

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, G. Santiago, N. Fazio, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

American Legion Post 774 (3035-37 Corlear Ave.)

No show

Riverdale Diner (3657 Kingsbridge Ave.)

No Show

Caridad Restaurant (135-45 W. Kingsbridge Rd.)

No show

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

No new applications

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## **8. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change**

Yokomo (216 West 242<sup>nd</sup> St.)

No show

## **9. Old Business**

No old business

## **10. New Business**

Committee Member Stephen Vazquez discussed the Youth Program:

Would Captain Girvin be open to working with Police Athletic league (PAL)? Officer Sala said he would not be opposed to it. Officer Sala stated he runs an organization with Youth Handball.

Fenwick's 2am closing agreement is ending. The establishment requested their hours be extended to 4am. Officer Sala said there were issues with this establishment in the past, but there are currently no issues. He will check with the NCOs and get any additional information to Chair Green ASAP.

Committee member G. Santiago spoke about problems with mopeds riding on sidewalks. What are we supposed to do? 50<sup>th</sup> is addressing it by taking illegal vehicles off the street.

Chair Green spoke about bail reform and associated problems. One of the concerns is 23% of 14,000 New Yorkers in the system were placed on pretrial supervised release (6% are violent felony re-arrests) and they were re-arrested for felonies, 18% re-arrested for misdemeanors.

Bob Kaplan suggested we bring in someone qualified to address the statistics and unpack them.

Stephen Vazquez & Myra Joyce suggested we should bring in Legislators to address these numbers.

Chair Green will attempt to set up a forum with the Bronx DA to address the issue.

## **11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm**

Minutes submitted by Vice Chair Myra Joyce and reviewed by Chair Ed Green.