

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

PRESENT

Edward Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Christopher Calhoun	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Stephen Vazquez	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Robert Kaplan	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Diomarys Escaño-Bell	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee Members Absent: N. Fazio, T. Morris, S. Villaverde.

Guests: Officer Cesar Sala, Sgt. Myers (Community Affairs), User2 (Marie Claude – Local resident), Norman Rodrigue (American Legion Post), Anna Kaperonis, David Gellman, Daribel Santos, Osvaly Jesus Jimenez, Jeffrey Garcia (Mon Amour), Geraldo Pacheco, Diana Rv, Mike, Arelia Taveras, Joy Campbell-Priveterre, Shahada 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 January 18, 2022 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)
Opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

3. NYPD Report –

The Compstat data reflect Sgt. Myers report.

Compstat Report

28 days, ending 2/13/22

	2022	2021
Murder	0	0
Rape	3	0
Robbery	6	8
Fel. Assault	18	10
Burglary	13	6
Gr. Larceny	47	26
G.L.A.	16	3
TOTAL	103	53

Telephone scams are occurring, mostly on older adults

R. Kaplan – Asked about hate crimes that occurred over the weekend. Case is still open and being investigated as bias incident. Clean-up project is being organized with NCOs and Graffiti Coordinator. Also – The appearance of paper license plates has increased – What is being done to interdict these plates. A: There is in place a “paper plate initiative” where the validity of the plates are checked. Multiple arrests being made. Kaplan asked where can we report them? Call the precinct or call 311.

M. Joyce - Commented on the proliferation of motorized bikes being driven on sidewalks.

Ed – Spoke about the “club” that opened at 6048 Riverdale Ave. Public Safety Committee chair Ed Green, Fr. McCarthy from St. Margaret’s, CB8 District Manager Ciara Gannon, CB8 Chair Laura Spalter, and representatives from the 50th Precinct (Girven, Sala, Jamsheer) did a walk-through of the site. They expressed that there are fire safety concerns. This is a recording studio. Space heaters were found in recording studio, no signage and no permits. The business has been open since December. Neighbors are complaining about excessive noise. St. Margaret’s parishioners have been voicing concerns. Illegal parking in church lot.

Officer Sala stated that the whole block is opening up to several businesses. Smoke shop opening up. Trying to figure out what that block will look like. Waiting for paperwork so they can send it all at once. They are aware they will be checked up on and under scrutiny by the Community Board. Ed Green stated that we will follow up on these things. What are the deadlines? How long can businesses operate without permits in place.

Ed another issue: “Friends of West 254th Street” between Independence and Arlington contacted the Board office re buses, illegal parking. Officer Sala stated he will look into this.

Communication from CM Dinowitz’s office re 226 West 242nd St: Loud parties, patrons urinating and leaving garbage. There have been 15 311 calls. Aurelia Taveras represents that place Tiajuana Nights (El Polecon). She stated they are adding a manager and are aware of the issues. They are also raising prices to attract a different clientele and trying to discourage the college student crowd. Officer Sala says they are aware there are issues. A. Taveras says they have security to get people moving away from building.

4. FDNY Report

No report.

5. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

Welcome to the Family Coffee Shop (219 West 230th St.)

Diana Rv – owner

Wine, beer & cider

50th: No issues with this location

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R.

Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Norman Rodrigue representing

Full liquor license

50th pct: No issues at this location

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R.

Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Riverdale Diner (3657 Kingsbridge Ave.)

Anna Kaperonis

Full liquor, been there for 56 years

50th Pct: No issues

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

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

Jose Santos (President)

50th Pct: No issues directly. Congested over there. There are issues in the neighborhood, but not related to Caridad.

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Mugools, Inc. (6697 Broadway)

Geraldo Pacheco – Method of Operation Change

Wants to extend hours of operation after 2am

Sala said it's a busy area, robbery in July directly in front. Sala had to break some stuff up there in the past. Says though it's not a problematic place.

Having an event on Feb 22nd – awards event. Want the option to stay open past 2am.

Officer Sala stated they should contact the 50th Precinct if they are going to have an event.

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, LLC (115 Van Cortlandt Park South)

Mike (one of the owners)

Full liquor license

50th Pct: No issues

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Mon Amour Coffee & Wine Inc. (234 W. 238th Street)

Aurelia Taveras representing.

Wine, beer & cider

50th Pct: No issues

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Savor Coffee and More, Inc. (3725 Riverdale Avenue)

This is a temporary, 90-day, permit because permanent one is taking too long.

Wine, beer & cider

50th Pct says no issues other than parking. 311 calls about illegal parking in the area. Not necessarily anything to do with location.

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

6. NYS Liquor Authority: New

Yokomo (216 West 242nd Street)

Aurelia Tavares representing

Corporate Change: Adding Mr. Fernando Esteves (no relation to Urbano) to the application.

Catering to adult crowd rather than college crowd. Wants to do nice brunch, make restaurant "cute." Closing at 2am.

Would like to do a walk-through with the 50th Precinct.

Been at the location 5 years.

Approve in favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, M. Donato, G. Santiago, C. Calhoun, S. Vazquez, R. Kaplan, D. Escaño-Bell)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Old Business

- Bail Reform Laws – Discussion of statistical analysis:
 - Statistics came out, then modified because not broken down correctly.
 - 41% in supervised release were rearrested before their cases were closed. 23% rearrested on felony charges while cases pending.
 - S. Vazquez says resources need to be reallocated to address the core problem: It's a larger issue than just law enforcement.
 - Bob Kaplan stated bail reform has not affected the rearrest rate. There has been a rise in crime nationally and everyone is pointing to bail report as the cause. He suggested we should bring in experts to tell us the arguments (pro and con).
 - S. Vazquez stated we request J. Dinowitz, A. Biaggi, and/or Richie Torres come to our Public Safety Committee meeting and speak about the issue.
 - D. Gellman suggested the Committee write a resolution.

8. New Business

Discussion of Public Safety Budget request items:

- Chair Green requested suggestions from the committee.
- NYPD sent information about what budgetary items are needed for Public Safety.
- Officer Sala suggested community-based initiatives. Youth-oriented; they had a handball event at VCP. Resources for youth-crime prevention programs.
- Ed suggested the committee have a joint budget request with Youth Committee.
- Ed asked committee members to email him with any budget ideas.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

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