

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16th, 2020

MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM

(Pending Approval)

PRESENT

Edward Green (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Nick Fazio	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Jyll Townes	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Donnell Leverett	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Ted Morris	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Guests: Marilex Santana-Tavarez (BX-DA office), Audrey Bleier, Gary Bedigan (Great Performances), James Kormos, Joe Irizarry (P&K's Grille), Kelli B., Officer Conejo (50th Pct.), David Gellman (CB8), Michael Kozo (FDNY), Paul Miano (FDNY), Michele Rossetti, Mindy Birnbaum, Richard Velez (FDNY), Shajada Brown, Orlando Ovalles (AM De La Rosa), Joey Azoulai.

Chair Edward Green called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of Public Safety Committee Minutes: January 19, 2021

Committee Member Jyll Townes requested an amendment to the January 19th, Public Safety Committee minutes. The statement "*Jyll felt the business of this month should have included something about racial equity*" was removed from the minutes and replaced by the statement "*The Committee initiated a dialog about how to incorporate initiatives related to racial equity in light of recommendations of the Special Committee on Racial Equity.*"

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes.

In Favor: 8 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, M. Donato, D. Leverett T. Morris, G. Santiago, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

3. NYPD Report presented by Officer Conejo

Compstat Report

	28 Day-Ending 2/14/2021		
	2021	2020	% Chg.
Murder	0	0	
Rape	0	1	
Robbery	7	7	
Fel. Assault	10	15	

Burglary	7	7	
Gr. Larceny	26	50	
G.L.A.	3	16	
TOTAL	53	96	-44.8

Officer Conejo will have Captain Melendez get back to us on the Budget Priorities.

PS Committee member Margaret Donato asked to have the 2 battered cars parked by the precinct house moved to the parking lot by Mavis. Officer Conejo said there is no room to park there.

Chair Ed Green received a few complaints from community members:

- 5278 Post Rd – Leaking fire hydrant creating a hazard in sub-freezing temps.
- Trucks driving the wrong way from Broadway to 5278 Post Road.
- 18-wheelers driving the wrong way on Independence Ave between 8-8:30am.
- Southbound side of the 225th Street Bridge: Delivery trucks are using the bridge as a parking area.

PS Committee member Nick Fazio brought up an issue at Netherland and 232nd St.: Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles park in a blind spot so motorists can't see down the street.

4. FDNY

EMS Report given by Paul Miano – Call volumes are starting to pick up. Response times much better than last year: Averaging under 7 minutes. EMTs are being assaulted.

New initiative: 30 and out = Get units out of the hospital and back on the street within 30 minutes.

Chair Ed Green asked him to elaborate on assaults: Assaults perpetrated by the people EMS are coming to help. Two incidents, but not in our precinct area. Happening city-wide.

Unit of the month – One from our EMS in CB8.

Fire Prevention Report (Richard Velez)

- 25 structure fires
- No suspicious fires
- CPR instruction being (718) 282-3888
- Richard.velez@fdny.nyc.gov to schedule appointment for CPR and Fire Safety Training.

Fire Prevention Presentation given by Michael Kozo:

- Giving virtual presentations at schools, community centers, etc.
- Top 3 causes of apartment fires: Electrical, smoking and cooking.
- Fire escape-plan is important in survival.
- There is a law that requires stove knob covers for gas-powered stoves in units with a child under 6-years-old. Additionally, landlords are required to supply these knobs to tenants who request them whether there is a child in the household or not.
- Fire extinguishers – Should have ABC Extinguisher. PASS = Pull, Aim, Squeeze Sweep.

- Extension cords should be for temporary use only.
- Not all power-strips are surge suppressors even if they have a toggle switch.
- How does one know if it is a surge suppressor? – Look up the model number.
- Plug-in devices that do not pull a lot of electricity.
- Smoke alarms reduce chance of dying by 50%. Many people still do not have smoke alarms.
- Test alarms every month. Change battery twice a year.
- There are alarms with a sealed battery that lasts 10 years.
- Deaf and HOH: Bedside alarm connects wirelessly to smoke alarm on walls or ceilings.
- Buildings are not required to add more outlets even though many are plugging way more things into the wall.
- Resident asked about a gate in Marble Hill parking lot where building fire escapes descend. This gate is locked, so people cannot exit the parking lot when fleeing from a fire via the fire escape. FDNY is only concerned with people getting out of the building and suggested he go to NYC website.

5. NYS Liquor Authority → RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Great Performances/Artists as Waitresses, Inc. & Wave Hill Inc. (675 West 252nd St.)

Mindy Birnbaum (Great Performances, General Counsel), Gary Bedigen, Michele Rossetti (Wave Hill)

No problems at that location according to 50 Pct.

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, D. Leverett, T. Morris, M. Donato, G. Santiago, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

P&K's Grille Inc. (170 West 231 St.)

Joe Irrizarry

No problem with 50th Pct.

In favor: 7 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, D. Leverett, T. Morris, M. Donato, G. Santiago, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

BXCB8 received notification about 500-foot rule for Neem Indian Cuisine on Johnson Ave.

6. New Business

Budget Requests – Ted Morris brought up that Argus cameras are for monitoring but there are no shot spotter cameras. He requested one on the southbound corner of 230th St. & Broadway. There have been incidents of gunfire around Dunkin Donuts, rooftops. Chair Green stated he would ask for input from the 50th Precinct.

CB8 Budget Chair David Gellman said Ted was going in the right direction but should have a conversation with Captain Melendez on how shot spotter cameras relate to Argus cameras. Mr. Gellman suggested we broaden our scope of how to allocate budget – We are not just NYPD, think fire department, bus shelter safety.

Ed – One of our budget requests was #3 on capital projects. Response from agency to Board was that elected officials allocate funding according to priority. Need to ask Captain Melendez for locations we want cameras.

There were Argus cameras requested previously and Ed wants to know if the request was filled.

#9 on expense budget – Request for funding for Crossing Guard at Sedgwick & Hillman Ave. Due to the pandemic and the cut to the police budget, the agency cannot fund the item. Chair Green requested this item be placed back on the expense budget for 2023.

Ted Morris suggested increased patrols at train stations (Gellman suggested a joint request with T&T). Jyll said the issue with the trains should also be connected with mental health. She said 644 additional police officers have been put into transit. Problem is how many were assigned to #1 train line north of 225th St.

Continue monitoring illegal street vendors. We will discuss this at next meeting.

Committee member Jyll Townes requested SCRE be added to March agenda. There will be an introduction about SCRE working with standing committees.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted by Vice Chair Myra Joyce. Reviewed by Chair, Ed Green.