

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE
MARCH 16TH 2021
(Pending approval)

PRESENT

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

Committee members absent: Margaret Donato, Georgia Santiago.

Guests: Laura Spalter (Chair CB8), Richard Velez (FDNY), Clark Earthman, (Smashburger), Jimmy from Marble Hill, Johanna O. Tamoka, Stephen Vazquez, Jonathan Greenspun, Emily Weisburg (Moss Cafe), Audrey Bleier, Shajada Brown, David Gellman (CB8).

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

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of the February 16, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Approve in favor: 5 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, , T. Morris, , J. Townes)

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

3. NYPD Report – presented by Captain Melendez

- Year to date the 50th Precinct is down 29% in crime.
- Grand larceny continues to be a problem.
- Checks are being stolen from the mail **in the post office!** This is a federal crime and is being addressed through a federal investigation.
- Computer scams continue to be a problem, with the elderly particularly vulnerable.
- 50th Precinct is the lowest in Bronx in robberies.
- Chairman Ed Green brought up noise complaints reported around the reservoir – Captain Melendez says the 50th has a presence there. Noise is not on priority list, but the NCOs are keeping an eye on it.
- The 8 car wrecks on Broadway have been removed.
- Jimmy from Mable Hill brought up the issue of cars being parked on the southbound Broadway Bridge. Dangerous because you can't see. Captain Melendez said to call 311.
- Committee member Nick Fazio asked about update on Graffiti cleanup – BJs has been cleaned up. This is an ongoing issue. Community police are interacting with businesses doing clean-ups.

Compstat Report (28 days, ending 3/14/21):

	2021	2020
Murder	0	1
Rape	2	2
Robbery	3	9
Fel. Assault	9	12
Burglary	4	7
Gr. Larceny	44	39
G.L.A.	7	8
TOTAL	69	78

Captain Melendez brought up the following issues:

- Kennedy High School is opening April 22nd. There are no truancy officers; no School Safety personnel due to NYPD reform. NYPD cannot enter school without School Safety requesting it.
- Shot-Spotter cameras are monitored by an outside entity. If shots are detected they call the Precinct. Shot-Spotters are installed based on the history of the area.

4. FDNY Report

Richard Velez, Community Coordinator presented Stats for February:

- 28 structure fires in February
- 52 year to date
- No suspicious fires
- 246 medical runs
- 497 year to date
- FDNY continues to conduct virtual Fire Safety and CPR classes
- EMS has average response time of 6 min 40 seconds.

5. Special Committee on Racial Equality (SCRE) discussion

Jyll Townes gave report:

- Report can be found on the CB8 website. In addition, it was distributed to public.
- Next report will be out April 1st
- BXC8 Committees have been responsive to SCRE requests to address racial equity.
- They had asked Captain Melendez how 50th Precinct was working towards NYPD initiative.
- The public is urged to participate in a survey to provide feedback on police reform.
- There were 85 meetings with NYPD throughout the city.
- NYPD has to address issues that are not really police matters.
- Mentally ill people are a concern. How does city address this problem?

6. NYS Liquor Authority → RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Smashburger #1485 (193 West 237th St.)

Clark Earthman representing.

No complaints or issues at that location.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 5 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, D. Leverett, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Moss Café (3260 Johnson Ave.)

Emily Weisberg, Owner.

No problems or issues at that location.

Vote to approve:

In favor: 5 (E. Green, M. Joyce, N. Fazio, D. Leverett, J. Townes)

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Blue Bay Restaurant (3533 Johnson Ave.) - Representative did not appear.

New Tokyo House, Inc (5648 Riverdale Ave.) - Representative did not appear.

7. Old Business

Finalization of Public Safety Budget Request Items:

- Need to prioritize budget items
- Requested input from Captain Melendez.
- Requesting 4 more Argus cameras
- Request a Gator: It's like a golf cart and will enable officers to get into VCP. John Deere makes them; they run about \$1800. Ed will talk to Parks Committee about this and do a joint request.
- Ed asked if we need cameras at train stations. Captain Melendez said the Committee should make it an alternate budget item.

8. New Business

Illegal Street Vending:

- Bill to extend street vendor permits was passed by City Council on 1/28/21. Chair Green feels this is an Economic Development issue (& Public Safety for enforcement).
- The bill provides 400 licenses every year for 10 years. Most will be in Manhattan.
- We are more concerned with illegal vendors.
- Office of Street Vendor Enforcement will be operational by September 2022.
- NCOs will continue to move illegal vendors (i.e., those in front of bus stops).
- Nick Fazio, Chair Economic Development, said there is an underground network that vends the licenses. No provision of the bill to enforce it.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

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