

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2016  
50<sup>TH</sup> POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE**

**PRESENT**

Joseph O'Brien, Committee Chair  
Herb Young  
Diego Santiago  
Diomarys Escaño  
Shalva Gozland  
Dan Padernacht  
Myra Joyce

**AFFILIATION**

CB8 Public Safety Committee  
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CB8  
Community Committee Member

Absent: Mary Yamagata, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato

Approximately 38 community members were in attendance and signed in on attached attendance sheets.

- Committee Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- Committee members we introduced
- Minutes of the September 15, 2016 was reviewed and approved unanimously (Approved: Joseph O'Brien, Herb Young, Diego Santiago, Diomarys Escaño, Shalva Gozland, Myra Joyce)
- Detective Inspector O'Toole presented the police report

From the CompStat Report (28-day period ending October 16 2016 vs. 2015):

<b>Crime</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Murder	1	0
Rape	1	0
Robbery	11	18
Felony Assault	13	13
Burglary	9	7
Grand Larceny	42	46
GLA	7	7

- Summonses for moving violations increased due to Vision Zero initiative this month
- Councilman Cohen's office provided funds to install more cameras throughout the precinct.
- Two perpetrators were indicted for assault and felony charges for the explosion on Tibbett Avenue resulting in the death of a Fire Department Battalion Chief.
- In the death of baby at the Van Cortlandt Motel: there was no criminal found so far in the continuing investigation
- There was a vigorous discussion regarding the use of the Van Cortlandt Motel to house homeless families with the city reportedly paying \$4,500 per month per room.
- CB8 member Laura Spalter spoke about the need to improve quality of life on Broadway. She said there are already three places catering to special needs populations in the vicinity and that many

residents have become numb to these issues on Broadway, explaining the lack of complaints. She said a plan for Broadway is needed and that the Broadway Community Alliance will gather data through the Freedom of Information Act for a plan.

- DI O'Toole stated that the Department of Homeless Services does not know on a daily basis how many homeless people are being housed. He said New York is the only "right to a bed" city in the country. NYPD is working with DHS to improve security at shelters.

Among the complaints by people at the meeting was one of a man taking a shower in the laundry of a nearby apartment house.

DI O'Toole stated that there were many noise complaints in the area but no reports of prostitution.

People said they were are reluctant to call 311 about quality of life issues thinking their complaint would be ignored but DI O'Toole said the complaints were forwarded to the precinct for follow up and the precinct keeps track of complaints. Aggressive panhandling and going through garbage are considered legitimate 311 complaints.

Josh Stephenson, representing Councilman Andy Cohen, said the office has been in communication with DHS and told DHS multiple housing facilities in such a small area is not acceptable. DHS removed homeless men several months ago but almost immediately replaced them with homeless families. He said the community was not against housing for the homeless but that the community should not be overburdened. Also, conditions at the motel are unacceptable.

Other concerns were raised including traffic congestion on Broadway. Buses are parking across the street from the park. The Parks Department is now giving bus drivers directions to park in the Alan Shandler Park.

Chair O'Brien said the Public Service Committee would recommend to the full Board that letters be sent to the Departments of Health and Buildings, and the Fire Department, asking that the Van Cortlandt Motel be thoroughly investigated to determine if it is suitable for use as shelter. There have been reports to the committee that the rooms are inadequate and without necessary facilities.

### **Liquor License Applications**

New Application for wine and beer.

Novelty Nachos, 318 West 231<sup>st</sup> Street

The owners stated that they are doing well, serving a variety of food with seating for 18. They are open from 11 a. m. to 11 p.m. Novelty Nachos is situated next to a school. In response to a question, they said they would require a state issued driver's license or identification to assure patrons were old enough to drink.

In favor of approving the application: Joseph O'Brien, Herb Young, Diego Santiago, Diomarys Escaño, Shalva Gozland. Against: Myra Joyce. Abstentions, none.

Renewal Application for a full liquor license.

El Economico, 5589 Broadway

On Fridays and Saturdays they are open until 4 a.m. Capacity is 60 people. This is their 6th year in business. They don't have a bar, just a counter. They have not had any problems.

In favor of approval: Unanimous (Joseph O'Brien, Herb Young, Diego Santiago, Diomarys Escaño, Shalva Gozland, Myra Joyce)

Ibiza Lounge d/b/a as Barcelona Bites

240 West 242nd Street

Dan Padernacht brought up the issue of noise complaints. The owner, Urbano Estevez, said that they hired an architect to configure an enclosure at the entrance and shelters in the rear. He also indicated that he spoke with people in the neighborhood about complaints but could remember no names. DI O'Toole said complaints were down significantly. There were no complaints from the audience.

In favor to approve: Unanimous (Joseph O'Brien, Herb Young, Diego Santiago, Diomarys Escaño, Shalva Gozland, Myra Joyce)

Discussion about noise complaints at Parrilla Latina, 5523 Broadway

The Committee had recommended when Parrilla Latina originally applied to the Board that it close at 2 a.m. for a year. They refused and the State Liquor Authority granted the license with no restrictions. Two weeks ago a man died in an altercation outside the bar at about 4:30 a.m. Subsequently two people (so far) have been charged with manslaughter. The Public Safety Committee voted unanimously that the full Board write to the SLA requesting that Parrilla Latina be required to close at 2 a.m. for a full year and then reapply to the Board to open at a later hour. (The members approving the letter: Joseph O'Brien, Herb Young, Diego Santiago, Diomarys Escaño, Shalva Gozland, Myra Joyce.)

A community member (Nova Calise) came to discuss conditions on the city step-streets between Bailey Avenue and Heath Avenues (Summit Staircase). She said a dead animal was found on the staircase, one of more than a dozen in the area over a period of time. Ms. Calise wanted to find out if the person responsible had been apprehended. Ms. Calise stated that there were no lights on the staircase and asked that lighting be installed and/or a security camera. The Committee said it would investigate with the City about installing lighting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by Myra Joyce