

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19, 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
Ted Morris	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Jyll Townes	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Donnell Leverett	CB8 Public Safety Committee

Committee members absent: Eider Garcia

Guests: Laura Spalter (CB8 Chair), Christina Barry, Audrey Bleier (Abigail Martine for City Council), Java Velez, Sonya Tennell (Bronx DA's Office), Sergio Villaverde, Vladimir Kocheulov (Bronx DA's Office), Richard Kaplin, Arelia Tavares (Tulum), Wang Family (Broadway Crab & Flame), Adelfi Reyes, Richard Velez (FDNY), Alma C, James Kormos,

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: November 17, 2020

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Guest Speaker: Bronx District Attorney's Office Representative

Representatives responded to questions they received in writing from the PS Chair.

- How do the bail reform laws impact overall crime stats: Only a small proportion of crime has been attributed to criminal justice reform, most is due to pandemic situations and are borough-wide.
- For misdemeanors there is no remand except for bail jumping, criminal obstruction, endangering welfare of a child, felonies – witness tampering, witness intimidation, sex offenses.

- Is “dangerousness” included in setting bail? Cash bail is supposed to ensure that someone at risk of flight will not be able to flee. Dangerousness is not included in the determination. The decision is not up to the judge.
- If a defendant commits a crime while awaiting trial for a crime the Bronx DA will generally recommend consecutive sentences.
- Should burden of discovery be on the defense? No, the burden is on the prosecution. Never shifts to the defense.
- Is there accountability for judges? OCA has listing of all judges, statewide, countywide.
- Question from committee member Nick Fazio: How does our crime compare to other cities? Citywide up 40%. Bronx, shootings up 30%. Homicides are up in major cities all over the country.
- Question from Nick: What happens if the prosecutor doesn’t meet the timeline for discovery? Judge could dismiss the case.
- Question from Sergio Vilaverde: Is bail jumping a qualifying offense for a bench warrant, if defendant doesn’t come back in 30 days it is a separate crime? Court reevaluates conditions of release.
- Jyll Townes, PS Committee Member asked: What initiatives has the DA implemented with regard to racial equity? Sonja answered: Ramped up on re-entry initiative, providing resources for people re-entering society.
- DA's office is partnering with The Fortune Society. They participate in case conferences every month. Fortune society provides services. Nick asked if there is data on recidivism: Sonja said Fortune Society has that data and she would get it for Nick.

4. NYPD Report presented by Captain Melendez:

Compstat Report

	28 Day-Ending 1/17/2021		
	2021	2020	% Chg
Murder	1	0	
Rape	1	0	
Robbery	14	5	
Fel. Assault	11	6	
Burglary	9	17	
Gr. Larceny	40	39	
G.L.A.	7	3	
TOTAL	83	70	+18.6

Robberies and felony assaults (most involve people who know each other) are down. Many robberies are of delivery people on eBikes. There have been 7 eBike robberies, mostly kids in groups stealing the bikes.

Nick Fazio asked re burglaries in commercial establishments. Merchants are seeing crime creep back. He just wanted Melendez to know merchants are concerned. Melendez stated there are more Officers are on street.

5. FDNY (Richard Velez)

Velez was unable to present stats. Community initiatives: distributing and installing smoke alarms. Fire safety education. Mr. Velez asked if we would like to sponsor a virtual fire safety class.

5. NYS Liquor Authority → RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

An Beal Bocht (445 W. 238th Street)

Richard Kelly representing

No complaints or issues at that location

Vote to approve

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

The Punch Bowl (5820 Broadway)

Sean Barry, owner, representing

No issues at that location

Vote in favor to approve

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale (2600 Netherland Ave.)

Java Velez, Owner

Vote in favor to approve

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Flame (5740 Broadway, Unit D.)

James Wong, Owner

No problems or issues at that location

Vote in favor to approve

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

6. NYS Liquor Authority → NEW APPLICATIONS

Tulum Restaurant & Lounge (5625-2 Broadway)

Adelfi Reyes representing

Minimum food service

No promoters

Sound limit to be kept under 50 dB

Security: 5-Point Security company provides security on weekends, if necessary weeknights. There will be 15 cameras monitoring. Owner, Reyes will be on-site. Checking ID at the door.

Owner was previously the Supervisor at Khali bar on Bailey and 238th St.

Presently waiting for work permits.

They signed the 2am agreement (hours 11am to 2am)

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

Opposed: 1 (M. Donato)

Abstain: 0

Baby Crab (5740 Broadway, Unit C)

James Wang

Waiting for construction permit

Primarily a restaurant

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

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

- Ed requested committee members think about budget proposals for fiscal year 2023 and committee plans to discuss ideas at the February Public Safety Committee meeting.
- 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.
- Nick suggested we have the Fortune Society come to speak with us.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

Minutes submitted by Myra Joyce, reviewed and approved by Committee Chair, Ed Green.