



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING INFORMATION						
Date	February 20, 2024	Start Time	7:00 PM	End Time	9:35 PM	
Meeting Held At	50 th Police Precinct					
Address	3450 Kingsbridge Avenue					
ATTENDANCE						
Present	Edward Green, Eliane Lobos, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Scott Krompinger, Laura Spalter				Total	5
Absent	Christopher Calhoun, Joy Campbell Priveterre				Total	2
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Guest	Nicole Ortsman-Dauer (BXDA), Jeffrey Pena (BXDA), Captain Florentino (NYPD), Officer Conejo (NYPD), Officer Sala (NYPD), Fire Battalion Chief Greg Lehr (FDNY), Adam Clayton Powell (Mon Amore Coffee & Wine), Kenia Castillo (Tin Marin Bar & Lounge), Aleksandra Davidovic (Blackstone Bar & Grill), Henry Gonzalez (Tilila Casita Azul Inc.), Raquel Diaz (Tilila Casita Azul Inc.), Daphne Borowski (Frass Box Cannabis, LLC), David Gellman (BXC8), Maria Khury (Guest), George Santana (Guest)					

Chair Ed Green called the meeting to order **at 7:00pm**

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

Roll Call of Committee Members. Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the January 16th, 2024, Public Safety Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Guest Speaker: Bronx DA's Office - Nicole Ortsman-Dauer - Deputy Division Chief, Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations

Issues discussed:

- Bail Reform passed in 2020: Bail not being imposed for a variety of crimes has led to rampant recidivism.

- Judges are frequently refusing to impose bail or sentence convicted offenders to jail time when the DA office requests it. Legislature has persuaded Judges to do this.
- Discovery Reform: Legislature made overcorrections to the law that overburden DAs with excessive paperwork and unrealistic time constraints. DAs drop an overabundance of cases due to these factors.
- In New York, ADAs declined to prosecute twice as many thefts and 243% more burglaries in 2023 compared to before discovery reform.
- Community Boards can encourage youth to engage in positive dialog with Police Officers. Many crimes are not being prosecuted because witnesses are hostile or indifferent to Police and refuse to testify.
- Place Based Interventions: Concentrating police efforts at microgeographic spaces where crime or disorder concentrates: Hot spots. Cameras and lighting are deterrents to crime and produce better visual evidence that make it easier for DA to prosecute certain crimes.
- Community Boards can voice their concerns to Elected Officials about legislation they believe enables crime, emboldens criminal behavior, and has a negative effect on their community.

4. NYPD Report (**See attached NYPD CompStat Report*) –

Captain Florentino presented the NYPD CompStat report. Officer's Conejo and Sala were present. Issues discussed:

- Fatal shooting of a 26-year-old man in front of 131 W. Kingsbridge Road. Arrest made.
- Cars are parking in a “No Parking” zone on W 254th St between Palisade Avenue and Railroad Terrace. Cars park there to avoid paying a parking fee at the railroad station.
- Car stolen at 160 Van Cortlandt Park South. Car recovered by the 44th Precinct Street Crimes Unit. Three individuals, ages 19, 16 & 16 were arrested joyriding in the car. Car stripped of various parts; license plates removed. Victim apprehensive about pressing charges due to bail reform discovery laws that would provide his identity and address to defendant's lawyer.
- Increased activity in vehicle vandalism in Horace Mann School area. Incident at W. 246th Street & Tibbett Avenue. Other illegal activities on Cayuga Avenue. Cars stripped of tires and rims. Horace Mann private security has many cameras in the area. Video footage provided to 50th Precinct.
- Car break-ins and vandalism at 253rd Street and Fieldston Road.
- Resident complaint about popcorn truck blocking traffic lane at 231st Street and Broadway during rush hour.
- Muggings at knifepoint in Van Cortlandt Park by individuals on mopeds. Ongoing investigation. No incidents since last month.

5. FDNY Report

Fire Battalion Chief Greg Lehr presented a statistical fire report for the district. 35 structural fires, 11 nonstructural fires.

Fire that burned out 5 stores on 231st Street several months ago was discussed. Chief Lehr stated he was not at liberty to discuss the Marshall's report, but the report should be available to the public shortly.

Inquiry about fire at 242nd Street & Broadway in residential building. Several apartments affected. No injuries reported.

6. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

Wine, Beer & Cider.

Adam Clayton Powell, Representative of Mon Amor Coffee & Wine, located at 234 West 238th Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 20th, 2024, to renew this establishment’s liquor license.

Representatives of NYPD’s 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Approve in favor (5): M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, E. Lobos, L. Spalter
Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

Kenia Castillo, President of Tin Marin Bar & Lounge, located at 3708 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 20th, 2024, to renew this establishment’s liquor license.

Representatives of NYPD’s 50th Precinct stated there was an assault outside the bar in June of 2023 and 12 noise complaints during a 12-month period, mostly on weekends, but the Precinct had no major concerns about this business.

The owner stated the business is currently keeping their windows closed to eliminate noise and routinely encourages customers not to congregate outside the establishment.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Approve in favor (5): M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, E. Lobos, L. Spalter
Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

Aleksandra Davidovic, Representative of Blackstone Bar & Grill, located at 3713 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 20th, 2024, to renew this establishment’s liquor license.

Representatives of NYPD’s 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Approve in favor (5): M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, E. Lobos, L. Spalter
Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

7. NYS Liquor Authority: New Application and Temporary Retail Permit

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

Henry Gonzalez, Manager of Tilila Casita Azul Inc. (Trade name pending), located at 3648-3650 Bailey Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 20th, 2024, for a new liquor license.

The business previously operated at this location but was out of business for several years due to construction and contract negotiations.

The applicant signed a 2AM closing agreement for their first year of operation.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Approve in favor (5): M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, E. Lobos, L. Spalter

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

8. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change

No representative was present for William E. Irwin Jr. Post 774 American Legion Inc., located at 3035-37 Corlear Avenue. The Application was tabled. SLA will be notified.

9. Office of Cannabis Management (OCM): New Application

Frass Box Cannabis, LLC: 3633 Kingsbridge Avenue - Retail Dispensary Premises License

Daphne Borowski, Representative of Frass Box Cannabis LLC, located at 3633 Kingsbridge Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 20th, 2024, to apply for a Retail Dispensary Premises License.

The applicant has been approved for a Retail Dispensary Premises License by OCM through DASNY and is seeking a location for her establishment.

The applicant has been granted a conditional storefront lease by the Landlord of 3633 Kingsbridge Avenue, contingent upon her approval by OCM to operate at that address.

The applicant stated the business will not allow onsite consumption, not have any offsite consumption sites, provide no delivery service, and will not conduct business after 10pm.

3633 Kingsbridge Avenue is a newly constructed commercial and residential building with no current occupants.

The Public Safety Committee agreed there was no legal criteria or OCM restrictions they were aware of that would prohibit the applicant from operating at this address.

The Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to approve this application.

Approve in favor: (5): M. Gibbs, E. Green, S. Krompinger, E. Lobos, L. Spalter

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

10. Old Business

Closure of 236th Street (between Broadway & Kingsbridge Avenue) discussed:

A Board member previously made several inquiries about why 236th Street (between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue) was closed and had not been re-mapped. The committee discussed the issue:

Chair Green stated he met with NYC Councilman Dinowitz, former 50th Precinct Commanding Officer Srour, former BXC8 Chair Spalter and others in May of 2023 to discuss the issue. In conclusion, all parties involved agreed that the street remaining closed was in the best interest of public safety.

The 50th Precinct cited reasons for temporary street closure:

- There were various incidents across the city where protestors and individuals expressing anti-police sentiment created a hostile environment around precincts. In response, the precinct decided to close the street, which would act as a “buffer” against potential vehicular encroachments.
- Large Emergency Service vehicles (EMS) are parked on the street facing outward at an angle and need to exit the street unobstructed. If the street were open, traffic would be an obstacle to those vehicles exiting their parking spaces - which would slow down emergency response times and endanger lives.
- Some of the larger EMS vehicles like the “Jaws of Life” require additional space for easier maneuverability and would be unable to exit their parking spaces if cars were passing in front of them.

Chair Green stated he recently discussed this situation with current 50th Precinct Commanding Officer, Captain Pierce. The Captain stated he tried to open the street one day, and it was immediately apparent that EMS vehicles were having difficulty maneuvering out of their parking spaces with competing traffic, so he decided against keeping it open.

BXCB8 member David Gellman stated he opposed the 50th Precinct’s decision to close 236th Street (between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue).

Officer Sala stated there have been several recent incidents where individuals have entered the 50th Precinct and physically attacked Police Officers, demonstrating that anti-police sentiment presents an existing threat.

Bronx Community Board 8 has received no complaints or inquiries from the community about 236th Street (between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue) being closed.

There was unanimous consensus among the Public Safety Committee that keeping 236th Street between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue temporarily closed was in the best interest of community public safety.

The committee strongly supported the 50th Precinct’s decision to have 236th Street between Broadway and Kingsbridge Avenue temporarily closed until further notice.

11. New Business

Preliminary Public Safety Committee Budget Items (FY26):

Agency responses from 2025 budget were discussed. A common agency response was: “Agency agrees with request, but funding cannot be determined at this time.”

Committee will request a list of all Argus Cameras installed in the 50th Precinct area, to determine which requests for cameras were granted and which were not.

Resident request for Crossing Guards at Girls Prep Bronx School located at 124 Eames Place. BXCB8 will inquire about request with School and added to budget request if school supports.

2025 request for increased resources for domestic violence prevention programs was granted by agency. Exact resources allocated are unknown. Board will inquire with agency.

Chair Green stated he will ask Commanding Officer Pierce to review 50th Precinct inventory and provide the committee with a list of needed budgetary items.

Officer Sala stated the precinct needs a Gator Utility Vehicle. They had one but it’s currently on loan and he wasn’t sure if they would be getting it back. UTV is vital for Van Cortlandt Park, especially considering the recent spree of muggings on the trails.

Committee will prepare to have a more comprehensive, prioritized list of budgetary items at next month's committee meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm

Minutes submitted by Public Safety Committee Chair Ed Green.



Eric L. Adams
Mayor

Police Department City of New York



Edward A. Caban
Police Commissioner

Volume 31 Number 7

CompStat

50th Precinct

Report Covering the Week
2/12/2024 Through 2/18/2024

Crime Complaints

	Week to Date			28 Day			Year to Date*			2 Year	14 Year	31 Year
	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg
Murder	0	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	***.*	0.0	-50.0
Rape	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	-83.3	0.0	-75.0
Robbery	3	1	200.0	13	8	62.5	28	16	75.0	40.0	75.0	-65.9
Fel. Assault	2	3	-33.3	5	14	-64.3	21	25	-16.0	-16.0	50.0	-12.5
Burglary	4	3	33.3	7	12	-41.7	13	20	-35.0	-27.8	-56.7	-91.1
Gr. Larceny	14	10	40.0	60	47	27.7	105	79	32.9	26.5	183.8	162.5
G.L.A.	13	10	30.0	31	32	-3.1	56	54	3.7	51.4	366.7	-75.5
TOTAL	36	27	33.33	117	113	3.54	225	194	15.98	19.05	102.70	-57.31
Transit	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	0	1	-100.0	***.*	-100.0	***.*
Housing	3	1	200.0	7	8	-12.5	11	12	-8.3	-26.7	83.3	***.*
Petit Larceny	11	10	10.0	80	73	9.6	141	128	10.2	9.3	69.9	***.*
Misd. Assault	5	2	150.0	27	21	28.6	41	40	2.5	-4.7	-4.7	***.*
UCR Rape*	0	1	-100.0	1	2	-50.0	4	3	33.3	-42.9	***.*	***.*
Other Sex Crimes	0	0	***.*	1	2	-50.0	4	7	-42.9	33.3	***.*	***.*
Shooting Vic.	0	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	0.0	***.*	0.0
Shooting Inc.	0	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	1	0	***.*	0.0	***.*	0.0
Hate Crimes	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	0	1	-100.0	-100.0	***.*	***.*

Historical Perspective

(Historical perspective is a complete calendar year of data.)

	1990	1993	1998	2001	2023	%Chg '23 vs '01	%Chg '23 vs '98	%Chg '23 vs '93	%Chg '23 vs '90	
Murder	14	11	3	8	5	-37.5	66.7	-54.5	-64.3	Murder
Rape	36	24	22	21	8	-61.9	-63.6	-66.7	-77.8	Rape
Robbery	649	622	292	199	163	-18.1	-44.2	-73.8	-74.9	Robbery
Fel. Assault	230	271	146	147	197	34.0	34.9	-27.3	-14.3	Fel. Assault
Burglary	1,219	1,151	599	357	141	-60.5	-76.5	-87.7	-88.4	Burglary
Gr. Larceny	527	457	306	295	696	135.9	127.5	52.3	32.1	Gr. Larceny
G.L.A.	2,408	1,786	917	458	354	-22.7	-61.4	-80.2	-85.3	G.L.A.
TOTAL	5,083	4,322	2,285	1,485	1,564	5.3	-31.6	-63.8	-69.2	TOTAL

Figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision.

As of January 2013, complaints occurring within the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction have been disaggregated from the borough and precinct crime totals and are displayed separately on the Department of Correction CompStat page.

Unless otherwise noted, Crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law ("NYSPL") definitions and differ from the crime categories used by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program. All Crime statistics are translated to Uniform Crime Reporting categories for submission to the UCR Program.

* Uniform Crime Reporting ("UCR") Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.