



# 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	September 17, 2024	Start Time	7:00 PM	End Time	8:45 PM	
Meeting Held At	50 <sup>th</sup> Police Precinct					
Address	3450 Kingsbridge Avenue					
ATTENDANCE						
<b>Present</b>	Edward Green (Chair), Laura Spalter (Vice Chair), Debbie Allen, Joy Campbell Priveterre, Margaret Della, Nick Fazio, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Angel Ortega, Jyll Townes, Kevin Wade				<b>Total</b>	10
<b>Absent</b>					<b>Total</b>	-
<b>Guests</b>	Captain Tavares (NYPD), Lieutenant Wolvers (NYPD), Sergeant Amaro (NYPD), Community Affairs Officer Jamsheer (NYPD), Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr (FDNY), NYS Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Randy Martos (AM Dinowitz), Jon Beqiraj (Savor Coffee and More), Franklin Vargas (Caribe Bites), Adam Clayton Powell (Tijuana Nites), Kenia Peralta (EL DF Mexican Patio), He Chen (Tokyo House), Josefina Tineo (Sweet Billiards), David Gellman (BXC8), Steve Scheize (Guest), Rachel Cauvin (Guest), Elizabeth Thompson (Guest), Vicky Alvarez (Guest), Paul Hoffman (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 June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Public Safety Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### 3. Guest Speaker – NYS Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

#### Discussion of Bill A10057: An act to amend the penal law in relation to unlawful concealment of identity.

- The purpose of the bill is to amend the penal law to reinstate New York’s mask ban to address the growing public safety threat of individuals and groups using the cloak of anonymity to harass and intimidate others based on their race, religion, ethnicity or gender.

- The bill states it shall be unlawful for any person or persons involved in a lawful assembly, unlawful assembly, or riot to conceal their identity in public, unless they are wearing personal protective equipment during a declared public health emergency or are wearing attire that conceals their identity if the attire is worn for religious observance or customs.
- “Personal protective equipment” is defined by the bill as all equipment worn or used to minimize exposure to a communicable disease, including but not limited to face coverings designed to minimize exposure to a communicable disease and face shields.
- The bill is supported by the coalition Unmask Hate NY, NAACP New York Conference, National Urban League, United Bodegas of America, Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Relations Council of New York, UJA Federation of New York, NY State Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, Mayor Eric Adams and other state lawmakers.
- New York State had an anti-masking law in place since the 1800’s but repealed the law in 2020 to address the spread of COVID-19.
- The previous anti-masking law was deemed constitutional after being challenged unsuccessfully by the Ku Klux Klan in the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2004 (*American Knights of the KKK V. Kerik*).
- Masking to conceal one’s identity is not a constitutionally protected right, and these bills in no way impede the constitutionally protected right to assemble or hold demonstrations.
- NYS hate crimes have increased 69% since 2019 according to a report released August 28th, 2024, by State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.
- Bronx Community Board 8 notes in its report *Resources to Cope with and Combat Hate* published in June 2024 the alarming increase in hate crimes targeted towards Jews, African Americans and LGBTQ Americans.
- Masking emboldens illegal activities such as hate crimes, assaults, and vandalism resulting in millions of dollars in damages, impedes investigations into criminal conduct, and hinders prosecutions of crimes.
- The bill is currently in the Codes Committee and will likely be brought to the full Assembly for a vote next year (possibly January).
- The bill numbers (Assembly & Senate) will both change at the beginning of the new year, due to procedural protocol.
- The maximum penalty for a violation is 15 days in jail and/or a \$250 fine.
- The focus would be on people who are performing acts of intimidation or other activities where it would be in the public interest for their identities not to be concealed.
- Nassau County recently passed a similar bill.
- Assemblyman Dinowitz is currently working out details in the bill’s language that will focus on how law enforcement determines who is wearing a mask for health concerns and what type of proof would be required to wear a mask due to health concerns.

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

Lieutenant Wolvers presented the NYPD CompStat report. Officers Amaro, Tavares and Jamsheer were present. Issues discussed:

- Excessive traffic on Independence Avenue. Potential danger to school children. Traffic Safety Unit made aware.
- Illegal smoke shop reported at 551 West 235<sup>th</sup> St. between Johnson Ave & Oxford Ave.
- Cars are being stripped by PS 24. People on scooters are lookouts while others strip the cars. Possible use of bait car being discussed.
- Streetlights aren’t working at the bus stops by 4575 & 4901 Henry Hudson Parkway.
- Demolished cars parked outside of 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct for extended periods of time.
- Homeless gatherings in the vicinity of 5030 & 5040 Henry Hudson Parkway.

- 2 cars with fake New Jersey paper license plates parked on Mosholu Avenue between Fieldston Road and Spencer Ave.
- Migrant families selling fruit on the exit ramp of the Major Deegan Expressway at 240<sup>th</sup> St. near Van Cortlandt Park. Small children walking alongside congested traffic, exposed to toxic pollution. Safe spaces needed for migrant families to leave their kids while they work.
- Drug activity occurring outside of 118 Eames Place next to the New York Public Library. Hypodermic needles scattered on the sidewalk.
- Double parked cars and people playing loud music until 4am on Reservoir Avenue by Fort Four Park. Sgt. Amaro reported confiscating speaker at that location.
- Cars continuously parked in the crosswalk, blocking pedestrian traffic at 231<sup>st</sup> St. & Godwin Terrace.
- Store at 231<sup>st</sup> St. between Godwin Terrace & Broadway selling cannabis in the street.
- Multiple complaints from area residents about an African American male in his 40's that walks a dog (that looks like a rottweiler) mostly without a leash and routinely menaces people. This man has allegedly made verbal threats to various residents and reportedly shoved a woman. A resident believes the man lives at 3205 Oxford Avenue.

## 5. FDNY Report

FDNY Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr gave a statistical report.

- 33 structural fires (10% increase). 1 non-structural fire.
- There are 2 fire houses in the Bronx Community Board 8 area.
- Fire at 3980 Orloff Avenue on 9/12/24. Several tenants displaced.

## 6. NYS Liquor Authority: Renewals

### Wine, Beer & Cider

Jon Beqiraj, a Representative of Savor Coffee and More, located at 3725 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to renew this establishment's liquor license for wine, beer and cider.

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 (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**                      **Abstained: 0**

### Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Franklin Vargas, a Representative of Caribe Bites Bar & Restaurant, located at 5586 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to renew this establishment's liquor license for liquor, wine, beer & cider.

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 (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**                      **Abstained: 0**

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Adam Clayton Powell, a Representative of Tijuana Nites, located at 216 West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to renew this establishment's liquor license for liquor, wine, beer & cider.

Representatives of NYPDs 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct provided documentation of numerous complaints and disturbances at the location of this establishment within the last 12 months, including: 101 311 calls, 29 911 calls, 64 summons, 1 complaint of attempted rape, 1 complaint of assault, and 3 people aided for physical sickness, injury and emotional disturbance.

The Public Safety Committee has received complaints about this establishment for several years, including public drunkenness and drug use outside the club, harassment of building residents by the club's patrons and employees, assaults resulting in injury, and excessively loud music routinely disturbing residents until 4am.

The Public Safety Committee has seen no attempt by this establishment to accommodate area residents and address the well documented history of complaints.

The Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to disapprove this application.

**Approve in favor (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**                      **Abstained: 0**

**7. NYS Liquor Authority: New Applications**

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Kenya Peralta, a Representative of EL DF Mexican Patio, located at 5602 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to apply for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit for liquor, wine, beer & cider.

The applicant agreed to sign a 2AM closing agreement for the first year of operation.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

**Approve in favor (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**                      **Abstained: 0**

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

He Chen, a Representative of Tokyo House, located at 5648 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to apply for a new liquor license for liquor, wine, beer & cider.

The applicant agreed to sign a 2AM closing agreement for the first year of operation.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

**Approve in favor (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained: 0**

### Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Josefina Tineo, a Representative of Sweet Billiards Corp, located at 3004 Heath Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to apply for a new liquor license and temporary retail permit for liquor, wine, beer & cider.

The applicant agreed to sign a 2AM closing agreement for the first year of operation.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

**Approve in favor (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained: 0**

### **8. NYS Liquor Authority: Corporate Change**

Gemmy Quelliz, Owner of Bokagua, located at 3541 Riverdale Avenue, applied for a corporate name change (unrelated to operational methods already approved by Bronx Community Board 8).

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

Ms. Quelliz requested in writing to be exempt from appearing before the Public Safety Committee and her request was granted by Chair E. Green.

The application was filled out incorrectly and corporate change was not indicated.

The Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application (contingent upon the Board receiving a proper application before our next Full Board meeting. *\*The Board received the properly completed application the following day*).

**Approve in favor (10):** E. Green, L. Spalter, D. Allen, J. Campbell Priveterre, M. Della, N. Fazio, M. Gibbs, A. Ortega, J. Townes, K. Wade

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained: 0**

### **9. Old Business**

Chair Green discussed the possibility of changing Public Safety Committee policy about SLA renewal applicants attending the committee meeting:

- If no 311 complaints or reports of disturbances exist renewals should be given the option to appear in person.
- 50th Precinct will verify (in writing) beforehand if the business in question has had any resident complaints in the last 12 months.

- Attending the Public Safety Committee meeting is often a hardship for businesses because of limited staff and the 7pm meeting time. Meeting is conducted during the dinner “rush hour”, the busiest and most profitable time for many businesses.
- Applicants will often wait more than an hour to have their renewal application reviewed by the committee.
- If renewal applicants are exempted from attending the meeting, the Public Safety Committee will continue to vote on resolutions for approving renewal applications and Board will send resolutions to SLA.
- There are many difficult and complex public safety issues in our community that require closer attention from the committee. Spending committee time on SLA renewals with no previous complaints is time that could be spent trying to resolve other more pressing matters.
- Chair will not change SLA renewal policy without further discussion and majority consent of committee.

## **10. New Business**

None

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

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 37

## CompStat

50th Precinct

Report Covering the Week  
9/9/2024 Through 9/15/2024

### 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	1	-100.0	0	1	-100.0	1	5	-80.0	-50.0	-80.0	-85.7
Rape	0	2	-100.0	0	2	-100.0	8	8	0.0	-42.9	14.3	-46.7
Robbery	2	3	-33.3	8	12	-33.3	104	113	-8.0	-25.2	-11.1	-75.3
Fel. Assault	3	8	-62.5	17	11	54.5	175	155	12.9	12.9	98.9	-10.7
Burglary	5	4	25.0	18	9	100.0	118	106	11.3	19.2	10.3	-85.6
Gr. Larceny	9	14	-35.7	47	61	-23.0	558	478	16.7	13.9	121.4	73.3
G.L.A.	9	8	12.5	27	30	-10.0	238	246	-3.3	26.6	170.5	-81.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-30.00</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-7.14</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>8.19</b>	<b>10.58</b>	<b>81.02</b>	<b>-60.74</b>
Transit	0	0	***.*	1	1	0.0	4	7	-42.9	0.0	-71.4	***.*
Housing	2	4	-50.0	5	5	0.0	49	62	-21.0	-9.3	48.5	***.*
Petit Larceny	25	28	-10.7	75	100	-25.0	783	798	-1.9	-7.6	40.6	***.*
Retail Theft	7	8	-12.5	24	40	-40.0	311	321	-3.1	-31.6	***.*	***.*
Misd. Assault	7	4	75.0	22	19	15.8	231	225	2.7	-2.9	-14.1	***.*
UCR Rape*	0	2	-100.0	0	2	-100.0	16	20	-20.0	-15.8	***.*	***.*
Other Sex Crimes	1	2	-50.0	1	3	-66.7	37	23	60.9	42.3	***.*	***.*
Shooting Vic.	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	3	4	-25.0	-70.0	-40.0	-62.5
Shooting Inc.	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	3	4	-25.0	-62.5	-40.0	-50.0
Hate Crimes	0	0	***.*	0	0	***.*	2	2	0.0	-71.4	***.*	***.*

### Traffic Statistics

Traffic Fatalities	0	0	***.*	0	1	-100.0	1	2	-50.0	-66.7	***.*	***.*
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### 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.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,083</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>-31.6</b>	<b>-63.8</b>	<b>-69.2</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

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.