

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2015 AT THE
50TH POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE**

ATTENDANCE

AFFILIATION

Joe O'Brien (Chair)	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Lenora Croft	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Arturo Guzman	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Robert Press	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Herb Young	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Mary Yamagata	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce	Community Committee Member
Dan Padernacht	Community Board 8 Chair
David Kornbluh	CB8

Absent Public Safety members

David Toledo
Ed Molina

Community Residents

Andrew Sandler	Councilman Cohen's Office
Joshua Stephenson	Councilman Cohen's Office
Anthony DeLorbe	
Francine Scherer	
Freddie Thomas	
Darren Wu	
Ernie Carufu	
Bonn Carala	
Tom O'Connor	
Urbano Estevez	El Pollocon
Joe Crotty	Fenwicks
Thomas McCallen	Café Buon Gusto

Meeting began at 7:07 p.m. with introductions.

Captain O'Toole presented the Police Report. There were 60 total crimes vs 67 last year at this time. The 50th Precinct is down 15 crimes for the year to date. Recent arrests include one for mailbox fishing with glue traps. There was a shooting incident but no reported injuries. Gunfire is considered a shooting if someone is wounded or killed. If no one gets injured then the crime is charged as criminal mischief or reckless endangerment.

Margaret Donato brought up a shooting at West 235th Street where no one was reported injured.

There was a discussion about drivers making "illegal" left turns at 225th Street and Broadway. No one was giving out tickets. It was stated that there is no sign indicating no left turn. It is difficult to cross the street at that intersection.

A question about parking at crosswalk/curb cuts was brought up. Captain O'Toole said this would be a DOT issue.

Captain O'Toole was asked about terrorism precautions. He said they were generally handled by headquarters in cooperation with state and federal authorities. Locally, he said, there was a critical response unit assigned at the Russian mission, House of Worship (HOW) sector car.

Fire Department Report - No one was present from the FDNY.

Discussion on the Board policy to require new liquor licensees to close at 2am for the first year included:

Captain O'Toole stated that the Board might want to give leeway to bars just changing business name. When changing a business name, the bar would have to apply to the SLA for a name change, but it's not a new license.

Tom O'Connor stated that there are 2 applications for people who own bars in other areas that have a track record, and maybe the committee should consider waiving the 2am closing.

A vote was taken for retaining the 2 a.m. rule which passed unanimously (Joe O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Robert Press, Herb Young, Mary Yamagata, Myra Joyce).

New Liquor License Applications

Bronx Steakhouse - no show

Maddens - no show

El Pollocon - Opening El Pollocon next door to Barcelona Bites, which he also owns and hopes a restaurant would bring more people. Opening delayed until January because of DOB requirements. Bob Press brought up an issue regarding address discrepancies. Ibiza lounge was located where Barcelona Bites is now and they are doing a DBA change. Mr. Press stated that he cannot vote on this because of question of address. There was a motion to hold vote over until we see info from buildings department.

Joe O'Brien visited the location and noted that the DOB permit in the window had 216 as the address. Andrew Sandler, of Councilman Cohen's office, said that the DOB system has range of addresses and the owner has right to give whatever number he wants within that range.

A question of a noise issue was raised

They are addressing issues: redid the front, soundproofed, double paned windows, soundproof curtains.

Vote in favor of approval: Unanimous (Joe O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Robert Press, Herb Young, Mary Yamagata, Myra Joyce)

Cafe Buon Gusto

Located where Riverdale Garden was, on Manhattan College Parkway. It will be a bistro style café with a small bar just for convenience while customers wait for table. There will be 18 to 20 tables. And the hours of operation will be 7am until midnight. Mr. McCallen owns 4 restaurants and has had no issues at any other locations. The space will NOT be rented out for parties – this is not in their business model. Only recorded background music will be played. The 200-foot rule doesn't apply to colleges, so proximity to Manhattan College not relevant. It was noted that this will be the 4th establishment within 500 feet. Mr. Press asked how they plan to stop underage drinking. The response was that the staff will be trained, and he will suggested getting a scanner.

Vote to approve: 7 in favor (Joe O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Herb Young, Mary Yamagata, Myra Joyce)

Opposed: 1 opposed (Robert Press)

5523 Broadway

Represented by Frank Palillo and Jeanette Castillo who claims she has years of experience working for other restaurants. Keeping the name of La Parrilla. Will not agree to a 2 a.m. closing but is doubtful that the establishment will be open until 4 am. Will do private parties (two or three times per month). It was noted by the Committee that we've had problems with other places having private parties. Frank responded that in general the overwhelming number of places don't have problems. They stated that they will notify the 50th Precinct if having party with underage guests. Bob Press said if we make an exception for one, we have to make an exception for everyone.

A motion to oppose the application was carried seven to one (Joe O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Herb Young, Myra Joyce and Bob Press voting to oppose) and Mary Yamagata voting to approve.

Renewal Applications**Yokohama**

Business has been in that location for 15 years. Vote to approve: Unanimous (Joe O'Brien, Robert Press, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Herb Young, Mary Yamagata, Myra Joyce)

Fenwicks

The SLA is still dealing with issues of noise. They put in an extra camera, require ID if someone comes in to use bathroom and are using a scanner that takes a picture of ID. The owners are spending more time on the premises. On 10/15 they were closed and also Valentine's Day of last year. Summonses were given to students. NYPD website says they are required to keep scanner records for 30 days. Mr. Press stated that the main problem is Manhattan college students. They feel they are doing what they can to remedy these issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted by Myra Joyce