

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE –  
DRAFT PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL  
MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2017  
50TH POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE**

**Committee Members Present:**

M. Yamagata, Chair; D. Santiago, Vice Chair; M. Donato; Diomarys Escaño; M. Joyce

**Committee Members Absent:**

J. Townes

**Guests:**

E. Carofe; M. Dominguez; J. Thompson; R. Vaswani; J. Sproull; K. Bruinier; L. Langstine

The meeting commenced at 7:05PM with an introduction of members and guests. We had a quorum and were able to conduct business. We proceeded with the meeting in order for the guests to be heard, including the applicants for license renewals. All present were advised the committee will prepare resolutions related to the applications for liquor licenses to present to the Executive Board for approval.

In his police report, Deputy Inspector O'Toole submitted the CompStat Weekly Report dated November 13, 2017 and gave an update on crime in the area. He stated the following statistics: there were 0 murders; 1 rape; 12 robberies; 7 felony assaults; 12 burglaries; and 5 grand larcenies. He said there were 95 crimes in total so far, compared to 87 at this time last year. He also said that there have been many arrests regarding theft of tires and rims from residents' cars, including one today. Chair Mary Yamagata discussed the noise complaints regarding Manhattan College students and a meeting held last week with Manhattan College Security. The police did not know that the college celebrated Halloween the week before the actual holiday and the college did outreach to the police department. Putting up lights at the Spring Fling last year worked in keeping down disruptions.

No representative appeared from the Fire Department.

The following applicants appeared regarding applications to renew or alter liquor licenses:

1. Rani Vaswani appeared for the Barbeque Pit and was seeking a renewal of their liquor license to serve beer/wine. No problems or noise complaints were reported for this establishment;
2. Magdalena Dominguez appeared for Montezuma restaurant and was seeking a renewal of their liquor license. No problems or noise complaints were reported for this establishment; and
3. James Langstine appeared for The Bronx Ale House and was seeking an alteration of their existing liquor license, as they are in the process of expanding their space where G discount store used to be. They are seeking to add 60-75 additional seats, expand the kitchen area, add two more bathrooms and improve their existing sidewalk space. Within three weeks, they expect the majority of work to be done.

### **Resolutions:**

All applications were unanimously approved by the committee.

### **Miscellaneous Business:**

Our guest Jonellen Thompson, who resides at 2727 Palisade Ave. raised the issue of an increase in theft of catalytic converters from resident's automobiles. Hers was stolen recently and cost \$1,200 to replace and others in her building also experienced similar thefts. Deputy Inspector O'Toole addressed the issue, speaking about "fake surveillance" and that 14 catalytic converters were reported stolen in the area in the past month. He said that the police auto crime division was investigating and are conducting surveillance of the affected areas several nights per week. Seven cars were reported stolen in the 45<sup>th</sup> Precinct, where they were taken to a scrap heap in Babylon, NY. The perpetrators were tracked down and arrested. Deputy Inspector O'Toole said that the catalytic converter thefts are also a problem in nearby Yonkers and across the nation, and that three years ago 35 UHaul trucks had their converters stolen. He noted that some European countries provide extra theft protection for catalytic converters, but the challenge for us is that a sticker cannot be put on the converters due to the heat and VIN numbers of cars are not etched on the converters. Deputy Inspector O'Toole said the majority of thefts occur from 4-5 AM, using battery operated hand saws purchased at Home Depot. He hopes that more Argus cameras will be put in place in the area, as well as the Bronx DA's Honda SUV as a decoy.

The minutes from the prior meeting were approved. Chair Yamagata announced that the Public Safety Committee Meetings would be held from now on each third Tuesday of every month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Submitted by,

Mary Yamagata, Chair  
Public Safety Committee