

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes for the Public Safety Committee Meeting
November 1st, 2017 – Conference Room
530 West 166th Street – 6th Floor
New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present (5): Richard Lewis (Chair), Domingo Estevez (Asst. Chair), Derek Peralta, Natalie Espino, and Mary O’Shaughnessy.

Committee Member Absent (2): Rud Morales and Katherine Diaz.

Board Member (3): Fe Florimon, Richard Allman, and Osi Kaminer.

Public Sign-ins (26): Lt. Jorge Rodriguez (33rd Precinct), Lt. Salvatore Marchese (34 Precinct), Det. Thomas Troppmann (34th Precinct), PO Damieon Frey (Community Affairs –Transit District 3), Capt. Thomas Short (Edgecombe Correctional Facility), Allan Sebastian Valerio (Manhattan District Attorney Office), Etta Graham (Program Director - Project Renewal), Awilda Morton (Project Renewal), Carlton Fickin (Project Renewal), Wesley Hamilton (Parks Dept), Nicole Jordan (HRA), Dean Uetake (DHS), Lucian Reynolds, (Borough President Manhattan Office), Jessica Reynoso (Public Advocates Office), Kiana Diaz (Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez Office), Mariel De La Cruz (NYC Comptroller’s Office), Bruce Hecker, Benjamin Lopez, Adrienne Hall, Deborah Cardona, Rob Nelson, HollyBeth Plowman, Judy Freeman, Steven Cappel, and Elliot S. (Project Renewal)

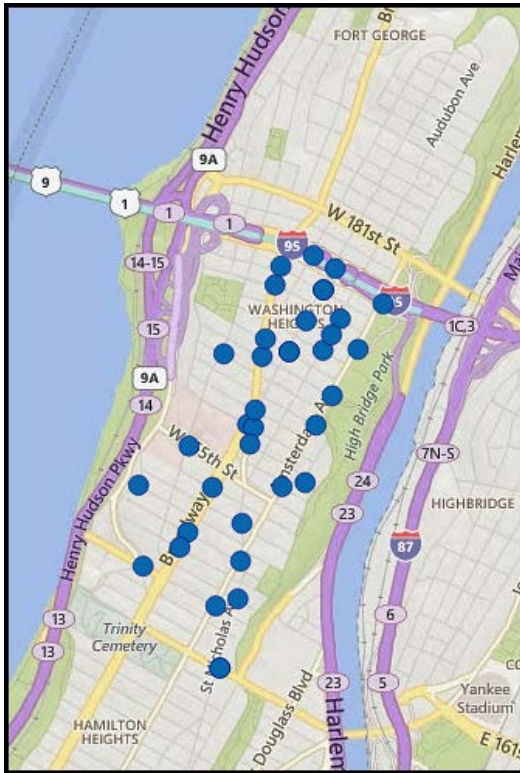
Other Agencies Reqs Invited: (1): FDNY (absent).

Staff: Ely Silvestre.

Welcome, Opening Remarks and the Agenda. Richard Lewis, Public Safety Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Arrangements were made to record the meeting to a digital audio file on an OLYMPUS® handheld device. Board members introduced themselves as did members of city agencies and CBO’s present. A quorum was present for the entire meeting. Topics for the evening’s agenda were outlined. The Chair’s presentation on Preliminary Discussion on the Tech Series (Computer Algorithms and Assessment in Predictive Analysis or Policing, DNA Forensic Statistics, Risk Assessment Instruments and Other Government Decision Making) was withdrawn and tabled due to expected time constraints with the many other presenters in attendance and the need for Q&A.

Discussion from the 33rd Precinct – Lt. Jorge Rodriguez on Commentary Outreach and COMPStat.

- As part of the 33rd Precinct Community outreach several Neighborhood Safety Officers (NCO) meetings in each sector will take place in December and flyers will be released shortly. They will be e-blasted and posted on the board’s Facebook® account as well as by the precinct. <https://www.facebook.com/NYPD33pct/>
- Lt. Rodriguez reported on the following crime statistics from the seven major crimes reported in the NYPD’s weekly COMPStat List. See charts below or follow this information at <https://compstat.nypdonline.org> Certain crimes are up: robberies are slightly up from the same time (28 days) last year 50 incidents to 54 incidents (8%), larcenies are up 24% compared to 16% last year or an increase of 50%. There have also been 2 identify theft cases reported. There have been two shootings and subsequent arrests. The second one that occurred on October 29th resulted in a homicide. Year to Date totals for the precinct are down compared to highs in July and August.
- The next 33rd Precinct Council meeting will be held on November 16th (6:30pm) at the Precinct.



COMPStat 2.0 Year to Date Map and Charts.
Seven (7) Majors reported.
 See <https://compstat.nypdonline.org>

CompStat Book					
	Week to Date			28 Day	
	2017	2016	% Chg	2017	2016
Murder	0	0	0.0 %	1	0
Rape	0	0	0.0 %	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0.0 %	6	7
Felony Assault	3	4	-25.0 %	10	14
Burglary	1	3	-66.7 %	3	7
Grand Larceny	6	6	0.0 %	17	20
Grand Larceny Auto	1	0	- %	8	1
Total	11	13	-15.4 %	45	50

Discussion from the 34th Precinct – Lt. Salvatore Marchese and Det. Thomas Troppmann on Commentary Outreach and COMPStat.

Highlights of the latest COMPSTAT report:

- COMPSTAT: robbery is down by 10.9%, violent crimes have dropped some 7.3%, Burglaries have increase year to date from 39% to 53% and Grand Larceny is down 15% from 23%. Both precincts report incidents of mail fishing and many mailboxes have been retrofitted to lessen this crime of opportunity. It is recommended that important bills be mailed at the post office (rent, mortgage, car payments, etc). Since acetone is used to dissolve the ink on checks/money orders it is best to use gel pens as an effective means to prevent this type of ink bleaching.
- The next 34th Precinct Council meeting takes place on November 29th.

Det. Troppmann was featured in a NY Times article ***“De Blasio Kept Crime Down in First Term. His Next Goal: Nicer Police”*** -- Detective Thomas W. Troppmann, on patrol in Washington Heights, talking to Domingo Basquez, who lives in the neighborhood. Detective Troppmann and his partner, Detective Edwin A. Rodriguez, are part of a new Police Department program intended to deepen ties between officers and residents. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/05/nyregion/bill-deblasio-police-crime.html>



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CompStat Book					
	Week to Date			28 Day	
	2017	2016	% Chg	2017	2016
Murder	0	1	-100.0 %	1	1
Rape	0	0	0.0 %	1	2
Robbery	3	8	-62.5 %	16	24
Felony Assault	6	5	20.0 %	25	26
Burglary	1	1	0.0 %	7	21
Grand Larceny	7	11	-36.4 %	43	47
Grand Larceny Auto	1	2	-50.0 %	6	4
Total	18	28	-35.7 %	99	125

Discussion from Transit District 3 – PO Damieon Frey (Community Affairs).

- For the 33rd Precinct All 7 Major COMPStat crimes track year to date = 1;
- For the 34th Precinct All 7 Major COMPStat crimes track year to date = 1;

For homeless outreach services in underground areas, e.g. the subway the agency the city uses is BRC (

Discussion from the Edgecombe Correctional Facility – Capt. Thomas Short.

For the very first time the committee received a presentation from a representative of the Edgecombe Correctional Facility. (611 Edgecombe Ave, New York, NY 10032 between West 162nd and West 163rd Streets). This “minimum risk” facility is under the jurisdiction of **The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYSDOCCS)**, and is responsible for the care, confinement, and rehabilitation of inmates.

“The mission of NYSDOCCS is to provide for public protection by administering a network of correctional facilities that:

- Retain inmates in safe custody until released by law;
- Offer inmates an opportunity to improve their employment potential and their ability to function in a non-criminal fashion;
- Offer staff a variety of opportunities for career enrichment and advancement; and,
- Offer stable and humane ‘community’ environments in which all participants, staff and inmates, can perform their required tasks with a sense of satisfaction.”

“The Edgecombe Specialized Chemical Dependence Services program provides intensive services to parole detainees housed at Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility, in Manhattan, for a period of 10-45 days, preparing them for a return to their communities, and engagement in community-based addiction treatment. The facility holds 110 parolees, each voluntarily detained, with the overall service capacity of approximately 1,200 parolees annually.

Edgecombe is staffed by a combination of:

- DOCCS correctional officers,

- DOCCS Offender Rehabilitation Counselors; and
- Treatment Staff of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)-certified provider (Odyssey House).

Parole detainees at the facility are individuals who are being detained by DOCCS pending a determination regarding their possible re-incarceration. The services are designed to provide intensive treatment to parole detainees with the aim of returning them to their communities and to engage them in further addiction treatment. All detainees are expected to have a diagnosis of alcohol or substance addiction or abuse requiring intervention and treatment. The parole detainees will be held in the residential facility and will be provided addictions treatment. Edgecombe effectively treats parolees in a stabilization program and upon completion, they are referred to continuing care services consistent with an established treatment plan.”

For more information see: <https://www.oasas.ny.gov/cj/programs/Edgecombe.cfm>

Discussion from the Office of the District Attorney – Allan S. Valerio

Allan S. Valerio appeared and discussed a few community service programs the NY District Attorney Office is promoting in Chinatown.

Programs that help at-risk youths and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers got a \$7.1 million boost from Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance’s office. The money comes from criminal forfeitures through settlements with international banks that violated U.S. sanctions.

Discussion on Homelessness Complaints in the District (Progress Reports – Old Business).

At the October, 2017 meeting the PS Committee agreed to monitor homeless complaints and solutions and place this item back on the calendar for the next committee meeting. Here is the information that was gleaned.

Presentation by Wesley Hamilton (Department of Parks).

It was announced that the park sitting area in Duarte Square Park has now been fenced off and in effect locked (**Interlocking steel barriers for crowd control aka “French” barrier fences** are being used). If last month’s 9 pm park closure was ineffective as determined by PEP officers, local parks officials and the Manhattan Borough Commissioner a plan to fence off the area, previously discussed during the summer with the outgoing 33rd Precinct CO and NYC DOT would go forward. This was considered only as a temporary measure if all else failed until some other solutions could be enacted. The Department of Parks has done this kind of an operation in the city at other locations, notably Tompkins Square Park, Washington Square Park and Bryant Park.

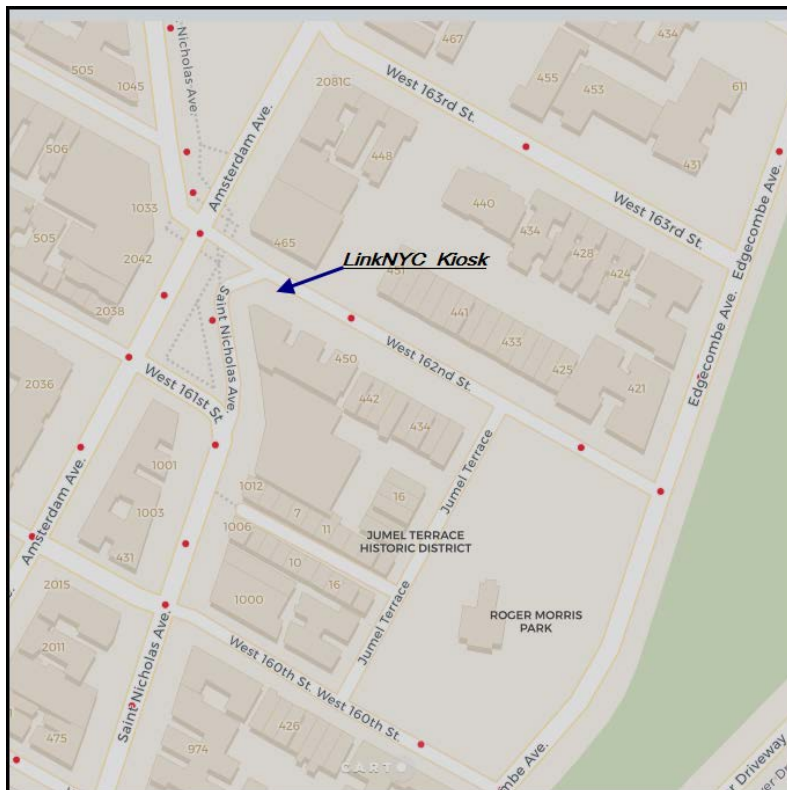
The park will be cleaned weekly with signage noting it being off limits. The greenway passage from St. Nicholas to Broadway on West 170th Street remains open. Finally, it was pointed out that since this change has taken place a sizable number of homeless, K2 drug and substance abuse users have now moved east towards the playground on Audubon Avenue that is slated for construction in late 2018.

Presentation by Etta Graham, Program Director Project Renewal (Ft. Washington Men’s Shelter).

Project Renewal will continue its outside area patrols by its staff members to insure that no shelter residence is hanging out and not pursuing agreed upon counseling plans for life style changes to self-sufficient and out of the shelter system. Project Renewal also will be in contact with merchants on the Broadway corridor from West 168th Street to West 172nd Street to reinforce community relationships where they can contact the shelter to help determine if a homeless individual is one of their clients or to provide them with other outreach s contacts such as CUCS, the city’s prime vendor as a Manhattan Outreach Center (for above ground situations and services compared to BRC that works in underground areas of the city, e.g., the subways) The DHS Peace Officers can only do law enforcement work inside the shelter facility.

Presentation by Nicole Jordan (HRA), Dean Uetake (DHS).

Each shelter in the city has a limited capacity – the Fort Washington Men’s Shelter (operated by Project Renewal) has a capacity for 200 beds. Department of Human Services (DHS) partners up with many different agencies to help their clients. There are treatment teams in each of the city’s shelter. At the FWMS 72 individuals have found permanent housing so far this year. (With that success Ms. Graham asked “I don’t hear *no* clap!” The attendees laughed and represented instantly with a loud round of applause.). Animals (pets) are not allowed in a shelter, but animal organizations generally take care of them during this period of homelessness. There is a palm card from HRA/DHS that can be handled out to homeless individuals at an encounter. Ms Jordan indicated that the Community Board will be able to obtain a supply for distribution. She also indicated that there have been strong outreach efforts under the new leadership at DHS. The PS Committee asked for some data in the future. The PS Committee will continue to monitor this situation in all the areas cited in our last meeting and noted in these minutes.



TOTAL 2017 COMPStat Reports. Low incidence in the Jumel Terrace Historic District –MAP done by R. Lewis with Carto ©

Discussion on the LinkNYC Kiosk Progress Reports and Information

At the last monthly meeting in October it was agreed that in order to address some potential quality of life or criminal concerns the 33rd Precinct would patrol the area around 450 West 162nd Street where the LinkNYC kiosk was located, gather information, meet with neighborhood associations and provide a progress report at the November Public Safety Committee agenda. It was also pointed out Greater transparency is needed such as some form of involvement prior to the ‘notice to proceed’ from DoITT.’ to help allay community perception or the fears that the LinkNYC kiosk is the cause of quality of life problems and crime After the fact’ publishing in the Open Data Website just does not address this issue as could ‘before the fact’ consultation with community stakeholders including the NYPD. This could help prevent unforeseeable local problems.

Ms Ruth Fasoldt, the External Affairs Manager from Intersection/LinkNYC and a presenter at the October meeting agreed to provide answers to the possibility of turning on the cameras in the LinkNYC Kiosk matter as well as on the issues a greater transparency and community participation for any ‘before the fact’ actions is

taken on “notices to proceed” are issued from DoITT related to the construction, site selections and installation of these systems in our community district.

Here is a brief summary of one of these unforeseeable problems that came before the board and this committee:

Some residents from the West 162nd Street and Sylvan Terrace (ostensibly members of the Jumel Terrace Historic District) appeared at the October 2017 PSC meeting and at the 33rd Precinct meeting to raised concerns about a class of users drawn to the free kiosk service that they felt were creating safety and quality of life issues. The site under dispute is the LinkNYC kiosk located in front of 450 West 162nd Street (some 30 feet East of the South East corner) near the St. Nicholas Avenue/Amsterdam Avenue Triangle Green Street. This is the same site of the old street payphone now removed and replace with the kiosk on November 2016. The behaviors and activities of concern that this group mentioned were: “drug transactions, actual drug use, homelessness, littering, and harassment of female q1 residents, defecation, urinating, sexual intercourse, and violent fights.” The tree pit and the low iron fence adjacent to the kiosk has become “a cesspool or garbage dump”. Note: It is common occurrence for some kiosk users to sit on this fence with their smart phones plug in.

Presentation by Lucien Reynolds (Manhattan Borough Presidents Office).

Some good news was announced by Lucien Reynolds that will address some of the concerns raised at the last PS committee meeting (see above). Ms Ruth Fasoldt, the External Affairs Manager from Intersection/LinkNYC took our concerns back to her team and they have agreed to several changes, not done in the past for any community board. First, the camera(s) in the kiosk ordinarily used for ‘kiosk abuse’ have been turn on and footage will last for seven (7) days. It can only be released by a subpoena from the NYPD, mindful of an agreement with the Mayor and the NYCLU on privacy concerns. Any footage then will allow for the possibility to objectively verify quality of life claims and criminal behavior *in situ*.

Next, NYC DoITT will publish all future site information beforehand regarding any “notices to proceed” instead of long after the fact. The city’s Open Data Portal does not have up to date information. A map and spreadsheets with this information will be submitted to the board. Finally, it was reconfirmed that greenfield locations we will have 60 days to respond along with the Manhattan Borough President’s office and the electeds.

We were reminded that the city has a legally binding contract with Intersection/LinkNYC and there is no requirement for the vendor to make any change not so written. This contract went through a public hearing process that appeared in the CITY RECORD and where he community board through its chair participated and asked for changes.

Presentation by Lt Jorge Rodriquez (33rd Precinct).

Lt. Rodriguez stated that after the October meeting the 33rd Precinct carried out extensive and daily patrols to determine the claims by a few residents at West 162 Street about the frequent quality of life issues and area crime around the LinkNYC Kiosk. They found during that period only one incident where a summons was issued for public urination. The individual given a summons was also resident and just happened to live in the building adjacent to the kiosk (450 West 162nd Street). Unfortunately, members of the Jumel Terrace Historical District Association wanted to argue and raise questions whether the area searches were done undercover, other policing methods and finally they chose not to accept the NYPD findings. For the record members of the PS Committee accept the NYPD’s good work in this community board.

To further buttress the NYPD findings maps were generated of all NYPD calls and actions in the area as COMPStat information. Even this evidence showed hardly any crime in that area compared to overwhelming crime other areas in the community. If anything residents in the kiosk area were clearly living in better safety than others. Results of all 311 calls from 2010 to 2017 using Board Stat were searched and that show that almost all quality of life complaints (service requests) came from one building (421 West 162nd Street). It had over 900 housing issues as complaints. No other quality of life service requests from area residents en masse could be found. There was also not even a series of 911 calls where the police responded to and found problems of any magnitude so claimed since the kiosk was installed in November 2016.

Given all these facts at hand it was clear that there was no convincing claim by members of the association that was also consistent and compelling to determine that the LinkNYC installation was the cause of any heavy area crime or quality of life pattern other than it being a temporary 'attractive nuisance'. The frequency, duration and intensity of quality of life and crime claims appears to be only conveniently demonstrated as a clash of values that could not be objectively determined or have any capacity for predictability. Consequently, there is no need to remove or relocate this kiosk at an estimate of over \$200,00, delay the further kiosk rollouts in our community district, or prevent Wi-Fi for those who are underserved, or disengage the plug-in capabilities for the same reasons. As a final note the city has never removed any of these kiosks, except in the few instances where it posed a public safety issue for being so close vehicular traffic that a serious or fatal accident might occur. In the end as more of these units are rolled out as has happened in outer communities where there are similar problems – these issues seem to go away. The Manhattan Borough President Office with more resources will now handle future concerns over this specific kiosk and local residents. The PS Committee has done its work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Peralta

Edited and Expanded by Richard Lewis, Chair

Public Safety Committee

November 1st, 2017