

Community Board 12 - Public Safety Committee Minutes
June 3, 2020
7:00 - 9:15 pm

Chair: Curtis D. Young

Committee Members Present

Danielle Jetoto, Asst. Chair
Gabrielle Estrella
Yosef Kalinsky

Committee Members Absent

Board Members Present

Maria Luna
Sally Fisher
Liz Ritter
Tanya Bonner
Ayisha Oglivie
Osi Kaminer

Public Member Present

Graham Ciraulo

Public Member Absent

Called to Order : 7:15 pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Crime Stats, Fire Incidents, and Emergency Services Reports and Law Enforcement Initiatives

A. 33rd Precinct Updates

- No looting issues in the 33rd.
- Burglaries have continued to spike. Have made several apprehensions. Pharmacy was burglarized. T-Mobile and other Pharmacies was targeted
- They were made aware of a potential issue on Dykman and worked with 34th to devise a plan. Overall, the 33rd has not had many of the issues facing other precincts.

B. 34th Precinct Updates

- Been focusing on the latest developments.
- They took a call for a shooting on May 16 and June 1
- Crime is down for the year overall and within the last 28 day period
- GLA has gone up and burglaries (remains a trend for the year)

Discussion on Dyckman Incident

Comment from Chair: Concerned with the events that unfolded on Dykman. Seems that were groups who were deputized.

LT. Jeune: Groups were in different corners. Especially areas with business. They offered their help and accepted the offer. I believe the Mayor asked the residents to help out.

Chair: So you're saying the Mayor asked the community to police themselves?

Lt. Jeuen: Based on what, I'm pretty sure the residents heard the Mayor ask from the media to help out. They were not taking the law into tier

Chair: It's not the responsibility of the people to police their own community. And as we say, it became a racially tense situation between African American Community members and Dominicans. I thought that was instigated by the police force, allowing the community to police themselves. I know everyone is under pressure and there may be resource issues but it seemed to me to be highly inappropriate and it was a situation that escalated that did not need to happen. And I think the situation from what I saw in the video footage was authorized by the NYPD. The footage showed the commanding officer giving instruction on how to differentiate themselves from others who may be out after curfew.

CO 33: Some of the things we've experienced in the 33rd is that property owners or business owners are actually safeguarding their own property. So they're at their business establishment, basically in front. And if they do see something that is suspicious, they'll call 911 and we respond. That tends to get a faster response, as opposed to them not being at their property waiting for a 1011 alarm to show up and police presence to show up. I get, this might be some of the issues the 34 is experiencing because that's something we are seeing in the 33. Keeping an eye on their establishment is welcomed, not the violence. The instructions we give is to call 911 right away if they see something, oppose them not being there, and the next morning their place is burglarized.

Chair: I'll stop after this final statement. We are not in opposition to business owners protecting their business. They've worked hard to build their businesses. But the problem is when there are groups going after groups of people walking on the street and they are not associated with businesses. That is the difference that I saw, and something we have to be cognizant of. We can continue to encourage people to protect their businesses, their property and call 911 /precincts when there are issues but it's a very thin line between encouraging that and deputizing people to do the job of the NYPD.

There's been a string of pharmacies broken into in the 34th. Royal Pharmacy and a few others. Should businesses just call 911 or is there a direct number

Updates on these issues: Nothing has really changed. If businesses see something they should call 911.

Danielle: Any updates on drag racing / cyclist incidents in the area?

33rd: No update or uptick since the curfew. It's been very effective

34th: They've had issues with double parked cars but have been instructing officers to (Protecting lines.

Sally: I find the 33rd's report shocking. There is a lot of outdoor parties. Social distancing not being observed and a lot of complaints on drag racing. Also, giving that there was a big heads up because it was all over social media, exacerbating the situation at Dykman. I wonder how you prepare for something like that. When you say business owners can call me, shouldn't you be there and what's the plan for tonight?

Lt. Jeune: For the people who are hanging out. I don't know if you've noticed but we've put a vehicle/ police card at these locations from 20Hundred hours, all the way to the end of tour which is 23Hundred hours. We have two problematic locations. We have the Dykman location all the way to La Marina and we have issues with Amsterdam from 190th to Ft. George, so if you've noticed. There's a car at all times.

Sally: Could you explain what the presence of a car does to stop things. What I hear is the residence, they commute.

III. Brief remarks from Assemblywoman Carmen de la Rosa, State Senator Robert Jackson, Councilman Mark Levin, and Manhattan Borough Advocate Philip Ellison

IV. Key Discussion Points on 50a and NYPD Funding

- Two resolutions proposed
- Full repeal of Local Law 50 and Re-allocation funds to ensure a more equitable budget
- We spend more funding on NYPD budget (more than education and many other programs combined)
- This is an issue of prioritization. Ensure that when we do have to cuts they also protect safety officers, and those in positions within the NYPD
- Should include other items mentioned by elected officials who presented.
- Allocating funds to support mental health concerns.

- Defund needs clarification
- Advocating for an increase in mental health programming
- Need people who have the proper training (case managers, mental health support, medical)
- Resolution - Motion made by Danielle in support of repeal of 50a. Seconded by Nobles Crawford
- Resolution - Motion made by Liz Ritter on NYPD Budget Allocation. Seconded by

Full recording available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdCcN-u943Y>
