

Community Board 12 - Public Safety Committee Minutes

May 6, 2020

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Chair: Curtis D. Young

Committee Members Present

Danielle Jetoto, Asst. Chair
Gabrielle Estrella
Yosef Kalinsky
Rud Morales

Committee Members Absent

Board Members Present

Maria Luna
Sally Fisher

Public Member Present

Graham Ciraulo

Public Member Absent

Community Members Present: Nancy Preston, Maria Lizardo (NMIC), Sarah Banda (NMIC), Morgan Segal (NMIC), Jose Jimenze (33rd Pct), Joseline, Minaya (Manhattan DA), Ely Sylvetre (Manhattan DA) Steve Miller (DOCSS)

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

- Uptick in Domestic Violence for the 28 day period. Up 75% (7 more than 2019).
- Home visits have not occurred due to COVID but they have done phone calls with a 65% success rate. (Some are not picking up the phone during follow-up).
- Uptick in Robberies, Burglaries and Felony Assaults. Can be attributed to businesses being closed. Perpetrators are breaking in and stealing money from the cash registers.
- Packages theft remains an issue (many of which are classified as burglaries)
- Compared to 2019 - Robberies up 36%, Burglaries up 18%
- **Suggestion form Pct:** Leave lights on at night when business closes. Open register and install cameras in business. For package theft (two positive arrest were made)
- Robberies - People are going into the stores and stealing items but when caught they are escalating and these thefts turn into robberies.
- GLA's (Car theft) are now down.
- **Question:** Why are there differences in DV calls and actual reports?
- **Answer:** Crime reporting is different from home visits. DV are still responding but we don't follow-up at home (knock on door, asking follow-up questions etc.). Now they are following up on complaintants over the phone.
- **Questions:** Is there a way to Text complaints?
- **DOITT is releasing Texting 911 in June.**
- **Question: Social Distancing** - Could you provide an overview? Experience, Concerns in light of the news and issues over policing.

- **Answer:** Everyone in our community had been following. 33rd had not issued any enforcement action.

B. 34th Precinct and Transit Division (SENT VIA EMAIL)

- The subway closures are being handled with the utmost care. There are cops patrolling the empty stations and a heavy presence of police officers at all the end stations. Please be advised that this police presence is not for making arrests of the homeless when the stations are closed down. Rather this presence is for the safety of the BRC representatives and other homeless individuals in case there is contact with a person who is emotionally disturbed. Unfortunately there have been many calls for additional assistance by police officers as of late when dealing with someone who is emotionally disturbed so this increased presence has been a precaution for the safety for all.
- All individuals who are still on the trains after the closure at 0100 are given options about where they can go. BRC and NYPD Homeless Outreach Units are on scene at all end stations to offer services and give people a place to stay. Police are also directing the homeless to the buses if they refuse to take shelter with BRC so that they are not forced to stay in the colder/wet elements that we have been going through this May. No individual is forced to just walk the streets or sleep in the park. Everyone is offered an option as to what they would like to do and it is the individual's choice as to what they would like to do.
- 1 Sergeant and 3 cops are patrolling the subway stations post tour and during their tours to relay a general message from NYPD Headquarters and to remind people to wear masks and remain 6 feet apart. While this is sometimes hard to do on a crowded subway train we are ensuring people are wearing masks and, if needed and supplies allow, providing those without masks one to wear.
- To the best of my knowledge we have not summoned anyone for social distancing to this date. I will follow up on this and get back to you.
- The biggest trend we are seeing is that people appear to be riding the trains for non essential travel across all ages. We understand that people want to get to different places but it is essential for the trains to be used for essential travel only at this point in order to combat the spread of Covid 19.

C. Manhattan District Attorney

- The office is active remotely.
- **Domestic Violence:** They are continuing to do their outreach and reaching out to victims before someone is arraigned to do safety planning.
- The numbers are up but the number of cases is **not significantly higher**. It's concerning to them because that could mean people are reluctant to involve law enforcement.
- They work closely with NMIC and the other service providers. They call on community partners to share with the community to let victims know they can get support even during the pandemic.
- Orders Of protection are still being issued.
- They are seeing cams as a trend (requesting personal information, COVID test, asking for donations) Call DA if we become aware of any of these.

- They are continuously reviewing cases (over 320 now) for those eligible for early release.

D. Presentation - Domestic Violence Issues

- **NMIC - Program: Domestic Violence Project (DVP)**
 - i. Program Snapshot: The Domestic Violence Project (DVP) offers community-based counseling, case management and legal services for victims and survivors of intimate partner violence.
- **Services: The DVP has two components:**
 - i. Advice on eligibility and the benefit rate to expect
 - ii. Assistance with the application process
 - iii. Advice and/or representation to address denials or incorrect benefit levels
- **Eligibility: Individuals may be eligible if they are**
 - i. Residents of the following zip codes: 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10040, 10452, or 10452
- **COVID Concerns**
 - i. Finding the means, the privacy is extraordinarily difficult.
 - ii. People have called the WhatsApp early in the morning or other times (such as when survivors are alone)
 - iii. They are providing online therapy - They have attorney's to provide order of protections.
 - iv. They are doing more criss interviews (more than ever). Many of the same issues are still present.
 - v. They now have to tackle the digital divide issue

Question: How does one access Zoom Therapy?

Answer: You can contact NMIC 212-822-8300. This is for the initial screening.

dvp@nmic.org

OTHER ITEMS

- **FY 21 Budget Issues (\$9M)**
 - DOVE Initiative - City Council designates (both of our members have allocated funds to NMOC for these programs. They are connected to specific positions. Both CM Rodriquez and Levin have supported.
- **EDGECOMB Correctional Facilities**
- 20 Staff Members tested positive
- 2 staff members passed away
- None of the population tested positive
- they stopped intake. Temperatures checks are being conducted and they are enhancing cleaning. Social distancing has not been a major issue due to the small population

E. Resolution IN SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER EMERGENCY PROGRAM SERVICES

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm