

Community Board 12 - Public Safety Committee Minutes
March 3, 2021
7:00 -8:45 pm

Chair: Curtis D. Young

Committee Members Present

Danielle Jetto, Asst. Chair
Mariela Graham
Osi Kaminer
Yosef Kalinsky
Gabrielle Estrella

Committee Members Absent

Francisco Alvarez

Board Members Present

Public Member Present

Graham Ciraulo

Public Member Absent

Yomaris Smith

Lt. Taveras (34th Precinct), Deputy Inspector Bello (33rd Precinct), Ely Sylvetres (DA), Superintendent Miller (DOCCS), Brian Shevitz & Officer Travis Burks (Transit District 3)

Meeting called to order at 7:05.

I. Chair Welcome & Updates

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

A. 33rd Precinct Report (Deputy Inspector Bello)

- 162/ Bway shooting two weeks ago; initially thought it was about a vehicle related to a shooting but it was a road rage incident that went bad. Victim survived.
- 28 day period report: Still battling package theft; made an apprehension within the 28-day period regarding package thefts.
- Had a meeting last week re: noise complaints as we approach the summer. Received guidance from the borough and approach will be similar to last summer (recording with cameras, wanted fliers, looking for stashed bikes).
- Recounted incident from last week re: roving band of bikes. Described difficulties of getting a search warrant to where bikes may be stored. Consider collaborating with FDNY or Dept. of Environmental Protection or post a camera to gather intelligence.

- In the last 3 days 3 reports have been prepared and 3 individuals have been identified to be apprehended in the future for reckless driving.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: 1) What is being done about the cars that are drag racing? 2) Described example of how a car had been caught in Riverdale (50th precinct, traffic unit). Why does the 33rd precinct not have a traffic unit. ANSWER: 1) Yes, 33rd precinct has a traffic unit that is utilized with one sergeant and 7 cops.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Last month, DI Bello referenced 109 noise complaints from one block, 164th and Broadway, a car going around blasting music. What is being done? ANSWER: This is one of the three cars that have been identified in the last three days; there is a warrant for the arrest of the driver.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Wondering why the DA wouldn't give you that warrant for those bikes since used in crimes too? ANSWER: We don't have video of the individuals going into the facility.
- PUBLIC QUESTION:
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B. 34th Precinct Report (Lt. Taveras)

III. 34th precinct, Christian Perez

- STATS for 28-day period: Murder =1, Rape = 3, Robbery = 10; Felony assault = 20; Burglaries, 12; Grand larceny = 42; Grand larceny - auto = 13
- Also update re: shooting robbery last month at 153 Seaman, inform you that 2 arrests have been made; Burglaries, we have ID'ed suspect responsible for 3 burglaries -wanted flier has been created.
- Re: noise we have seen a little increase in the 34 but addressing it as it comes specifically around 9th Avenue, over 10 summonses have been issued in that area
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Noticed a car on Vermilyea near Academy/ 204 for the last couple of weeks. ANSWER: Also a fight a few days ago there. One man was shot and the shooter has been identified but the victim is not cooperating. So the car is there to minimize any illegal activity on the block.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: How many stabbings are part of the felony assaults? ANSWERS: Of the 20 assaults, 6 were domestic, none-sharp , only 1 was a stabbing and that was the person on the train found that

was ED. An arrest was made on the same day. His team is the one that made that arrest.

- COMMITTEE COMMENT: Comment abt Dyckman A train stop that was made at general meeting
- DI BELLO: Noticing spike re: possession of a weapon, but we used to be able to charge someone with a knife when they had a gravity knife but that is no longer illegal.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: This month is a year since we heard about animal abuse on Nagle Ave but still have no information about that despite asking a number of times. DI BELLO: Not everyone has access to get updates on a case (Squad detectives or CO yes, but a cop or detective or sergeant or lieutenant maybe no). Therefore, it could be more difficult to get more info, update.

B. Transit District 3 Report (Officer Travis Burks)

- Specific QUESTION from the transportation chair, Debby N: there are commercial cars parked in residential areas (207 and 190th). What is being done to enforce this issue? Esp. commercial cars overnight. ANSWER: (DI BELLO) Normally there is ticketing, but it's been hard towing vehicles. There is a large delay in getting tow trucks to come probably related to losing the tow pound in Manhattan.
- There was a community concern re: lack of enforcement.
- 28-day period: 13 crimes including one homicide at 181st A train station.
- QUESTION: Have you noticed a pattern re: knives on trains. ANSWER: Found an individual at 181st St. jamming machine, selling metrocards, but that was a year and a half ago and didn't find a knife on the person.

C. District Attorney

- In collaboration with CB9 and NYPD, DA's office is holding a second buyback event March 27, 10am - 4pm. Hosted at Convent Ave Church 420 West 145th Street. There is no flyer yet as they are trying to increase the amount for each gun to make the incentives up. At last event 48 guns were collected.
- Currently accepting applications for HS internship program in DA's office to learn about the criminal justice system and also to come up with their own ideas and policies. Dates are July 5-30 and August 2 - 27, both are virtual. Requirement: 1) Resident of Manhattan, 2) rising junior, senior or 2021 applicant, March 15th is the deadline, but if you want a flyer just contact me.

- QUESTION: Is internship paid? ANSWER: Trying to secure a stipend.
- QUESTION: How do we get a buyback event here in CB12? ANSWER: Stay in touch with DA's office; the office is willing to hold more events.

D. DOCCS - Edgecomb Facility

- 0 + for COVID; 100 ppl got vaccine, 98 staff and 2 inmates; second dose in 2 weeks (using Moderna)
- Suffered a manhole explosion a couple of weeks ago, right in front of facility, so out of power (had to use backup generator)
- Today we did a mock pursuit drill.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Why were only 2 inmates vaccinated? ANSWER: Depended on who met the criteria (over 65+ age and would still be in the facility for the second shot).

E. FDNY Report

No one from FDNY came to the meeting.

IV. Presentations: Reimagining Public Safety with *Guest Speakers*

A. Jackie Rowe Adams, Harlem Mothers SAVE Former member of CB12; was a mother of 4 now a mother of 2 as 2 sons were killed by gun violence. A community leader who started Harlem Mothers SAVE (stop another violent end).

B. NYC Public Advocate's Office Solomon Acevedo and Phillip Ellison Public Advocate Williams has created a Reimagining Public Safety document with 10 categories outlining areas in which skilled professionals - rather than the NYPD - may be the best-suited to address the situation. The categories include school safety, immigration, mental health issues, domestic violence, etc. Described two bills in City Council including one that proposes an alternative to 911 for certain emergencies. Introduced the BAN THE SCAN initiative to ban the use of facial recognition software by the NYPD.

C. Meg Young, Cornell Tech Researcher from Seattle who shared three reasons to support BAN THE SCAN. 1) Facial recognition software is often inaccurate and performs worse for black/ brown ppl esp. Women; 2) it can be used and resold (data) and don't know how far it will go; 3) because this is our face, it's hard to ever take that back.

D. Mutale Nkonde, AI for the People Researcher looking at biometric technologies and shared data about how this technology tool, often used

in housing and by law enforcement, is inaccurate and flawed particularly when used with non-white individuals.

BAN THE SCAN video, <https://banthescan.amnesty.org/>

Summary of discussion: Biometric technologies and facial recognition are flawed tools. This is not about good/bad police forces, it's about police forces using flawed tools and thus, they should not use them. Currently, it is high-tech cities such as San Francisco and Boston and on the national scale, it is white communities that are opposed to these technologies because it is a privacy issue. Here, we are talking about banning the use of facial recognition tools as a racial justice piece as well. There was also discussion about the Fast & Furious legislation presented by State Senator Brad Hoylman that includes a piece about having more research on surveillance. A part of the discussion was also about how the NYPD uses facial recognition versus how other police departments nationally use it including for establishing probable cause.

V. New Business/ April Agenda

Chairperson Young will be absent for the first time. He will be with his family supporting his brother who is being released after 10 years of incarceration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Minutes by Committee Member, Mariela Graham