

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

Chair: Curtis D. Young

Committee Members Present

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

Committee Members Absent

Francisco Alvarez  
Gabriella Estrella

Board Members Present

Public Member Present

Graham Ciraulo

Public Member Absent

Yomaris Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Commander Vaccaro (34th Precinct), Deputy Inspector Bello (33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct), Superintendent Miller (DOCCS), Sandra Sanchez (FDNY), Matthew Levy (Office of State Senator Robert Jackson)

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Meeting called to order at 7:07.

**I. Chair Welcome & Updates**

- Discussion of marijuana legalization cancelled because legislation passed.

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

**A. 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Report (Deputy Inspector Bello)**

- Effect of legalization of marijuana may result in fewer car searches and fewer gun arrests as many gun arrests stem from car searches due to marijuana
- The NYPD still needs more clarity on the details of the new marijuana laws
- Shootings are up in the 33<sup>rd</sup> from 1 last year to 4 this year.
- Uptick in arrests in the 33<sup>rd</sup> may be due to crimes in other precincts being committed by residents living in the 33<sup>rd</sup>.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: 1) Can someone still be arrested for having a certain quantity of marijuana 2) What reasons are there to search someone's vehicle in general. ANSWER: 1) Yes, but not sure what the basis will be to search. Smell of marijuana does not necessitate a search of the car but they can arrest for DWI if intoxicated. 2) Marijuana used to be #1 reason for search. 60% would lead to a firearm arrest after search. Did not elaborate on other causes for searching a vehicle
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Asked follow up on animal abuse incident brought up in prior meeting ANSWER: Capt. Bello checked with Vice who had closed the case. No additional information.

- PUBLIC QUESTION: Asked about a robbery on April 7 at 6:37 PM Corner of West 165 and Broadway? Are there patrol cars in the neighborhood driving around? Is the 33<sup>rd</sup> working with Bronx precincts to address the issue of illegal dirt bikes  
ANSWER: The robbery is a petty larceny from the Rite Aid. A car is at 162<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway. A pole camera has been requested for the location. Incident at 175th St. and St. Nicholas in response to a reported ride out of dirt bikes in response to a stabbing. One arrest was made of a Bronx resident.
- Public Question/Comment: What is the 33<sup>rd</sup> doing about dirt bikes from the Bronx? Expressed concern about more guns on the street if marijuana is legalized because there will be fewer stops and searches. ANSWER: Setting up posts. Focusing on stash sites and coordinating with precincts in the Bronx.
- PUBLIC Question: Is the precinct doing more work to stop the noise and drag racing on Dyckman and 10<sup>th</sup>? ANSWER: Because the question pertains to the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Chair shifts to 34<sup>th</sup> precinct report.

**B. 34th Precinct Report (3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Commander Vaccaro, Filling In For Deputy Inspector Andrea).**

- Lower manpower. 3-4 cars per tour. New noise taskforces focused on George Washington High and former La Marina. Loud cars setting off shot spotters.
- Up in robberies, grand larceny, and felony assaults.
- Jump in grand larcenies due to people leaving motors on while in stores etc.
  - a) CHAIR QUESTION: Is there a public info campaign to tell people not to leave unintended cars. ANSWER: Yes through Community Affairs
  - b) CHAIR requested flyer for CB12 to promote this message (was provided before end of meeting by DI Bello)
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Re-asked question about noise and dirt bike meet ups around Dyckman/207th and 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Ave? Is it possible to close any streets where traffic is not allowed, where meet-ups happen? ANSWER: City needs to approve shutting down streets which makes doing so difficult. 34<sup>th</sup> is relying on taskforces. Precinct understaffed making enforcement difficult.
  - a) CHAIR requested detailed conversation about precinct plan for summer enforcement at May meeting ANSWER: Commander Caro and Deputy Inspector Bello agreed
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Can you provide details on shooting/robbery near Fine Fare on Broadway? What is the precinct doing to combat fireworks? What is being done to address the reckless endangerment from dirt bikes? ANSWER: Inspector Bello: Fine Fare incident related to City Wide pattern 38 since 2019. Retaliation incident. Planned operations to capture vehicle offenders on camera and put out warrant.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION/COMMENT: Would like potential street closures to be brought to the committee. Police vehicles on Vermilyea between 204<sup>th</sup> and

Academy as a result of shooting a month ago. Why are they still there?

ANSWER: Ongoing investigation and high narcotics area. Might be removed during summer. Agrees that street closures should be brought to the committee. CHAIR recommends that they be brought to the Transportation Committee.

- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Asked if operations between the 34<sup>th</sup> and DEP will take place to address reckless driving activity like they are in the 33rd? What defines success? ANSWER: No operations planned yet. Solicited committee feedback on locations to target. No defined measures for success. Will be discussed at 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct meeting on April 8.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Any information on drug activity at Hillside and Ellwood? ANSWER: NCO program and narcotics are working on those complaints. Understaffed due to diversion of manpower to downtown as well as retirements and police leaving the force.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Is anyone from the Councilmember's Office present to hear these issues. ANSWER: No
  - a) CHAIR: The Councilmember should come to next meeting to hear these complaints

#### **C. DOCCS - Edgecombe Facility (Superintendent Miller)**

- COVID-19 Vaccinations 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (Moderna); Moving to Johnson & Johnson Vaccine for the rest of inmates
- 3-year Accreditation process underway. Pre-audit went well
- Fence project continues. May be done by end of spring.
- Change in population due to Covid – individuals on last 90 days and female work release.
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: Are newly released inmates going to be registered to vote? ANSWER: They will be given registration info but cannot be registered in the facility.

#### **D. FDNY Report (Sandra Sanchez)**

- FDNY and Red Cross are working to make sure NYC residents have working carbon monoxide detectors. Call 1-877-RED-CROS for more info or assistance.
- CB 12 Stats:
  - a) Structure fires in March: 41 YTD: 127
  - b) Non-Structural Fires in March: 23 YTD: 166
  - c) Non med emergencies in March 321 YTD: 1032
  - d) Medical emergencies in March 587 YTD: 1788
- Three top causes of fire in 2020
  - 1. Incendiary (open flame)
  - 2. Electrical
  - 3. Appliance

### III. State Budget Update

#### A. Report from Senator Robert Jackson's Office (Matthew Levy, Legislative Director)

- MRTA legalized adult marijuana possession and use
- Creation of Cannabis Control Board (CCB) and Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to oversee execution of cannabis laws. This will take up to 18 months before we see legal sales. Regulation needs to be created.
- Different Licenses need to be established: Adult use cultivation license; Adult use processing license; Adult use distributor license; Dispensary license; Adult Use consumption sites license
- CCB will consist of five members and aim for proportional geographic representation
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: What steps will there be to make sure license costs aren't prohibitively expensive? ANSWER: Mr. Levy did not see anything in the bill about specific cost structure. Will circle back.
- Legislation allows for expungement of criminal convictions for marijuana arrests. Expungements are not automatic.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: Is there data on the effect on the local drug dealers. ANSWER: Mr. Levy will look into it.
- CHAIR: Enforcement of marijuana legislation will be a May agenda item.
- CHAIR: Asked committee members for thoughts on a CB12 public hearing on implications of marijuana legislation.
  - a) Committee member response: be careful to frame in terms of pro/com
- COMMITTEE QUESTION: What will happen to those who continue to sell illegally? ANSWER: Mr. Levy can't speak to penalties at this point. They have yet to be established.
- PUBLIC QUESTION: What is the mechanism for enforcement? ANSWER: OCM is responsible for enforcement but does not have criminal authority, only civil. Cannot speak to law enforcement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Minutes by Committee Public Member, Graham Ciraulo