

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MANHATTAN
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 2, 2014

Committee Members

Rud Morales, Asst Chair
Chris O'Sullivan
Liliana Saneaux
Pamel Palanque-North

Public Member

Michael Mowatt-Wynn

Members Absent

Luis Tejada, Chair
(excused)

CB 12 Members Attending

George Fernandez, Jr.
Obie Bing

Attendees: Nancy Preston, Osi Kaminer, Sheila Massey, Mary Anderson, Nigel Chiwaya-DNA Info, Dep. Insp. Fausto Pichardo-33rd Pct., Lt. C. Muniz-34th Pct., Dep Insp. Chris Morello-34th Pct., Det. H. Pabey-34th Pct., Sandrine Fermino- DA's office

The meeting was called to order at: 7:20pm by G. Fernandez, CB Chair - PSC Chair Luis Tejada, absent due to illness, Rud Morales, Asst. Chair due to arrive by 8 pm.

NYPD Updates:

34 Th Precinct

The new Commander of the 34th Precinct, Deputy Inspector C. Morello, introduced himself to all and shared his impressive past assignments and posts within the NYPD (most recently a C.O. with NYCHA Police force) and provided his vision of how the 34th officers would interact with the community going forward. He outlined his immediate priorities as per law enforcement and community relations. Immediate actions will include assessing all aspects of the precinct and all conditions within the precinct boundaries. He looks forward to working in a cooperative and productive manner with the residents, community representatives, elected officials, and business owners. CO Morello is committed to having the safest, most efficient and responsive precinct possible.

Overview of recent crime statistics YTD 34th Precinct:

Murder no change (0)
Rape - decrease (-33%)
Robbery - increase (+29.8%)
Fel Assault – (-21%)
Burglary - decrease (-44%)
Grand Larceny - increase (+25.8%)

Overview of recent crime statistics YTD 33rd Precinct

NYPD Deputy Inspector Fausto Pichardo, reported on crime statistics YTD

Murder - No change
Rape - increase (+66.7%)
Robbery - decrease (-23.2%)
Fel Assault - increase (+14.3)
Burglary - increase (+16.7)
Grand Larceny - decrease (-4.4)
Overview of 33 and 34 Th. reports:

C.O. Pichardo issued an advisory to the public: **Do not** leave vehicles operating and unattended at any time. Most of the thefts of cars (grand larceny) were done when a driver left the vehicle operating and left the car to go into to a store or residence.

Identity Theft - Is a major problem and source of crime across the district. Public advised to shred all documents before placing in the trash. Protect and secure all forms of ID when at home or outside of the home.

Cell phones - when walking or in a public place and speaking on a cell phone be aware of your surroundings at all times. A number of phones are snatched when a person is walking on a street or in a park and not paying attention. Everyone should register their electronic equipment with the NYPD - free program and very useful in the tracing stolen phones.

Robbery: Planet Fitness opening large location in WH - reports of individuals stealing from lockers at local gym. Report of stolen wallet from locker which did not have a lock on it.

CO Pichardo, advises that at no time should patrons leave belongings in an unsecured locker.

Manhattan DA Report

Manhattan District Attorney's office representative provided an update on the Legal Bound Youth Internship Program - reported that there are 40 positions and that a large number of applications were received from students in the borough and from WAHI - interviewing and selection process underway.

Opened a Family Assistance Unit - A "one-stop-shop" unit. Changes in DA services to youth - Now working with Youth Parolees who are re-entering the community.

Started a "Saturday Night Light" program at G. Washington HS ages 11-18 (only)-also offering tutoring to eligible students (Middle - HS).

Introduction of Resolution supporting the transfer of Humane Law Enforcement from the ASPCA to NYPD - Sheila Massey

Sheila Massey, from TRAP which is an organization of volunteers who are committed to the population control and protection of Feral Cats provided background on the inhumane treatment of Feral Cats in WAHI And the transfer of Humane Law Enforcement from the ASPCA to NYPD. The 33rd Precinct has been working cooperatively with Ms Massey on the case of cruelty of Feral Cats.

She presented a resolution for the PSC to discuss, hopefully present to the full Board for approval (see attachment). Ms Massey reported that Feral cats are being killed in Washington Heights and that crimes against Feral cats go un-investigated because of adherence to a standard that requires a witness to the crime i.e. "no witness - no crime".

The resolution calls for developing protocols that creates different standards and stronger law regarding animal cruelty.

Ms. Massey provided background on TRAP which is an initiative that identifies, traps, neuters and returns feral cats to their colonies in the communities.

Managed feral cat colonies control rat infestation and are of benefit to the community

Discussion

General discussion and consensus among committee members to take action on Feral Cat proposed resolution in May. Chris O'Sullivan stated that an earlier version of the resolution was s clearer statement about the issue - current resolution needs to be shortened. Liliana Saneaux- motion to place on next month's agenda Motion: Table the discussion of the TRAP Resolution

until the May 6 PSC at which time further discussion and crafting of a resolution will be done by the PSC, 2nd, P. Palanque North - No objections

Identity Theft

G.Fernandez and O.Bing proposed to the PSC that the committee conduct a special initiative to address identity theft. They shared traumatic personal experiences with having their own or a family members ID stolen. Shared that while attending a meeting with NYPH to address another issue they discussed ID theft with J.Batista and received an offer from him to provide funds to conduct an activity to Shred documents. Most members in favor of such action but expressed concern about undertaking this initiative. While addressing the other PSC initiatives agreed to i.e. School-based violence forum, mandated and Elevated sentencing for Youth Gang Violence; Domestic Violence. Members also expressed an interest in discussing the Shredding Project when Luis is present. G. Fernandez, assured the PSC that L. Tejada had been briefed on the project and was in support of The action.

Discussion:

Community Residents raised issues/concerns with the 33rd and 34th representatives:

- Water bottles filled with urine are being left on sidewalk by car service drivers. Discussion about identifying car service company and raising this problem with the company when they appear before the CB for their base-station license renewal. Urinating on the street is a criminal offense
-
- Is the NYPD responsible for bicycles tied to street poles for an extended period of time. **Answer.** DI Morello will get back to the PSC but it is thought to be the responsibility of DOT.
- UNIDOS representative- Night Life Industry - request for help in resolving issues related to night life i.e. after-hour noise caused by loitering by patrons. Told by NYPD that they cannot get involved with Loitering even if its after 4am. Answer: DI Morello will look into all complaints but these are primarily addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Noise Complaints and police response to calls to complaints - police not responding in some instances and DEP will not respond after 2am.

Michael Mowatt-Wynn - President 33rd Precinct Council

33rd Precinct Newsletter - give your email address to 33 pct C.A.

Multicultural Diversity Fair - May 31 12-6pm - Founded by Chief Banks

Please attend Council meetings last Wednesday September –June.May change the time of 33 & 34Th

Council meetings to create greater attendance

34Th Community Council Update

Next council meeting of 34Th Precinct will be held at Campbell sports complex at Baker field

M. Buczek Little League - April 26 1pm
Ages 7-16 males and females
Open to all youth and children

Submitted by: Pamela Palanque-North
Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm