

## Community Board 12 Public Safety January Meeting Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hammer Building Room 304

**Present: Committee:** Arlene Schulman, Chair; Javier Trejo, Assistant Chair; Katharine Diaz; Natalie Espino, Richard Lewis, Rud Morales, Carlos Suero (all present)

**Public:** Deborah Cardona

The meeting was called to order by Arlene Schulman, Chair, at 7:01 pm

Due to scheduling issues, members of the 34<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Precincts, Transit District Three, and the FDNY were not in attendance. The DA's office was not in attendance due to a family emergency. As a result, reports from New Year's and the month of December as well as current information will be requested for the February meeting.

- The topic of February's meeting is Crime Prevention. The crime prevention officer from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct will be presenting safety tips for residents.
- In response to mail box tampering and missing packages, the Committee is planning a meeting around the mailbox safety and package delivery. Members Natalie Espino and Rud Morales agreed to coordinate speakers from UPS and USPS for this meeting. The meeting date is likely March, May or June.
- April's meeting date is a joint meeting with Parks and Cultural Affairs to discuss safety in our uptown parks.
- Chair Arlene Schulman is in touch with the Port Authority Police to invite them to talk about suicides on the George Washington Bridge. Possible dates if they are agreeable would be February (which would bump crime prevention), March, May or June.
- The committee unanimously passed a resolution in support of body cams. It was clarified that resolutions are recommendations, not legislation, and that the committee does not have the power to make demands.
  - For some police officers, body cams may represent an invasion of their personal privacy. For some community members, it represents safe keeping for the officers and the public. It is not up to the committee to decide so that recommendation was made in the resolution that the Justice Department make that decision.
  - Committee voting on the resolution:
    - Yes – Arlene Schulman, Javier Trejo, Katharine Diaz, Natalie Espino, Rud Morales, Carlos Suero,
    - No – Richard Lewis
    - Yes – Public – Deborah Cardona

- Committee member Rud Morales suggested that the public should have access to review complaints against police officers assigned to our district and asked if there is a way to find out if an officer is in good standing. This issue was tabled for further discussion, including possibly inviting a representative of the police union (PBA) to join the discussion. Another part of the discussion includes what to do with this information if one has it available.
- Community resident Deborah Cardona expressed a concern that the fire department trucks and city buses are not be able to travel through some blocks due to space allocated to doublewide biking lines. This can jeopardize public safety. She also noted that the FDNY is not invited to the planning of new bike lanes. The FDNY was not available to provide additional insight into this issue.
- Deborah Cardona brought up issues regarding the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Council and how it is run. Since this is a separate entity, she was referred back to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.