

**Community Board 12 - Public Safety Committee Minutes**  
**September 4, 2019**  
**7-9pm**

**Chair: Curtis D. Young**

Committee Members Present

Curtis D. Young (Chair)  
Danielle Jettoo (Asst. Chair)  
Noquel Matos (Asst. Chair)  
Katherine Diaz  
Gabriella Estrella  
Yosef Kalinsky

Committee Members Absent

Alex Friedman (Excused)  
Eileen King (Excused)  
Juan Mateo (Excused)  
Brian Eshak (Excused)  
Hek Mukhtarzada (Excused)

Board Members Present

Ashley Fernandez  
Liz Ritter  
Richard Lewis

Public Member Present

Graham Ciarulo

Public Member Absent

**Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Agenda**

Curtis Young, Public Safety Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was recorded to a digital audio file on an OLYMPUS handheld device. Board members introduced themselves as did members of city agencies and the public. A quorum was established for the meeting. New committee member, Ashley Fernandez, was welcomed.

**NYPD 33 Precinct (CO Charlie Bello)**

CO Bello reported on an increase of grand larcenies in the reporting period, 2.5 robberies a week compared to the past 2.1 robberies a week. There are active robbery patterns on 165, 167, and 168th street between the avenues of Amsterdam to St. Nicholas.

There is a recent spike in car break-ins between 162nd street and 165th street on Edgecombe Avenue. CO Bello suspects that it is because there is limited foot traffic and lack of light and cameras. There is also an increase in package thefts. NYPD has recently created a category for these incidents for tracking purposes. To mitigate these thefts, the NYPD is requesting that all packages that are ordered require a signature from the recipient.

There was a homicide on June 8th, in which six individuals tried to rob another group of individuals and one was shot. Three of the six individuals have been apprehended and the NYPD have identified the other three individuals who are still at large.

CO Bello has requested two cameras on Riverside and Edgecombe, respectively, to help assist in the apprehension of the individuals who are participating in these grand larcenies. Chair of the Board, Richard Lewis calls for the board to review the budget and consider these requests as a priority.

CO Bello shares the recent slashings on 165th street. All three victims are of Mexican descent and have all been during the afternoon or at night. Two occurred on August 8th and one occurred on September 3rd. There has been a challenge as victims are reluctant to come forward due to their status in the United States. The committee suggests officers who are on this patrol carry palm cards in English and in Spanish informing people of their rights.

**NYPD 34 Precinct (Officer Montaza)**

PO Montaza presented on the current increase in robberies for the 34. Burglaries have been stable in this 28 day period but there is an increase in strongarm robberies (no weapons, just physical force) and suspects are

getting away via dirtbikes. There are photos of the suspects but the police have been unable to identify them. The majority of these incidents are taking place East of Broadway.

There is also an increase in package thefts similar to the 33. Two men have been caught however they are back on the streets due to the fact that this is a non violent offense and is below a Class E felony. There has also been an increase in stolen motorcycles however no progress has been made in identifying the suspects.

Board Member, Liz Ritter, requested an update on the bomb threat at Success Academy on 9/4 from the 34 at our next meeting.

A community member expressed concern for the increase in engines on motorcycles and cars occurring on St. Nicholas Avenue as it is a health hazard. The NYPD is not supposed to chase motorists because victims have died. They are instead to use body worn cameras to record the incident to generate a report. They receive a surplus of 911 calls because of the engines as they sound very similar to gun shots. The NYPD has implemented a shot spotter at different parts of the city, machines that identify when a shot has gone off. 75% of these shots receive no 911 call according to CO Bello. The NYPD tries to monitor social media to ascertain when events and meetups are happening so they can then mitigate risks and apprehend suspects.

A speed camera has been requested on Fort George Hill for cars and bikes.

Drug Transactions at 191st Street Station: Community members expressed their concern and disapproval of the lack of action of the NYPD to improve this. PO Montaza and Chief Bello then share that these offenses are now 'DAT's (desk appearance tickets) which allow suspects to be apprehended and then released within hours with a ticket to return to a judge.

#### **Washington Heights Office of Manhattan District Attorney (Ely, Community Liaison)**

The Manhattan District Attorney's office hosted two festivals in July and August that had a positive turnout of the community. The goal for these events were to create a space for healing for victims of gun violence in East and West Harlem. A future goal is to expand these festivals passed these neighborhoods.

The Manhattan DA's office has also created programming called SNL (Saturday Night Live) which is a program founded in 2011 as a violence prevention program for the youth in the Manhattan and Bronx community. This programming is now expanding across all five boroughs with some boroughs including a Friday night programming as well.

The DA's office has moved their records expungement initiative forward. Specific requirements will be presented by Ely in October. So far, the DA's office has expunged 300 convictions in partnership with the Legal Aid Society.

#### **Public Comments:**

Maria De La Cruz from Comptroller Singer's office shared that there will be a Hispanic Heritage Month event at the Sugarhill Children's Museum on September 16, 2019 at 6:30pm.

A long-time resident of Washington Heights expressed his concern and discontent for the use of bicycles on the sidewalk as they are a danger to the public. As a reminder, electric bikes are not legal in New York City and as community members need to navigate how we will counterbalance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

