

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
50TH POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 3, 2016
(Pending Committee Approval)**

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

Joseph O'Brien	Committee Chair CB8 Public Safety Committee
Lenora Croft	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Margaret Donato	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Arturo Guzman	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Robert Press	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Mary Yamagata	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Herb Young	CB8 Public Safety Committee
Myra Joyce	Community Committee Member
Dan Padernacht	Chair, CB8
Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz	NY State Assembly
Councilman Andrew Cohen	NYC Council
Chris Rearen	FDNY
Tom O'Connor	Precinct Council
Anthony Capote	Riverdale Press
Urbano Estevez	Ibiza Lounge
Mike Fenwick	Jay's Place
Daisy Baez	Community Resident
Kevin Minogue	Community Resident
Ken Ito	Community Resident
Nelson Torres	Community Resident
Alisha Monise	Community Resident
Yudelka Matten	Community Resident

ABSENT

Ed Molina	Community Committee Member
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Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Public Safety Committee Chair O'Brien.

Members of the Public Safety Committee introduced themselves.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved unanimously (Joseph O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Robert Press, Mary Yamagata, Herb Young, CCM Myra Joyce).

Captain O'Toole presented the police report

Crime for the 30 days preceding is up statistically.

Reported were: 1 rape, 17 robberies, 12 felony assaults, 46 grand larceny. The majority of the felony assaults were domestic incidents.

The Captain spoke of "Compstat 2.0", an interactive website that shows the crime statistics. Pick a crime and it gives the number of incidents.

<https://compstat.nypdonline.org/> NBC will be reporting on CompStat 2.0, although there is no date yet for the report.

Councilman Cohen & Assemblyman Dinowitz spoke about the cabaret license for Ibiza.

Assemblyman Dinowitz said he has concerns about cabaret licenses in residential areas because a cabaret presents a noise problem. There is also concern about other unwelcome behavior in the vicinity and he would be opposed to it if it was on his block. Having a cabaret license, he said, leads to a whole other level of issues and called it a bad idea because it is a bad location

Councilman Cohen agreed with Assemblyman Dinowitz's concerns. He wants it on the record that having a cabaret license at this location is not appropriate.

Urbano Estevez, owner of Ibiza Lounge (DBA Barcelona Bites) said he had a cabaret license previously. He said the location has been converted into a restaurant and renovated to reduce the level of noise. He changed skylights to keep noise from escaping and keeps the windows closed during the night.

Assemblyman Dinowitz said there were complaints about the bright lights of the establishment shining into neighbors' windows.

Mr. Estevez said he has an open door policy and that if there are complaints people should come in and speak to him.

Community residents at the meeting all spoke about the loud noise level coming from the establishment. Some said the noise was so loud that their windows were shaking.

One woman said her bedroom faces the street and the music is so loud that she cannot sleep. She hears the volume of the DJ over her TV. Many people have spoken to Mr. Estevez and told him that he has to do something about it. They also said the patrons leave the bar and linger making noise. All the residents are convinced that no sound-proofing measures have been taken.

Community resident, Jan Holland, of Manhattan College Parkway called the CB8 office to submit a complaint about the closing time noise in the a.m. She said the police will come and disperse crowd but the same thing occurs the next night.

Community resident, Nelson Torres says his building vibrates at night. His windows shake. He also noted that it seems like the back of the restaurant has been renovated, and having patrons out there will cause additional problems. He also stated that there are fights at night and people urinating. Mr. Estevez was asked how he plans to address that. Mr. Estevez said this was the first time he's hearing of it.

Community resident, Yudelka Mattin said there is constant noise, sporadic fights at 3:00, 4:00 in the morning and too much noise.

Captain O'Toole said they don't have multiple complaints at the location, but there have been issues with parking valets.

Mr. Estevez said they installed "Monolithic glass" as recommended by the Department of Buildings. It was very expensive. They plan to take other measures. They have been renovating for 1.5 years.

Community Board Chair, Dan Padernacht, had several questions about the area the surveillance cameras (2 outside the front entrance) capture - east to corner, west up Manhattan College Parkway. The back camera covers the Manhattan College parking lot.

Camera recordings are retained 30 days, and are always accessible to the police.

He also asked about security guards and Mr. Estevez said that on Fridays and Saturdays he has 8 to 9 security guards on, and 5 during the day, Monday to Thursday.

Mr. Padernacht said that if Mr. Estevez has a cabaret license it will just result in more people, more noise and more problems. He is inclined to say no to the cabaret license, because of the noise complaints.

Mr. Estevez said Ibiza won't have live bands.

Mr. Padernacht asked who the principals in the establishment are:

Mr. Estevez said that there are now three owners but shortly he will be 51% owner and Juan Goris will have the remaining 49%.

Mr. Press stated that on the Cabaret license it doesn't show that ownership and Mr. Estevez said the change will be made shortly.

Lenora Croft asked if he has seen on camera patrons not behaving. Yes, he did have an incident with someone outside who never actually came in.

Arturo Guzman asked about the renovations in the back. Mr. Estevez replied that they renovated to remove dirt and trees and to get rid of rats and put down pavers.

Mary Yamagata asked why he didn't turn down the volume, it's just common courtesy.

Mr. Estevez answered that he will do everything to correct the noise issue.

Room capacity 175 upstairs. 175 downstairs, next door 75 (El Pollocon)

Herb Young spoke of using glass at the club that is capable of blocking the noise of trains as a way to reduce the noise. He said that the noise issues have not been addressed correctly because the noise complaints persist.

Mr. Press said he has a history here, does not want to vote against this so he will abstain.

Vote on cabaret license. A motion was made by the chair to vote NO on the cabaret license for Ibiza.

In favor (of denying approval for the license): 6 (Joseph O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Mary Yamagata, CCM Myra Joyce)

Abstained: 2 (Robert Press, Herb Young)

Liquor License Renewal

Jays Place, represented by Mike Fenwick

Captain O'Toole stated that there have been no problems at Jay's Place.

Vote to renew license: Unanimous (Joseph O'Brien, Lenora Croft, Margaret Donato, Arturo Guzman, Robert Press, Mary Yamagata, Herb Young, CCM Myra Joyce)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Myra Joyce