

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AT THE
50TH POLICE PRECINCT, 3450 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE**

ATTENDANCE

Arlene Feldmeier
Joe O'Brien
Tom O'Connor
Myra Joyce
Lenora Croft
Robert Press
Beverly Fettman
David Gellman
Amy Joy Robateau
Andrew Sandler
Det. John Foder
Captain Ed Molina
Gardenia Slade
Elizabeth Thompson
Freddie Thomas
Eson Chen
Anthony Capote
Joel Hatch
Joseph Crotty
Patrick Doherty
Ernie Carafa
Bonnie Carafa
Harold Harrison
Thomas Healy
Ammer Saleh
Patricia Murphy
Yokarina Duarte
Kevin Clark
Gail Cogen

AFFILIATION

Chair
Vice-Chair
50 Precinct Community Council
Community Committee Member
cb-8
cb-8
cb-8
cb-8
cb-8
rep. Councilman Cohen's Office
50 Precinct
Community Member

KHNIA

Palace of Japan
Riverdale Press
resident
Fenwick's
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"
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Madden's
"
Office Of Emergency Management
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Minutes:

The committee was called to order on Thursday, September 17, 2015 by Chair Arlene Feldmeier.

The meeting opened with a presentation from the NYC Office of Emergency Management about being prepared for emergencies including hurricanes and

other weather-related emergencies, loss of electricity and/or water or other emergencies.

The minutes for the August meeting were approved unanimously, with an amendment by Robert Press.

Chair Feldmeier announced a Health & Wellness Block Party on September 26th on Reservoir Avenue between University Avenue and 197th Street from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

She said that a letter she proposed to extend the Vision Zero pedestrian safety program to school areas (see minutes of August meeting) was being reviewed with the inclusion of the chairs of the Traffic and Transit Committee and the Education Committees.

She noted the advent of synthetic marijuana, a new and dangerous drug, and asked committee members and the public to come up with ideas for programs to alert the community and its children to the dangers of the drug. She said that there was some money available from the Community Board for relevant programs.

The police report showed a year-to-date increase in major crime categories of 3.7%, 644 major crimes this year versus 621 last year. A community resident noted a specific incident of a young man robbing people in Starbuck's and that he seemed to be always freed after being arrested. The police reported that he has been sent to a drug rehab program and had not been in trouble lately.

Several community members spoke to the problem of homelessness in Ewen Park. The police advised calling 311 and asking for Homeless Services to be directed to the homeless person or persons. The police representative suggested leaving a phone number when calling 311 or 911 for possible follow-up on the report, either for further information or for a report on the disposition of the case. Community residents also spoke of marijuana smoking in the area.

Licenses:

Palace of Japan, 3505 Johnson Av, and Fenwick's, 432 West 238 Street, applied for renewal of full licenses. Madden's will move into 5757 Broadway (the former Bridge Bar) and is extensively renovating the locale, including enlarging the windows. The new owners stated that they have no connection with the former owners and that they hoped to open in December. They were told of the Community Board policy of closure at 2:00 a.m. for the first year and have agreed.

The discussion on Fenwick's led to an extensive discussion of a side issue, privacy, and how long Fenwick's would keep computerized records, including

pictures, it makes of patrons. David Gellman raised the issue. The Police asked it be kept at least a day, citing the possible example of a woman leaving with someone she met who later assaulted her. Police said it was good to be able to go back to a location and retrieve the identification. After some discussion, Fenwick's said they would keep the information for a day or two and then erase it.

In the absence of a quorum, approval votes were laid over for the licenses.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.