



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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BRIAN BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, December 20, 2016

Hon. Jason Clark, Chair

Hon. Aarian Punter, Vice Chair

MINUTES

Committee and Board members in Attendance: Jason Clark, Aarian Punter, Keith Taylor, John Lynch, Donna Gill, and Daniel Clark.

Excused Absence: Jamilah Clark

Absent: Lupe Moreno

Harlem Public Safety Issues Briefing:

The meeting began with a briefing of public safety issues conducted by Public Safety Vice Chair Aarian Punter. Mrs. Punter began by discussing the grand opening of Street Corner Resources' office located at 151 West 145th Street. The grand opening was on December 9, 2016 and was very well attended. Under the stewardship of Mrs. Punter, the Public Safety Committee is looking forward to working with Street Corner Resources to reduce crime in our neighborhoods.

We also discussed the uptick in violent crimes that have occurred in Harlem. Over the last month, there were several shootings including two shootings that led to the deaths of Harlem resident Raheem McWhite as well an unidentified woman in King Tower Houses.

Presentation & Discussion Items:

Street Corner Resources ("SCR") Outreach Supervisor Arthur Durham discussed the plans for SCR moving forward. SCR, under the leadership of Executive Director Iesha Sekou, is a violence prevention program sponsored by the federal government's Cure Violence initiative. SCR aims to create a more peaceful community by providing teenagers and young adults greater access to a life away from crime. It focuses most of its efforts on reducing the number of youths active in gangs from 137 to 145 Streets, between 7th and Lenox Avenues. While there has been a string of new shootings in Harlem, it is noteworthy that as of December 19, 2016, there have been no shootings with SCR's jurisdiction for **52 days**. SCR works in partnership with Harlem Hospital to mediate gang violence conflicts and assist gang violence victims. SCR also

collaborates with Legal Aid and C.A.S.E.S. to provide some of its clients with legal support. SCR conduct conflict resolution workshops at Harlem Renaissance High School and is helping to get former gang members enrolled in GED classes. On the last Friday of every month, SCR hosts an “I am Peace” poetry slam at 233 West 140th Street.

One of the ideas discussed during Mr. Durham’s presentation is expanding the Cure Violence initiative. It was suggested that we may wish to send a letter to U.S. Congressman Adriano Espaillat to see if his office would consider sponsoring a second Cure Violence initiative in Harlem. Mr. Durham indicated that he would send us the statistics and data that reflect the positive influence SCR has had on the community, so that we can cite this information in our letter.

Metropolitan Black Bar Association (“MBBA”) Executive Director Kim Parker presented on a new initiative that Ms. Parker and Public Safety Chair Jason Clark have been discussing called “Suited for Success.” Suited for Success is a men’s suit drive for recent parolees from Rikers Island Prison Complex. Statistics show that within 3 years of release, 67% of released prisoners are re-arrested. The goal of this program will be to help recent parolees stay on the right path by making it just a little easier for them to find gainful employment. The drive will last from January 9, 2017 to February 6, 2017 and members of the Harlem community are being encouraged to drop off gently used suits, shirts, shoes, etc. in a clothing bin we’ll be keeping in the Community Board 10 Office. At the end of the drive, we’ll be sending participants a tax deduction form for their donations. Kevin Livingston and his organization “100 Suits for 100 Men” is also collaborating with us on this project.

Public Safety member John Lynch provided an update on the Public Safety Committee’s Certificate of Release for Employment Initiative. Mr. Lynch, with the assistance of New York County Clerk Milton Tingling’s Office, is get more ex-offenders registered to vote. Qualified participants will also receive official “certificates of release” from the New York County Clerk’s Office to help get jobs.

Next Committee Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017.