

Community Board 12, Public Safety Meeting

April 6, 2016

Minutes

Public Safety Committee – Arlene Schulman, Chair; Javier Trejo, Assistant Chair (Minutes); Richard Lewis; Isidro Medina; Alyce Smith

Absent: Rud Morales; Katharine Diaz; Rasheed Young (Public Member)

34th Precinct: Deputy Inspector Reymundo Mundo and Detective Haydee Pabey of Community Affairs

33rd Precinct: Police Officer Carmen Gomez of Community Affairs

Manhattan District Attorney's Office: Joselinne Minaya, Director, and Jennifer Araujo, Community Coordinator of the Community Partnerships Unit

Public: Former NYPD Chief and 34th Precinct Commanding Officer Nicholas Estavillo; Former NYPD 34th Precinct Detective Lucas Peña; David Toser; Nancy Preston; Patricia Collyer; Chris O'Sullivan

Program: *Cracking the Case: A Conversation with Former NYPD 34th Precinct Detective Lucas Peña*

Location: Fort Washington Avenue Armory

Introductions and General Information: 7:10 pm

- A joint meeting of Public Safety and the Parks Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7pm at the CB12 offices. Commanding officers of the 34th and 33rd Precincts have been invited as well as a rep from FDNY, Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP), and the Parks Department.
- Committee members are likely to change in May with the influx of new appointees and committee changes made by the CB 12 Chair.
- Our June meeting is an opportunity to discuss programming for the rest of the year and will likely include ADA Molly Brottmiller for a presentation on gangs.
- All (Committee members and public) were reminded to review Compstat stats which are available online and are also printed out, with the focus on examining the stats, rather than have the precincts recite the information.
- A link to Compstat is here: <https://compstat.nypdonline.org>

- National Night Out will take place in August with the 34th and 33rd Precincts and Transit District 3 all participating in activities.

Deputy Inspector Reymundo Mundo of the 34th Precinct spoke about issues affecting the 34th Precinct, particularly slashings and a stabbing occurring close to clubs. He noted that they did not occur inside of the establishments. One stabbing did result in a homicide outside of Opus Lounge Street. Inspector Mundo stated that:

- A meeting was held with the owners of Opus, Cliff, and Vacca where it was agreed that exit times would be staggered so that a smaller amount of customers exit onto the street at the same time;
- The owners of these establishments have been very cooperative and have made a change in security companies used for their events;
- These three establishment agreed to scan driver's licenses and will videotape the premises indoors (note from Committee Chair Arlene Schulman while editing minutes: these establishments should already have cameras inside);
- Inspector Mundo will be holding another meeting with club owners (the following Wednesday) regarding rules and regulations to avoid these major situations outside of these establishments.
- A question from Richard Lewis regarding the timing of when the Community Board finds out about incidents going on in the nightclubs: Inspector Mundo noted that it should not be an issue communicating such incidents to the board. It was strongly requested that the Commanding Officer attend Licensing Committee meetings to find out what is going on with SLA/ licensing requests.

Introduction of former NYPD Chief and former 34th Precinct Commanding Officer Nicholas Estavillo: Mr. Estavillo spoke about his experiences throughout his years in the 34th Precinct, in Manhattan North, and in the NYPD, and how the Washington Heights and Inwood community has changed and grown. He discussed how the 34th Precinct was split into two and the formation of the 33rd Precinct. Mr. Estavillo stated that one problem that has not gone away is noise in the community. He worked with both Inspector Mundo and Mr. Peña.

Introduction of Police Officer Carmen Gomez of the 33rd Precinct's Community Affairs Office

- Stats regarding homelessness are forthcoming
- No major changes in stats since the last meeting
- The precinct has reported a rise in grand larceny due to packages being left unattended

- People should be a bit more careful with open handbags and purses which are also left unattended
- Both precincts are focused on illegal motorcycles and motorbikes.
- The question arose about finding out when trespass affidavits expire and the possibilities of business owners/managers adding cameras in for security. The DA's office replied that this can be encouraged but not mandated. Trespass affidavits used to expire in three months, but now expire in six months.

Introduction of Jennifer Araujo of the Manhattan DA's Washington Heights office

- Distribution of flyers for the DA's office city-wide/April 10th 34th Annual Victims Crime Vigil as a way of providing people with a way of coming together
- Clean Slate/Warrant Amnesty event will now be taking place on the Lower East Side, rather than in Harlem as the event is moving around the city.
- Regarding the new initiatives surrounding criminal summonses: There's no cutting down on arrests. Summonses will be given and instead of making an arrest, the person will be taken directly to arraignment to minimize these cases at the DA's office so that larger cases can be taken care of. If the person has a warrant, they will be taken to the location where the warrant is given (if the warrant is given in the Bronx, they will be taken there). Those committing infractions who do not have identification will be taken to the local precinct to obtain I.D. from a family member or friend to avoid unnecessary incarceration.

Program: Introduction of former NYPD 34th Precinct Detective Lucas Peña

- Mr. Peña spoke about his experiences with the New York City Police Department and how conditions in Washington Heights and Inwood have improved. He retired in 2003.
- He made comparisons between police shows and real life crimes.
- Mr. Peña discussed why he became a police officer; how his parents felt about his joining the Police Department; the importance of working with a great partner; different cases and how the outcomes of cases involving children, in particular, affected him.
- He identified the differences between manslaughter and murder (intent) and how the NYPD works with the DA's office in terms of charges.
- Mr. Peña spoke of the police hierarchy, detectives in terms of grades, and promotional ranks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.