

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Public Safety Committee Meeting
Large Conference Room - 530 West 166th Street
New York, NY 10032
June 7, 2017

Committee Members Present: Richard Lewis, Interim Chair, Natalie Espino, Domingo Estevez, Rud Morales (late), and Katherine Diaz (late).

CB12 Board Members Present:

Edgar Roman.

Guests: Allan Valerio, Manhattan District Attorney, Sandy Ramirez (SOBRO HEAT Program), Lt. Salvatore Marchese (NYPD 34th Precinct), Lt. Albert Rodriguez (NYPD 33rd Precinct), PO Danny Guzman Community Affairs (NYPD 33rd Precinct), PO Allan Hassel, NCO Sector Charlie (NYPD 33rd Precinct).

Welcome and Call to Order.

Meeting called to order 7:25pm. Chair gave a few introductory remarks as this will be the last committee meeting until September.

Report by the District Attorney's Office.

Allan Valerio introduced himself as the new representative from the Washington Heights Manhattan District Attorney's Office:

Announced the "Clean Slate" event June 17, 2017 where New Yorkers can get amnesty for summonses and certain warrants.

Presentation: Richard Lewis Community Board 12

PowerPoint© presentation of the results from a thirty (30) page research study with extensive photos, graphics and a full audit with the assistance of the 33rd Precinct on "**Light Outages: Defective Light Fixtures, Preventable Cycles of Mass Outages and Public Safety Issues**" in Fort Washington Park (from West 155th Street to the George Washington Bridge). Note: *The entire report (paper or digital) is available on file at the board office.*

- ▶ Report notes the rise in outages and crime in that park during the third quarter; *(Stats on six major crime categories for parks of one acre in our community district and reported by laws by the NYPD for four quarters from 2016 to 2017 was recompiled by the chair and supplied as a handout with graphs).*
- ▶ Report notes the lack of identification tags on these lights so that their location cannot be precisely reported to 311 or others where there is an outage;
- ▶ Report shows how the only park Call Box was out for some time until reported by the NYPD sector officers;
- ▶ Report makes the observation that there is no lumination or lights around said Call Box and raises the issue on how could it be located at night?
- ▶ Report showed photos of abandoned and non-functioning light fixtures/poles and a failure to replace these same fixtures on park trails;
- ▶ Report showed the lack of timely accountability on who reports these lighting problems (Department of Parks, NYC Department of Transportation, Con Edison or

outsource contractors, the NYPD, or the public and when these lights or the system will be repaired;

- ▶ The need for such timely repairs poses a public safety issue;
- ▶ There needs to be streamlined reporting and monitoring of outages and repairs;
- ▶ Parks and playground lights: Digital light monitors effective but not in every park;
- ▶ There are now cost effective digital monitoring systems that NYC DOT should explore and move beyond the archaic system it now has;
- ▶ This type of audit needs to be expanded to other parks and playgrounds.

Note: NYCDOT representative was invited to the meeting and they have a copy of the report.

Report by 33rd Precinct.

A **COMSTAT** report was presented by Lt. Albert Rodriguez.

Year to Date - Crime down 8% from last year at this time

The chair wanted some information on summer plans especially at the Highbridge pool and the park:

Extra officers will be assigned including one assigned to the pool area

The chair wanted more information about Sector Charlie's Neighborhood Officers (NCO) meeting:

Officers report 15 people attended and raised mostly quality of life issues. Sector David would meet at a later date at 4111 Broadway (*Complete scheduled released at the meeting*).

Report by NYPD 34th Precinct.

A **COMSTAT** report was presented by Lt. Salvatore Marchese (

Year to Date - Most crime categories down

In anticipation of summer, officers plan extra monitoring of parks and other grilling gathering spots. (Prevention of roadside and illegal drop-off spots for equipment and food now being better patrolled).

There will be extra patrolling on the Dyckman strip and La Marina Fridays-Sundays

There will be two (2) patrol cars assigned to Fort Tryon Park

D. Estevez asked the 34 Precinct to look into several public safety issues at park at the West 189th Street, Amsterdam Avenue and the Raul Wahlenberg playground in Fort George.

New Business: Sandy Ramirez, SOBRO HEAT program.

They are the city's hydrant education action team promoting safe and legal use of hydrants. Free hydrant covers are available at local firehouses. They will do outreach throughout July and August.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Natalie Espino

Edited by Richard Lewis, Interim Chair