



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 1, 2012

MINUTES

Attendance: Jorge Leon, Betty Bryant, Herman Francis, Jr., Lucas Henriquez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Betty Wessley, Delores Waller Worrell.

Center for Court Innovations

Ms. Ife Charles said that I work for the Center for Court Innovation the think tank of the court system. So we have several justice programs throughout New York City, nationally and internationally that looks at justice in a way that is not traditional. A lot of the work that we do is around creative innovative ways to deal with individuals who have been incarcerated coming home and to do prevention and intervention work around the judicial system.

One of the projects that we have in the Bronx is called BCS Bronx Community Solutions it's run out of the Courthouse again a community think tank that looks at predominantly prostitution a lot of juvenile justice related work around that and additional resources to help individuals that might have been on drugs that commit a crime. Instead of looking at folks on a punitive level it's to look at folks and tap into them that if you are substance abuser does it make sense to lock you up or put you in a treatment center and give you support around that. What we've come to find out is that the latter is a better solution and helps some folks with minor crimes.

We started an anti-violence piece called SOS Crown Heights in Brooklyn that comes out of Chicago. It is a Chicago CeaseFire model that looks at violence as a disease. What we particularly work on is in areas that are deemed high gun violence.

On the taskforce for the past year we have been looking at models to help reduce gun violence in particular communities. One of the mentions on the gun taskforce there were several boroughs and precincts that high related gun violence incidents the 40th precinct being one of them. The

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40th precinct was on the top of the list as having one of the highest numbers of gun related incidents in New York City along with Brooklyn in the 75 and 73. At one time the precinct that I currently worked in with this particular project was the 77th Precinct. Since the implementation of this project in Crown Heights, Brooklyn within a particular catchment area the numbers have gone down 42% so there has been some impact. Across the city they have been doing this model and shown some decrease in their numbers.

The City Council awarded us money there was \$4.8 million dollars that was given across the borough to run anti-violence initiatives along with wrap around services which is mental health, education, and job development. They awarded us \$500,000 thousand and said to the Center for Court Innovation you guys have been running this model for 3-years can you run a model like this out in the South Bronx. We said to them are you out of your mind. Definitely \$500,000 thousand is a great award however for us at the Center for Court Innovation we do not like to come into communities where there is not going to be a continual. It makes no sense to run a model for 6-months and then pull out it's not going to make an impact. I think that it is more detrimental to a community when you come in bring something and then pull back. So what I'm saying even though we're funded for a 1-year City Council has said to us that they will continue to fund this model in addition to us the Center for Court Innovation being able to raise some other funds.

At this particular time what the Police Department and others have said to us is that increase in crime has happened in the St. Mary's and Adams Houses Development areas. So we're working in a catchment area that's how this model works. We're not doing all of the South Bronx because we'd be lying to ourselves and the community that we could do the entire South Bronx we don't have the manpower.

What we do have is a catchment area based upon the data that says these numbers from 2011 to 2012 there has been a sharp increase in gun violence in the St. Mary's and Adams area. So our catchment area is 149th to 166th and St. Mary's to Prospect Avenue that's where we're working from.

Our population is 16 to 24 we're working with young men and women it's not about a color barrier or ethnicity this is Black, White, Hispanic and all of the cultures we have here that is what the crime is about.

I'm here to ask you guys to read the materials on the program. We also have employment positions available we need four Outreach Workers of which one will be the Supervisor, then two part-time Violence Interrupters and an Office Administration person. We have approximately 8-positions to fill.

Questions and Answers

Meeting adjourned.