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## **May 8, 2013 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Joe Reda, Chair; David Leavitt, Co-chair; Joe Bombace.

**ABSENT:** Sal Conforto and Irene Estrada-Rukaj.

**STAFF:** Bharati S. Kemraj, Community Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Joe Reda reported on the following issues:

On Monday, May 6, 2013 the NYPD arrested a suspect, Vincens Vuktilaj, 18, in Manhattan in connection with a series of chain snatchings in the Community Board (CB) area where at least five elderly women were attacked in the past two-three weeks.

Captain Lorenzo Johnson of the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct was directly involved in acting on locally gathered intelligence to apprehend the suspect.

After Vuktilaj was released on \$2,500 bail he was re-arrested at his home in Manhattan after another victim identified him as a chain snatcher using a photo array. After Vuktilaj was handcuffed he bolted from the NYPD and took refuge in a nearby subway tunnel. Power to the tunnel was turned off and the NYPD searched for hours underground until the suspect was found.

Here's a link to the NY Daily News article about the arrest:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/perp-flees-cops-large-article-1.1336248>

The NY Post published an article about crime statistics going down in CB11:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/safe\\_at\\_last\\_MR7hCI1nt5TYyqfLhB3XhJ](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/safe_at_last_MR7hCI1nt5TYyqfLhB3XhJ)

Joe expressed concern that the article was misleading in that CB11 crime statistics went down from an already historically low figure.

Joe Bombace reported the following: The methadone clinic near Waters Place is still a problem area since those seeking treatment often hang out in front of the clinic harassing other patients, residents and businesses. The situation is under review by the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by David Leavitt.