



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
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Public Safety Committee
 May 18, 2021
 Webex Meetings

MINUTES

PRESENT: Veronica Castro (Chair), Maleny Lahoz and Yahay Obeid

ABSENT: Tasneem Aljajyousi and Eliezer Rodriguez

STAFF: Jeremy Warneke

GUESTS: Debby Kawalick and Naomi Pemberton (CB11 Board Members), Cristina Calderon, Sonya Tennell and Carlos M. Torres (Bronx District Attorney's Office), Akeem Browder (F.A.I.T.H.: Fathers Alive In The Hood) and Diana Finch, Lynda Naclerio and Nuwaira Muhammad (members of the public)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Bronx District Attorney's Office: Crime Patterns
 Ms. Tennell from the Crime Strategy Bureau provides data to the DA (District Attorney) mainly on violent crime.
 She gave a presentation which showed gun violence in 2021 compared to 2020 within the 49th NYPD (New York City Police Department) Precinct:

Bronx County	2021	2020	% Change
Murder	2	2	-%
Shooting Victims	6	4	50%
Shooting Incidents	6	3	100%

Majority of shootings took place on Housing Authority property, which are the areas with the highest concentration of gun violence.
 Mr. Obeid inquired about a lighting.
 Ms. Tennell and Mr. Torres, the DA's Crime Prevention Coordinator, would investigate and follow up with Mr. Obeid.

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Mr. Torres introduced himself and advised the Committee that June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. On June 4, the DA's Office will be hosting a Gun Violence Prevention March.

Diana Finch asked Ms. Tennell if her office had any programs for hot spot areas as highlighted above and if there was information on the ages of the people involved in the incidents.

Ms. Tennell was not sure if her office keeps data on the ages of the people involved but would find out. When they give these presentations, the cases are still open most of the time. Right now, the DA's Office does not have any specific crime prevention programs in the areas from the presentation, but they are welcome to any ideas from the community.

Mr. Torres said the City has about 22 Cure Violence organizations. In the Bronx, the DA's Office has partnered with Save Our Streets Bronx, Release the Grip, Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence, Stand Up to Violence, and Guns Down Life Up. Many of these organizations partnered with the DA's Office last summer in Gun Violence Prevention Marches and the DA's Office has participated in their events as well.

Akeem Browder asked how close we are to getting back to 2018 where the gun violence levels were not as high as they are today and if they can identify where the guns are coming from.

Ms. Tennell stated that this question would have to be answered by the 49th Precinct, as they are the ones that track down individuals with weapons. There are many levels to the question and many different people and organizations could give reasons why they believe we are having an uptick in numbers.

Cristina Calderon stated that the DA's Office is hosting a gun buyback event on Saturday, June 26th in the confines of the 40th Precinct. They are partnering with the NYPD for this event. For those that turn in guns, depending on the type of gun, they could get up to \$200 and an iPad. They hosted a buyback event in October 2020, which produced 136 guns. Diana Finch talked about higher sums of money to make buybacks more effective, asking how the figures get increased and where the funds come from.

Ms. Calderon stated she could not advise on how to raise the sums, but she stated that the funds are a collaboration between the NYPD and DA's Office.

Naomi Pemberton asked what is being done to bring the community back together with the NYPD.

Ms. Tennell iterated the Gun Violence Prevention March and stated that there are other things being developed. They will provide info once solidified.

2. New Business

Mr. Obeid mentioned the Unity Rally on May 26.

Ms. Calderon said that the DA's Office would be hosting an Anti-hate Crime Rally on Friday, May 21.

3. Review of the March 2021 Minutes

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Veronica Castro made motion, seconded by Yahay Obeid, to approve the minutes as written.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Minutes by Veronica Castro, edited and formatted by staff.

DRAFT

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Date last modified: **6/15/21**