



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, September 21, 2016
Hon. Jason Clark, Chair

MINUTES

Committee and Board members in Attendance: Jason Clark, Aarian Punter, Keith Taylor, Tamara Martin, Jamilah Clark.

Excused Absence: John Lynch

Absent: Lupe Moreno

Discussion:

Captains Waheed Akhter and Seth Lynch from the 28th and 32nd precincts respectively, joined the meeting to discuss their roles in the community and to discuss the NYPD's new community policing program. Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) will be responsible for coordinating activities in each sector that they are responsible for. They will be tasked with addressing crime, conditions, and complaints for their particular region. They will also be responsible for meeting and work with more community members, identifying recurring problems and issues, and finding ways to prevent youths from becoming first time, or repeat, offenders.

Next, Alan Davis, who is the President of the 240 W 112th St Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC) cooperative, came to discuss the recent spike in drug use and traffic on 112th street over the last year. They also mentioned that there were large crowds of strangers gathering on their block. The drug use and large crowds have been gathering in the evening and remaining in the vicinity until as late as 5am throughout the week.

Below are the solutions that were recommended by Captains Akhter and Lynch

1. Increased Reporting by Residents

a. Generate data that will make the need for increased police presence and activity through the following channels:

311: Spoken highly of by both officers as it connects you to the local precinct contact and generates information that is regularly used by upper command to drive strategy. This

was suggested for nuisance complaints (no active crime witnessed, or minor activity that seem unsafe and/or inappropriate).

911: The choice when witnessing any crime or providing information about crimes witnessed that include locations or addresses. Once the call is made a case is generated and followed up by detectives. They stressed that a lot happens after the initial call and that specific information becomes very helpful (i.e. addresses or locations of recurrent activity).

* It was suggested that contact with NYPD could include photos, video, etc., as a way of aiding cases along with reporting.

* There was a discussion regarding calling 911 in response to seeing crowds forming or in response to large crowds. Individuals who see a crowd forming that includes large amounts of alcohol or other warning sign were encouraged to call 911, even in the early stages. The subject of the schoolyard was also raised with regard to the time that it closes in the evening. There was a multiplicity of views on this subject and further discussion would be needed to reach a clear consensus.

Local Precinct:

This was suggested to generate a quicker response for nuisances than 311 as I understood it. 311 and the local precinct both connect to the same person. The precinct is more direct. 311 is more for record generation or non-urgent issues.

2. Participate in the NYPD's [Trespass Affidavit Program](#)

In buildings where drugs are sold, tenants complain about the constant foot traffic by unknown individuals. These unwelcome visitors often loiter in the public areas to sell or use narcotics. Sometimes dealers act as doormen, directing buyers and intimidating residents. Changing locks and posting signs forbidding trespassing is frequently ineffective, and law abiding tenants and landlords can feel powerless to rid their buildings of drug trafficking and the accompanying disorder.

The Trespass Affidavit Program, staffed by our Community Affairs Unit, gives communities an opportunity to change these conditions. When the Community Affairs Unit receives confidential complaints about drug trafficking activity in a particular building, it contacts landlords and registers them in TAP. Landlords must then post signs throughout their building reading "Tenants and Their Guests ONLY," provide the police with a complete list of tenants and keys to their building, and permit police officers to conduct "vertical patrols" in the building. When necessary, officers may make arrests for criminal trespassing.

Contact New York District Attorney's Community Partnerships Unit ([212-335-9082](tel:212-335-9082))*

**Must re-enroll every 3 to 6 months*

3. Reach out to your [Neighborhood Community Officer](#)

For more on the NCO program please review the summary above.

4. Use Social Media to Report Illegal Activity

The NYPD's [Ideascale](#) program is being phased out, but what it did was offer residents an opportunity to report complaints via an anonymous public forum and 'like' other posts. The NYPD is currently working on developing a replacement program via Facebook.

5. Form a Block Association

Forming a block association makes it easier to galvanize support from other members of the community dealing with the same issues

6. Report and eliminate long-term scaffolding

It was reported that long-term scaffolding on W 112th St has exacerbated drug and crowd problems in the neighborhood. If the building's scaffolding permits are valid there may not be much that can be done to remove it, however publicly owned buildings (such as NYC Housing Authority buildings) may be more responsive to resident requests to complete repairs and remove the scaffolding.

Before closing, Captain Lynch gave an update on the Odessa Simms murder investigation. Captain Lynch mentioned that finding her killer is a high priority for the precinct and that they pursue every lead possible to find the perpetrator.