



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027  
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

## **Public Safety Committee**

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 – 6:30 PM

### **Minutes**

1. Welcome
2. Old - New Business / Announcements
3. Harlem
  - a. *Public Safety Concerns at APRS: Friends of A. Philip Randolph Square*
    - Problem started in 2010, now it's escalated and is out of control the last 3 years.
    - Drug dealers who are on site at APRS in shifts [9-10 AM](#), [12- 1 PM](#) [4 PM – 5 PM](#). Large gathering of people who congregate, purchase and do the drugs in the park.
    - This has dampened annual events in the park like the annual tree lighting. Attendees could smell angel dust through park.
    - Friends of APRS have sent letters to all agency heads and local elected and are now getting responses to the crisis.
    - Current solution presented was to have a "fixed post" for the park. Two cars that are positioned at the northwest corner / and or at the southeast quarter of the park. These officers are unarmed there is very little they can do
    - The 28<sup>th</sup> Precinct Commander said that they can ask the director of parks enforcement to have the officers from the fixed post to be inside the park (rather than outside).
    - The goal is to combine enforcement efforts with multi agency plan to address the layers of issues

**vii. Vernon Baylard (Parent with 2 children)**

- o Last year tree lighting and Halloween gathering this happens when you have this type of traffic in the park.
- o Dealers are hiding drugs in potted plants – volunteers being watched –
- o Stabbings in the park – witnessed but not recorded by police
- o Request to President of 28<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council Clarification on how to get on the agenda or have a discussion – open and public
- o Often folks are sidelined etc. local community members
- o **President: 28<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council.**
- § Cannot arrest folks when there are no crimes being committed
- o **Neighborhood coordination sergeant SGT Sapara**
- § Uniform officers won't change what's happening there. Folks occupying park are New Yorkers who need services, when they are arrested they are back at the park by close of day.
- § Seeing if Department Mental Health and Dept. of Homeless Services.
- § Closes gates but they enter anyway. There are challenges but unless there is credible reason to enforce no arrests can be made.

*Charles Johnson*

- Next Steps: collaboration between local agencies is already being coordinated, meeting TBA.

*Jamillah Board Member*

- Onus is not on people to police
- Heightened Engagement / Plan to execute and an
- Implementation Plan with bench marks and continued community and interagency dialogue -
- Existing problem and community crisis

*Cicely Tyson, Chair*

- o Parks Commissioner of parks involved since August
- § Removed benches put them back in etc.
- o Already in communication with Dr. Dukes – Chair of Health is apart of the conversation
- o Commissioner Silver to come and hear your voices
- o October Meeting (NOT A TOWNHALL)
- 110<sup>th</sup> - Fred Samuels Playground

*Officer Grieve*

§ Aware of any other strategies that have worked elsewhere

§ Other Public Safety Community Board

§ Residents have brought to attention – large number of people who use crack on 110 & lenox. Particularly panhandling aggressively

§ Residents became aware of a sex crime in the park – advocate to community board better lighting / different benches (not conducive to living on them)

§ Benches belong to central park conservancy.

More lighting needed.

§ Request to DOT to remove the street parking available on the curbside.

Difficult to see "hiding spots" when cars are parked.