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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
P.O. BOX 1672
NEW YORK, NY 10159-1672

Public Safety Committee Meeting
Of Community Board 6 Manhattan
Monday, January 29, 2018

7:00PM

NYU School of Nursing 433 1st Ave. NY, NY 10010
Rm.210

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ronnie White (Chair), Kathleen Kelly (Vice-Chair), Ava Goldman, Andrew Gross, Molly Hollister, Paige Judge, Matthew Roberts, Ann Seligman, Lou Sepersky, Joseph Parrish

Excused: Susan Steinberg

Absent: Fred Arcaro, Elvy Barroso, Dan Devine, Bea Disman, David Tsin

Guests: Claude L. Winfield (CB6), Jesus Perez District Manager CB6, Cody Osterman –Staff Liaison CB6 , Cameron Williams the Outreach Coordinator for NYC Center for Material Reuse(nycmr.org), Capt. Amatullo of the NYPD 17th Precinct, Offcr. Joseph Carlucci of the NYPD 13th Precinct, Ben Jacobs from City Councilman Keith Powers Office, and Ann Ormsby- resident CB6

Ronnie White, newly appointed Chair of the Public Safety Committee called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The meeting Agenda was adopted and discussed as follows.:

Officers from both the 17th and 13th Manhattan Precincts presented reports for both safety and criminal activity in Community Board 6.

Presently, the main crimes are people leaving personal property such as cellphones or pocketbooks unattended in restaurants and bars. The second biggest crimes are “phone scams.” They described callers tending to focus on the elderly population and calling to request donations for the Fire Department, Police Department or PBA. The officers stated that these enforcement organizations will never call looking for money. The other part of the scam had been thieves pretending to be the IRS or a utility company and then instructing victims to purchase various types of cash cards to give them as payment or

services would be turned off or fines incurred. The officers recommended that people should hang up right away. If they do happen to get a phone number off their caller ID they should call their local precinct with that information.

The police described that any stolen property over one thousand dollars is known as "Grand Larceny."

In the past few months there had been reports of stolen checks from mailboxes and the police had been advising citizens to stop using the local mailboxes and use the actual post office to mail letters. In the past 3 past months there were no reported thefts of mailed checks.

The police described the dilemma around electric-bikes in Manhattan. They technically cannot be registered in the city because they are illegal and therefore not recognized. Both precincts described impounding the electric bikes though they described enforcement is difficult both because there is no registration/license and they do not want to cause an accident trying to catch up with an electric-bike.

There were no reported arrests during Santacon this year. The police explained that it is much easier to police the event because it is on social media. They also described that it does not cost the city any extra man hours/money to provide support for the community during the event.

It was the first meeting of the recently re-established Public Safety committee, so it is understandable that no statistics were available from either precinct at the time of the meeting.

After the precinct presentations the officers were asked if they could get back to the committee with information regarding safety on the new East River ferries. It is not yet clear whose jurisdiction it is to respond to various types of crises that may occur on the boat. Some of these concerns include: Evacuation of passengers from a stalled ferry in crisis, onboard medical emergency or a violent/active shooter situation.

Next on the Agenda was a **presentation by Cameron Williams. He is the Outreach Coordinator from New York City Center for Material Reuse (nyccmr.org).** He discussed: donateNYC. This is a free platform that connects business and nonprofits looking to donate or receive surplus goods. This works to prevent materials that could help others from getting dumped in a landfill. They have connected with non-profits to list contact information and what these organizations can accept (and sometimes pick up) as donations.

This system prevents waste, protects the environments and helps connect those in need with resources. The website also lists a tremendous range of categories

from textiles, construction materials and electronics and computers that can be used to help others.

Pamphlets were available at the meeting and the organization and a report on its success and how to connect with these great services can be found online at: www.nyccmr.org

Cameron Williams can be contacted by e-mail: Cameron@nyccmr.org or by phone: (212) 650-8896

Chair's Report

New Chair Ronnie White thanked the committee for all their support during her recent family loss. She waived her report and focused on the Agenda.

Old/New Business

The topic of Safety Bollards to prevent terrorist and/or traffic accidents was discussed in depth. Starting with The City Council recently passing a preliminary bill regarding the bollards, the committee asked if there are any other representatives working on legislation regarding this issue?

The Mayor has recently put together a working group regarding this issue. Points that came out of this discussion included:

- Is it possible to have a community board member be a part of the Mayor's committee to explore the concerns regarding the safety bollards?
- Can we have a representative from the Mayor's working group attend the next public safety meeting to present on safety bollards in our community board district?

Some of the questions the committee was interested in hearing about included: How is the working group developing protocol for the installment of safety bollards?

- How are they deciding on the number of bollards?
- Is it based on density?
- Dangerous intersections?
- Reported traffic incidents?
- Intent of people to commit violent crimes involving moving vehicles?

The basis for concern was amplified by the recent incident on the Westside Highway bikepath. The CB district is unique because it holds many foreign missions, a medical corridor and transportation hubs that include Grand Central Station, a skyport for seaplanes, a ferry system, heliport, marina, and Amtrak emergency exit stairs.

The final topic covered was a request to have NYCEM attend a committee meeting and present to the committee the evacuation plan in case of emergency

for Grand Central Station. The research continues on how to develop and build ventilation plans for the future, but the committee asks:

What is presently in place for Grand Central Station in case of emergency evacuation of trains, platforms and the station itself?

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM
Minutes submitted by Kathleen Kelly