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

Public Safety and Environment Committee Meeting
April 16, 2018 at 7:00PM
NYU School of Nursing
433 1st Ave, NY, NY 10010, Rm. 220

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ronnie White (Chair), Kathleen Kelly (Vice-Chair), Molly Hollister (CB Chair), Ava Goldman, Joseph Parrish, Matthew Roberts, Ann Seligman, Susan Steinberg

Excused: Paige Judge

Absent: Elvy Barroso, Dan Devine, Bea Disman, Andrew Gross, Lou Sepersky, David Tsin

Guests: Kurt Barbara (Student), Gerard Dengel (Morgan Library), Thomas Egan (Director Bellevue Hospital Police), Lt. Wickham (Bellevue Hospital Police), Maria Rocha Busdiel (Town and Village), Justin Wood (NYLPI), Liz Peters (City council person Keith Powers office), Kevin Fitzgerald, Ofcr. Joseph Carlucci (13th Precinct), Nick Delaney

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes

Chair Ronni White called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Kathleen Kelly made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ann Seligman and passed.

Ronni White made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 19, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelly and passed.

Committee Business

Officer Thomas Egan, the Director of Hospital Police at Bellevue Hospital Presented on the New York City Hospital Police. Also in attendance representing Bellevue was Hospital Police lieutenant Wickham.

Egan explained that there are 56 uniformed members of the Hospital Police Force in Bellevue Hospital the are responsible on a daily basis for the safety of 8-10,000 people (patients and visitors) and 2-3,000 employees and vendors.

Three years ago the Bellevue Hospital Police department took on the responsibility of training of all 600 New York City Health and Hospital Officers. The focus of the training has evolved into a standardized patient-centered type of service. The focus of the Hospital Police is as their name of “peace officer” implies: to de-escalate a crisis situation. Only 5-10% of their time is used for fighting crime or enforcement.

Every arrest must be reviewed by the commanding Officer on duty. Even incidents where there was a use of force without arrest.

Officer Egan described that they start with the understanding that someone coming into the hospital is most times coming from a stressful place because they are dealing with a health crisis. He also described that training also helps weed out candidates who are not a good match for crisis interventions and de-escalation because the hospital police candidate mistakenly thought the focus was on “fighting crime” or enforcement.

Officer Egan also described that a committee had been formed on how to deal with de-briefing officers who have been dealing with crisis intervention and trauma. The focus is to prevent secondary trauma of the officers and burnout.

The homeless also come to the hospital lobby seeking shelter during bad weather and they are not just escorted off the property, but are referred to the social worker for referral to the shelter system.

When asked how the hospital police work with the Homeless shelter Officer Egan clarified that the Homeless Shelter Police (at the 30th Street Shelter on 1st Ave) are under the jurisdiction of the New York City Police Department. Their training and focus is not the same as the Hospital Police Peace Officer. Officer Egan recommended following up with the NYPD to hear more about their training. He further explained that at any time that there is an increase in violence, the NYPD can come in and take over the focus, training and jurisdiction of the hospital police.

The Second Presentation was by the 13th Precinct in Manhattan:

Officer Joseph Carlucci from the 13th Precinct in Manhattan explained that he would be presenting the stats from March 2018 for both the 13th and the neighboring 17th Precinct. No officer was present from the 17th precinct. He listed crime stats comparing in a report, but unfortunately we do not have a copy of that report for the minutes.

He also reported that the Anti-Crime Unit had arrested the youths that were involved in a theft in a local restaurant. They had posed as selling candy for a youth sports team. The use of cameras was crucial in identifying the suspects. Officer Carlucci described advising businesses to possibly install better cameras by the entrance doors. Typically better cameras are used by businesses focused on just the cash registers. When better cameras are used the police are able to use facial recognition as a crime fighting tool.

He stated that the Neighborhood Policing Program has not been started for the 13th Precinct. Once the program is rolled out he will be able to give a presentation with the name of the officer who will be assigned as the Neighborhood Community Officer.

The Final Presentation was by Justin Wood of the New York Lawyers for The Public Interest Group. This is his second presentation on: "Transform Don't Trash NYC." In this report he reported some updates. This public interest group is working with The Business Integrity Commission and Department of Sanitation pushing for reform of garbage carting in NYC.

Mr. Wood presented the following updated statistics:
60 to 90 private carting companies are operating in the same neighborhood, duplicating services, causing wear and tear on the streets using diesel fuel. With the use of the proposed changes implementing a grid routing system, the total distance driven could be reduced by 50% or more. On average, 27 different companies are picking up the trash for 86 businesses. There is also a tremendous lack of recycling. 61% of New York City businesses do not have a written contract with their waste hauler.

Workers on these trucks have horrible work conditions. Drivers also work longer hours than is recommended for safe driving standards. 43 pedestrians and cyclists have been killed by these trucks since 2010.

The following are policy goals they are looking to achieve:

1. Set transparent and fair prices, strengthen industry accountability.
2. Raise wages for all workers.
3. Increase worker safety standards
4. Increase recycling rates
5. Equitable siting of waste infrastructure
6. Improve air quality, incentives for cleaner trucks

The top 20 companies dominate 80% of the business. NYLPI is proposing exclusive zones with regulated pricing would achieve the policy goals listed above.

City Council Member Antonio Reynoso is a huge proponent of legitimate union representation for the private garbage carting companies. Presently, there are

fake or sham unions involved in private carting. With legitimate union representation for workers and transparency in pricing through written contracts worker and community safety can be monitored and protected. Unsafe driving and recycling can also be monitored.

Justin concluded by asking for the Community Board to endorse the plan proposed by the NYLPI.

The last issue discussed was Bird Flight Safety through the use of bird safe glass on the skin of new building construction. Deborah Glick and Dick Gottfried are working on a bill that new developments would have to require bird friendly designs. 200,00 birds a year are killed by striking glass buildings that interfere with the birds' flight path and their ability to distinguish the sky from the reflective glass on the buildings. Project Safe flight of the NYC Audubon Society has worked hard on this issue. AIA also has classes on bird friendly design.

Ann Seligman brought up this topic and volunteered to follow up with this issue.

The Committee Chair Ronni White adjourned the meeting at 8:17PM

Minutes submitted by: Kathleen Kelly.