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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 E. 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Public Safety & Environment Committee**  
**May 21, 2018, 7 PM**  
**433 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Room 220**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Ronnie White (chair), Andrew Gross, Joe Parrish, Matthew Roberts, Ann Seligman, David Tsin

Excused: Paige Judge

Absent: Dan Devine, Bea Disman, Ava Goldman, Molly Hollister, Susan Steinberg

Guests: PO Ryan Wood (NYPD 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct), Cathe Giffuni (resident), Mary Garvey (resident), Filipehenko Vitaly (resident), Sgt. L. Stanko (NYC Parks Enforcement Police), Joseph Carlucci (NYPD 13<sup>th</sup> Precinct).

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

Chair Ronnie White called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**Committee Business**

Agenda Item 1 – Reports from 13<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct, and Parks Enforcement Police

Briefing by Sgt. Stanko from Parks Enforcement Police:

- Parks in CB6 include major parks like Bellevue, Stuyvesant, small parks near the UN and some recreational centers. The Sgt. Focuses below 59<sup>th</sup> street.
- Stuyvesant Park is patrolled regularly between Wednesday to Sunday including a night patrol. There is an issue with drug use there along with disorderly conduct.
- Often they partner with NYPD 13 PCT.
- Large focus on quality of life and they will arrest people who violate the law. They will check in on homeless people and assist if needed.
- As summer approaches then they will look out for alcohol, permitting for fields, and noise levels. Additionally will focus on homeless sleeping outside during the summer.

- Most summons are for alcohol and smoking and complaints usually come from 311 calls.
- Lately they have focused on littering to reduce vermin.
- They go to playgrounds and will try to patrol more at night so it isn't limited to overtime patrols.
- Smaller parks that are community gardens or part of buildings are not usually covered by parks police unless a specific call comes in
- In response to a question about increasing night patrols parks Police will be more willing to go out at night along the east river esplanade and patrol during off peak hours.
- In response to a question on combating vermin, dry ice is usually used and the parks Police is asking the public not to feed pigeons which brings out rats. New garbage cans have been employed to try and cut down on garbage and public outreach programs are ongoing.
- To a question on reducing enforcement for bicyclists near Stuyvesant Park

Briefing by Joseph Carlucci, NYPD 13<sup>th</sup> Precinct:

- Felony and Robberies are up slightly and crime is slightly up generally. 5 robberies compared three compared to last year and overall crime continues slightly up from last year. This time of year is when shoplifting and GLA increases due to the warmer weather.
- Moving violations are 154 for bikes almost the same as last years YTD. Bike summons are up generally.
- Recently there have been a group of males going to 7-11's with men showing firearms and robbing the stores. Has happened about 5 times already. Issue has been with security cameras being installed in ceiling so the faces aren't apparent.
- Wood, 17PCT
- Overall crime is down but in the 28 day period crime is slightly up. Weather is nicer out and there is more opportunistic crime. Recently someone left a Bar door open and someone robbed liquor.
- 7 major crimes reported verses 15 YTD.
- Moving violations are up: 175 vs 136 YTD.
- The 7-11 robberies continue and the criminals started wearing masks to avoid being seen on camera. Manhattan robbery is investigating.
- To a question on homelessness there is a general increase as the weather is warmer.
- NYPD was asked about cracking down on large groups of bikers and there isn't a clear policy in place other than not to chase them down but to investigate and try to stop them using other means. NYPD will return back with a more clear answer at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 2 – Presentation by Paul Westrick from Council Member Kallos' Office on Intro 0087-20018

- Was introduced last session and they are hopeful about getting a hearing to pass this legislation late this year or next year.
- Bill deals with pedestrian scaffolding bridges or areas or sheds. Building inspections happen every 5 years and when facades have issues building owners often just leave the sheds there because it's cheaper to re rent the sheds than actually do the work. The bill calls for two 90 day periods to be allowed for building owners sequentially to grant time for them to complete the work. The first 90 days is allowed and an exemption can be given for an additional 90 days only.
- In the past few months there have been accidents with sidewalk sheds and they attract rats and homeless. They also hurt foot traffic which hurts businesses.
- They have been meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss the bill and CB6 will be invited going forward. The next meeting will likely be in June.
- Members of CB6 cited some examples of scaffolding in the area that has been up for a long time like at the Sharansky Steps. Kallos' office clarifies that the bill will only cover preexisting buildings and not new construction.
- An issue is being cited in the bill in which it doesn't cover general construction buildings need to do that doesn't come from an inspection violation. Kallos is willing to change the bill to cover scaffolding generally whether or not it went up due to an inspection. Kallos wants to cover all scaffolding eventually with this law so they are open to ideas and expanding the bill coverage.
- Scaffold sheds can be tracked online to see how long they have been up.
- The penalties have been discussed with a coalition created to address the issue and the city may just so the work and bill the owner. Additionally the bill may allow for a court action by building residents or there may be general fines but that hasn't been decided yet.
- Additionally there may be an opportunity to change the design of sidewalk sheds so they are more attractive.
- Building owners have most responsibility for sidewalk sheds but safety is supposed to be guaranteed by the contractors.
- Committee votes to create a resolution so a resolution would helpful in June so it could be brought to meetings in the fall. Will look at language of other boards first. Will caucus at full board to vote due to lack of quorum at the meeting.
- Scaffolding is required to be self certified as of now but this is possible to change in the future under a separate bill.

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion of New York State Assembly Bill A08779 - deterring bird collisions on construction sites by adopting safety measures.

- Created by Assembly member Glick to reduce bird deaths in NYC which is very high by calling for the state to create a commissioner to create best practices for building construction going forward.
- A caucus will be held at full board to move forward on a vote.
- In the future someone will come forward to address the committee with more information especially if construction costs could possibly go up although it seems unlikely.

## **Old/New Business**

- Andrew will write new language for a bollard bill that could be more general to support the city in their efforts to place them in CB6
- There is concern about the toxicity of our streets and pollutants there. This comes from a city streets plan in the transportation committee which would place school children on the streets and there's a question if children would be safe playing on the streets by Friends Seminary. We want kids to have an opportunity to be outside but it's a question if exposing kids to city conditions is very unhealthy and possibly offsets the health benefits? Additionally it's unclear how unhealthy streets are and how they may affect the development of young children and could be a formula for disaster for young children. Going forward there should be research presented on this so the committee can move forward and decide if action is needed.
- At a future meeting we can look at an article dealing with bio terror threats and discuss it.

## **Chair's Report**

The chair's report was waived.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrew Gross