

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

JOINT MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Chair:	Samantha Souvatzis, Public Safety & Quality of Life Chad Royer, Veterans Affairs
Meeting Date:	June 13, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	<u>Tracey Towers</u>, (Community Room B) 40 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468
Members In Attendance:	✓ Samantha Souvatzis ✓ Lowell Green ✓ Monjour Choudhury ✓ Robin Rollan ✓ Chad Royer ✓ Tobie Buford ✓ Bernard Wright ✓ Jean Hill
Minutes done by:	Samantha Souvatzis

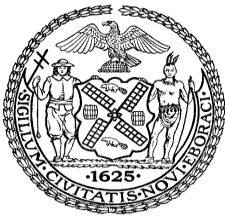
Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines and code of conduct read by Samantha Souvatzis**
- II. Attendance was taken and Quorum was met**
- III. Review of Previous Minutes - April and May’s Public Safety & Quality of Life minutes were reviewed and accepted with corrections. April’s Veterans Affairs minutes were reviewed and accepted.**
- IV. Follow-up from Previous Month (If applicable)**
- V. New Business**
 - A. Veterans Affairs:**
 1. Yoga Event on June 22nd, 4pm and June 24th, 6:30pm at Tracey Towers (Community Room B). Participants must bring their own yoga mats.
 2. Veterans Resource Fair is scheduled for July 24th from 11am-3pm at 545 East 142nd Street. Flyers will be shared at a future date.

THIS MEETING’S MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:

229-A EAST 204TH STREET ♦ BRONX, NY 10458 ♦ PHONE: (718) 933-5650

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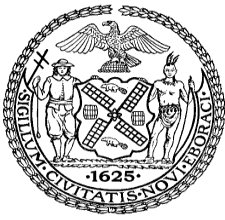
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B. Bronx District Attorney's (DA) Office: Domestic Violence Information Session by Heather McMahon, DV Supervisor and Police Officer Wells

1. When you see physical abuse and/or murder, there are events that lead to this incident, such as harassment, physical assault, and strangulation.
 - a) Strangulation is very underreported. It happens so quickly where the perpetrator will grab the victim's neck and the victim can lose consciousness in 5 minutes. The perpetrator doesn't know that their actions can lead to death.
 - b) Sexual assault is also underreported and the DA's office has 20 employees to help victims, which is a sign that more people are coming in to report domestic violence. Many victims have a hard time bringing loved ones to justice.
2. Therefore, the DA offers several programs to help domestic violence victims:
 - a) *Safe Horizons* –
 - (1) The organization helps to change the locks of the victims' apartments and helps with restitution
 - b) *Family Justice Center* –
 - (1) The center helps victims to apply for public benefits, shelter, housing, and they provide mental health and counseling services to victims and their children.
 - (2) The center also provides information on job training programs, including resume writing and interviewing skills, and referrals to education programs, including workshops with budgeting, credit repair, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.



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- (3) Finally, the center provides legal help for orders of protection, custody, visitation, child support, divorce, housing, and immigration.
 - (4) They are also connected to trained law enforcement, such as NYPD, NYC Sheriff's Office, and District Attorney's Office
3. *Crime Victims Assistance Bureau (CVAB)* -
- a) The CVAB assists anyone, whether or not there's been a police report, an arrest, or a prosecution and regardless of the time that has passed since the incident occurred.
 - b) The CVAB provides supportive services including: crisis intervention, individual and group therapy for the victim and family members, and assistance in filing a claim for victim compensation through the NYS Office of Victim Services.
 - c) The CVAB also helps victims, witnesses and their families navigate through the court system and accompany them to court if needed.
 - d) Their staff includes Crime Victim, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse and Rape Victims Advocates and Trauma Therapists. The CVAB has a satellite office in the northeast Bronx.

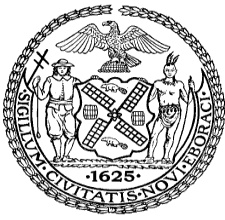
C. Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)

1. The CCRB investigates complaints about police officers abusing their power of authority.
2. The board is non-biased and their investigations determine if the police officer was uncourteous and using inappropriate conduct.
3. If an officer was found abusing their power of authority, the board then gives recommendations on how to discipline the police officer.
4. The CCRB will conduct outreach with the Bronx public, especially young people, to discuss the following:

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- a) The structure and authority of the CCRB
- b) Civilians' rights and responsibilities during police encounters such as stop-and-frisk questions
- c) De-escalation, how to file a complaint, the investigation and mediation process, and the Right to Know Act

D. Police Department, NYPD Update

1. On June 20th, the precinct will have their Community Council Meeting at Monroe College at 6pm
2. On June 21st, the precinct will have their Open House from 4pm-7pm at their headquarters. The Open House will include:
 - a) Tour of the Precinct
 - b) Music, games and food for the kids
 - c) Domestic Violence, Crime Prevention, Emergency Service Unit (ESU), K9 and Mounted units will be available
3. Major crimes are currently down 20% for the 28-day period
 - a) Some high profile incidents:
 - (1) A shooting on Davidson Ave which stemmed out between migrants and shelter residents
 - (2) On Williamsbridge Oval at 3am, someone was stabbed to death, but no arrest was made yet. Cameras are being reviewed.

VI. Next Meeting Date:

A. Public Safety & Quality of Life - September 12, 2024

B. Veterans Affairs - September 18, 2024

VII. Discussion on Next Agenda: TBA

VIII. Adjournment - Meeting is adjourned