



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

## **Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**September 5, 2019**

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

Vice Chair: Isabelo Adames

**Board Members Present:** Abunoman Rahman, Chairperson Brandon Ganaishlal, Juan Torres, Kwabena Gabay, Daniel Porro, Henry Pelayo Jr., Shante Chamblee, Louise Marchema, Sharyn Brown, Victor Cordero, District Manager William Rivera,

**Board Members Not Present:** Isabelo Adames

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:00 PM

**Introduction-** Committee Description: The public safety & transportation committee represents the community's interests with regards to sanitation, crime, fire-ems, quality of life, NYS liquor license application recommendations, street activity permit applications, street re-naming application, transportation and acts as a liaison between community members and the New York Police Department & Fire Departments, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Sanitation, NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Department of Sanitation & NYS Liquor Authority.

### **Old Business**

- A. As per BM Kwabena Gabay every weekend outside of the Field of Dreams 20-30 cars show up at around 2-3am and blast music on their speakers. BM Gabay hears it from 2 blocks away as if it were outside his window. 311 was called but the representative on the line said they don't deal with noise complaints. As per Sgt Ortiz, 311 does take noise complaints and is supposed to inform the NYPD. NYPD does conduct noise operations.  
BM Gabay will contact Sgt Ortiz to look into this matter. As per Sgt Ortiz, the biggest concern with these complaints is that offenders tend to move from location to location.  
As per BM Juan Torres, is equipment being confiscated?  
As per Sgt Ortiz, yes, equipment is confiscated when found in violation.
- B. As per BM Torres, motor scooters are multiplying rapidly, they are all over the place.  
As per Sgt Ortiz bicycles and scooters are supposed to follow regular transit regulations.  
As per resident Lena, are scooters supposed to have tags/identified somehow?  
As per DM Rivera, all scooters with motor powered should be street licensed.

## **New Business**

### A. SV Ferry Letter

1. As per DM Rivera, CB9 will write a letter to EDC and City of NY. DM Rivera will draft the letter and email it to the committee.
2. Ferry ridership for the Soundview ferry was successful, it had the best opening numbers in the city.

## **Liquor Licenses**

### A. Jimmy's Grand Café Renewal

1. This establishment has been in the community for 4-5 years.
2. Jimmy's application came in over the summer and the committee discussed it, however, business owner and representative were invited to this meeting to meet and greet, especially with new BMs.
3. As per DM Rivera, are there any questions in reference to this application? Any objections?  
None stated.

## **DM Update**

### A. CM Waste Basket Locations

1. As per DM Rivera, there are 15 new waste baskets mostly along Westchester Ave along with 2 new pick up locations that were added
2. As per resident Angela Laguer, the problem is that tenants/homeowners throw away home garbage in city waste baskets  
As per DM Rivera, NYC used to enforce this, but they no longer do and actually waste baskets have been removed to combat this concern of illegal dumping.  
Now the way to rectify this is to request additional collection services and more funding for waste baskets

### B. DOT Local & Borough Consultations

1. DM Rivera meets with local agency heads for local and budget priorities about local issues and priorities for the future fiscal year.
2. As per resident Angela, is this separate from DSC?  
As per DM Rivera, yes, DSC is monthly and local consultations are more personalized to agencies.
3. Regarding Budget Consultations, ADM Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo attends some on behalf of CB9. As per DM Rivera sometimes these are a waste of time because no answers direct questions.
4. As per DM Rivera District Needs Statements are important, they are posted online and make a huge statement about our priorities. The process for District Needs Statements has recently been reformed. Every year CB9 edits what was previously noted and adds new items. It is essential for the board to be involved so the DM creates surveys of priorities by committee and for CB9 in general and distributes these to BMs regarding pressing issues. Last year's priorities were housing, youth services and senior services.
5. As per DM Rivera the DOT meeting will include Castle Hill on the agenda. DM Rivera is contemplating funding traffic consultant in the district in order to have data to go on the news. As per DM Rivera, he understands that some concepts of vision zero are great and that some don't work.
6. As per DM Rivera, a 2008 Westchester Ave Shelter open letter was written to the DHS Commissioner and the response was embarrassing. DM Rivera wants to be very involved with the advising committee here.
7. Regarding the 1600 Randall Ave. Shelter, DM Rivera will ask the provider to give an update on this shelter. The shelter will house mothers and children, 1-2 children max. The center is composed of 99 studios. DM Rivera will visit another site with the same provider in Brooklyn.  
As per resident Angela Laguer, this program is pretty awesome and should be duplicated.

- As per BM Juan Torres, how many total shelters does that make in CB9?  
As per DM Rivera, we now have 10 shelters and other boards still have zero!
8. As per resident Angela, look at what happened with the motel on Bruckner and Zerega?  
As per DM Rivera, he conducted a site visit here and it's actually a really nice place but the manager never called him back so he is not happy about that. The best thing to do at this point is to recommend notable people there so that it does not become a hot sheet motel.
  9. As per BM Daniel Porro, DM Rivera to please get information about his letter to DOT regarding the walk-way on Hugh Grant Circle and Starling. As per DM Rivera, driveways here go in and out and as per DOT, they are the landlord's responsibility. As per DM Rivera, he will discuss this with DOT and also why Evergreen and Westchester has not been paved in over 3 years.
  10. BM Daniel Porro inquired about Amber Alert regarding requiring libraries to lock down facilities during these alerts. As per DM Rivera, Amber Alert is not a threat like active shooters where lock downs are required. Sgt Ortiz agreed that Amber Alerts are not the same as active shooter scenarios. There is no city mandate on this.
  11. As per resident, what needs to happen for NYPD to begin undercover operation? As per NYPD this is a case by case scenario. After a complaint is place the vice department makes a determination if an operation is needed. As per resident, she will speak to Sgt Ortiz after the meeting regarding an issue on Leland Ave by Soundview and Patterson. As per BM Juan Torres, the era of proactive policing is gone and won't come back until there is a new administration.
  12. As per DM Rivera residents should call 311 for any public safety service delivery inquiry. After 311 is called CB9 should be called so that our office can follow-up as we are an extra voice to advocate. The more 311 complaints, the better!
  13. As per Sgt Ortiz, for car tow operations NYPD needs to observe for 8 days so calling 311 to report these can help track the longevity of this claim.
  14. As per resident, is there anything that can be done about overwhelming number of raccoons? As per DM Rivera, As per DOHMH if raccoons are vicious then a specialized team is dispatched to get them, however, if the raccoon is not behaving outside of the norm this becomes a private matter. As per DM Rivera, the city should put more/better resources to the Animal Control Unit. As per BM Danny Porro, is there any literature DOHMH distributes regarding raccoons? As per DM Rivera, he will inquire.

**Meeting End Time: 8:00 PM**

*\*Full audio recordings of any CB9 public meetings are available for review, please contact our office for more information.*

#### **OFFICE INFO**

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