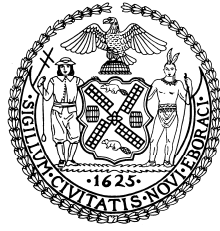


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**The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8**

**Public Safety Committee  
Lenox Hill Hospital  
130 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street (Lexington-Park)  
Theater Room Floor 2A  
Thursday, November 21, 2013  
6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Dave Kleckner, Debbie Teitelbaum  
Number of Attendees: 11 (attendance sheet attached)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Topic: Safety Presentation by NYC Police Department 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct

Presenters: Ted Bernsten, Inspector, 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Chris Helms, Community Affairs Officer, 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Linda Jones-Janneh of the District Attorney's Office also was present to listen and answer any questions that might pertain to her.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the entire city. Per recent data through 11/10/13, crime rates are down including no murders or shootings. Attached is a CompStat print-out showing crime rates for the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct for various categories, including from an historical perspective (enclosed).

Grand larceny of \$1,000 or more has been on the increase this year. Approximately 75% of all crime within the precinct is grand larceny, with approximately 52% of these larcenies involving unattended property.

Presentations on crime and safety are regularly provided by the Precinct, including at the monthly 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council Meetings (first **Monday of every month, 7pm, at 153 E. 67<sup>th</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl**), the E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Association, the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, etc.

Residents in the precinct should be on the look-out for con games and mail scams. For example, con games involving people claiming to be NYS Police Officers, mail scams facilitated by taking of mail from townhouse mailboxes, and identity thefts. Education is important for combatting these crimes. (Attached is an informational flyer about skimming devices and another flyer pertaining to telephone scams). These devices can capture personal information off of ATM cards, gift cards, and even hotel key cards (e.g., credit card information may be contained on these cards if incidentals have been charged to the room). Protection strategies include to return or destroy hotel key cards upon leaving a hotel, don't allow credit cards to be swiped out of view at places such as gas stations, do pay bills over secure servers on the Internet instead of receiving mailed invoices that can be intercepted, and fix broken lobby mail boxes.

The Precinct has piloted an initiative to bring shredding trucks to the district to service people such as doctors who have accumulated old invoices that contain sensitive information such as social security numbers. Events were held in May and October, with the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct the first precinct to provide this service. It is anticipated that the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct will continue doing so twice per year.

During Q/A it was discussed that crime rates within the community are low for various reasons including as a result of actions taken by alert doormen, and because there are not major night clubs or vacant buildings within the area served by the Precinct. In addition, the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct undertakes a weekly crime strategy that includes looking for patterns of crime and determining where to station patrols. A couple of attendees at the meeting raised concerns about a woman who is well known for spitting at passersby. This is a difficult problem to stop because she has to be caught in the act and then committed to long-term psychiatric care, which is beyond the control of police officers. This particular woman, known as Natalie, has been frequently taken by police to area hospitals, but is then quickly released. The Precinct also has worked with the District Attorney's Office on this issue.

The new motorized bike law (**see attached Local Law No. 41 of 2013**) prohibiting the use of these vehicles for commercial purposes also was discussed. Rules are to take effect on December 1, 2013. In advance of enforcement, the Precinct is educating businesses that they are responsible and providing them with copies of the new law. It is anticipated that enforcement will begin in mid-December when motorized bikes are observed by officers to be operated on sidewalks.

The Safety Committee Co-Chairs requested discussion of potential topics to be undertaken at future meetings. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, a Fire Safety Presentation will be provided by FDNY's Safety Division. It was suggested by a resident, prior to the meeting, that the committee convene a discussion of policing strategies following the transition to the new Mayoral Administration, including discussing changes to policing in context of the Bloomberg Administration's stop-and-frisk policies. The Committee also may consider a meeting to discuss the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the NYC Office of Emergency Management. NYC CERTs educate their communities about emergency preparedness by working with the Ready New York program and building community disaster networks.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

**Debbie Teitelbaum and Dave Kleckner  
Co-Chairs, Public Safety Committee**