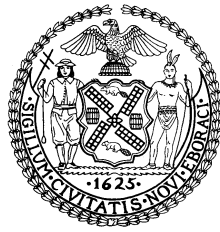


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The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8

**Public Safety Committee**

**Brick Presbyterian Church  
62 E. 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, Carnegie Room  
Monday, November 24, 2014  
6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Dave Kleckner, Debbie Teitelbaum, Jim Clynes

Number of Attendees: 9

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

**Topic: Update on Safety Issues in 19th Precinct**  
**Presenter: Police Officer Tarik Hunter of the 19th Precinct**

Officer Hunter handles crime prevention and the after effects of grand larcenies, burglaries and robberies. Overall, crime is down in the area. This time last year, robberies were at 92, this year is 77. Burglaries were at 200 but are creeping up to 198 this year. There is usually a bump in stats right after Labor Day weekend when people return from summer vacations. Grand larcenies were at 1,380; this year 1,240. A lot of grand larcenies cannot be policed; they consist of property that is being left out that people take advantage of and steal. For example, leaving a laptop out at a coffee shop and leaving it there momentarily. Identity theft is very big right now and is driving up the grand larceny numbers. Grand larceny autos are up, not with cars but commercial vans are being stolen to be used in other crimes. Robberies are items that are taken by force. The Green Dot Money Scam is huge right now. People receive a phone call, usually the elderly, stating that the caller is from the IRS and the person must pay an outstanding bill immediately. The green dot cards are sold in stores for as much as \$500 each. The back of the card has a number of it. Once you tell the caller the number, the caller can access the money on the card. Another scam is saying that victim's grand child is in another country and has been injured and you need to wire money. The police are working with stores that sell the cards to post signs, alerting customers to the scams. The police are also educating the store clerks to question people who are buying the packs in bulk to make sure the purchase is not due to a phone scam. You should know that the IRS will never call you. They only use postal mail. Some of the larger stores in our area like 7-11, Duane

Reade and Rite Aid have said they will stop selling the green dot cards. Another scam with the money packs is with people saying they are from Con Ed or checking on your cable to do additional work. The real Con Ed or Verizon do not just show up at your home. Never allow anyone into your home who you are not expecting. The holiday season brings a surge in pickpockets. They bump you and steal your wallet. Women should keep their bags closed and in front of their bodies. Men should carry wallets inside their front pockets, not back pockets. Try to limit what you carry. No need to carry multiple credit cards at the same time. Bumping usually takes place on buses and trains. Also, don't walk and talk on your cell phone. There were many grand larceny incidents this summer of people snatching phones out of the owners' hands.

If your house number is unlisted, your cell number may be listed and you can receive scam calls on your cell. Never call back a number that you don't recognize. Anyone who wants to speak with you will call you again if you don't answer or will leave you a message. If you receive a call that you believe is a scam, contact Detective Chris Helms or Officer Lombardi at the 19th precinct: 212-452-0613. They will direct you as to how to submit a formal complaint to the IRS or will pass the information on to their investigation unit. Always shred your bills and personal address from your other mail.

Regarding bikes, your council members need to change the laws to better protect civilians. For instance, restaurant bikers now need to wear vests. More businesses are working with the police now. The fines are going to the business, not the delivery guys. The restaurant will encourage the biker to slow down and ride more safely because the owners are getting the tickets.

There don't seem to be more crime incidents in Central Park. Crime is driven in the summer, and committed mostly against tourists.

Never wear headsets with both ear buds in. You need to be able to hear cars, emergency vehicles and everything happening around you. Don't walk and text. Criminals are watching you being distracted and not paying attention. Remember that someone is always watching you.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm

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