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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Monday, October 3, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Bill Angelos, Rebecca Dangoor, Sahar Husain, Wilma Johnson, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider, and Russell Squire

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Item 1: Discussion and Update with the 19th Precinct

Community Affairs Officer Brian Larkin of the 19th Precinct presented an update on public safety in our community. Currently, a major issue is mailbox fishing. Many of the street mailboxes have been converted to mail slots, but they can be compromised. Checks sent through the mail are being fished out and washed with acetone (such as nail polish remover), and the check is then rewritten. To prevent this, it is suggested that checks be written with a uni-ball 207 ink pen, which can be picked up at the police station. It is more secure to pay bills through online banking, or to mail letters at the post office.

The public expressed concerns about homelessness. Although homelessness is not a crime, there may be behavior that needs to be assessed. Encampments will be cleaned up and services offered to homeless people sleeping in them (although there is currently no social worker), but other action is not possible unless a homeless person presents a danger to themselves or others.

Officer Larkin addressed what happens after someone committing a crime is arrested. Low level, nonviolent crimes will not have bail set. As an example, someone stealing under one thousand dollars worth of merchandise will get a desk appearance ticket for arraignment at a future date but be released. Those committing violent crimes will be held on bail. Grand larcenies are arrested, processed, and released. About forty individuals have been identified as responsible for most of the crimes in our community and have been arrested multiple times. Bail reform laws don't allow a judge to look at previous crimes committed in determining what to do at arraignment.

It was suggested that the Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee discuss bail reform at a later meeting.

Item 2: New Business

No New Business was brought up.

Item 3: Old Business

No Old Business was brought up.

The committee adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs