



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. - District Manager William Rivera

Public Safety & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2018

Committee Chair: Brandon Ganaishlal

1. Introduction

- A. 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.

2. Speakers

- Richard Vitacco, Street Renaming
 - President of East Bronx History Forum, meets last Wednesday of every month
 - Came to last Public Safety meeting
 - Conaming of Newbold between Castle Hill and Havemeyer
 - 2nd lieutenant John Nicholas Sekhool was a WW2 serviceman; flight took off in August 1944 on bombing run in Germany and crashed 90 miles south of Hanover; they were taken hostage and prisoner; Barnstool was shot and taken in by a farmer; there were 9 people on the plane and 3 survivors; Sydney Brown, Barnstool and Adams; brought to prison camp through train but tracks get blown, so they had to walk through town to get to Russelheim; people pick up shovel, stone, sticks to beat the survivors; Opal factory made ammunitions for Germans instead of cars; 2 survivors kept from getting murdered by managers of Opal factory because of air raid sirens going off; They were carted off to cemetery and 2 survived after playing dead
 - 2 Books Written about it: Wolf's Angel and Last Mission of the Wam Bam Boys
 - Russelheim and Georgia honored the serviceman
 - It also makes sense to honor him in the Bronx
 - Met with Ricardo Garcia and got signatures from him, his own organization, the businesses near the Newbold street and the fire depts
 - get letter from American War Veterans will make it easier to get passed through City Council
 - wondered through cemeteries and found history on John Sekhool
 - Referenced in "After the Battle"
 - found grand-nephew but should continue looking for family members
 - On 43rd precinct, there are two plaques with names of all people who were captured overseas and may have included John's name
 - The precinct was on Benedict

- 2200 block on Newbold
- Already made motion but will make another one overriding previous motion
- Motion is to approve the request for street renaming of Newbold between Castle Hill and Havemeyer
- Motions passed with unanimous vote
- Bring letter back with package so we know that the letter went out to Assemblyman Sepulveda, Councilmember and Senator Klein

3. Liquor License

- Vista Hermosa Deli Restaurant #1277015, Renewal Application
 - Closes early and has been around 10-15 years
 - Doesn't have any complaints and has the security cameras
- MC Castle Hill Inc. #1293489, Renewal Application
 - No issues except loud noise complaints that comes from Pinstripes, which no longer exists
 - Second renewal
 - No objections; all in favor for renewal application
- La Duena Restaurant Bar Corp, New Application (change of ownership)
 - Other than music being loud sometimes, there weren't any other complaints
 - Restaurant is under residential apartments
 - Work out noise level with 43rd precinct
 - There will be restrictions because it's a new owner
 - Established for 4-5 years and bought from old owner
 - New application because new owner
 - Will be keeping the cameras
 - Restaurant bar for family
 - Important to keep noises low or will keep getting summons
 - Will be adding the restaurant to the bar
 - Will be open from 10 AM – 12AM (Mon-Thur)
 - Wants to stay open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM- 3 AM
 - Has one speaker and music is previously recorded
 - Will and NCO Sergeant can go to establishment to help owner determine maximum noise level allowed
 - The security camera footage is available for a month
 - Sometimes old owner and new owner are related and they just change the name of the corporation but this new owner and the old owner are not related
 - License can be suspended if they take picture of a dj
 - If they get enough summons, they will take away speaker
 - Have to consider residents who work early in the morning when playing music
 - Speaker is on the floor and the capacity is about 20 people
 - If there are enough summons, NYPD will take speaker
 - Put a motion for accepting La Duena Restaurant for a liquor license with the restriction of 3 AM
 - 1 nay and 1 abstension; motion passed
 - Will send letter to liquor authority
- J&G Laundromat, INC
 - First of its kind to be asking for wine and beer
 - Got idea from laundromats in Brooklyn, which is a different location and different clientele

- There are kids in the laundromat but will need manager to check IDs
- Discouraging customers to come in especially if there are families coming in to wash clothes
- By law, allowed to apply for liquor but as long as they regulate it
- You can put laundry in and then drink
- Makes more sense for a salon; laundromats aren't the place because there isn't enough space
- Safety procedures with kids

Laundrymat Owner:

- Only going to be wine, beer and champagne in a café setting with finger food
- Everybody will be "Ided" and his wife and managers will make sure people don't get drunk
- Won't make the food in the laundromat
- Will have café things on the right side, can eat in the back and left side will have benches where people can sit and watch tv
- Wants to serve 12-9 and is open 7-10
- Will have about 5-6 seats for people drinking
- Can't hang out there unless people are doing laundry

Feedback:

- Test out with food and nonalcoholic drinks because there isn't a lot of space compared to laundromats in Brooklyn that serve alcoholic beverages
- May discourage consumers if there is drama
- Board members think that there are safety precautions but should start without nonalcoholic drinks
- There are security cameras and deletes recordings after 2 days
- Main concern is that neighborhood isn't ready even though it's an innovative idea
- Maybe in the future if there is more space to separate
- Less regulation in laundromat
- Up to liquor authority on what they say
- Try finger foods first and make more space before trying to get alcoholic bevs
- DM will remain in contact with NCO officers

4. New Business

- No Parking/ No Standing signs on Howe and Barette Ave
 - CB9 gets requests from residents for speed bumps, 4 way stop signs, traffic lights and we typically send it to DOT and sometimes some of them come to committee meetings
 - There's a strip along Pugsley Creek Park and there are no parking regulations there on Howe Ave
 - Izzy Morales contacted DOT and our office asking to change No Parking to No Standing because emergency vehicles can't get through
 - The block affected isn't where the resident lives
 - Barette Ave was changed from having no signs to No Standing
 - The residents weren't aware of the new sign; it makes it difficult for residents living on the block to find parking
 - DOT installed the signs and doesn't notify CB9, so there isn't any way for CB9 to get the message out before signs are installed
 - Izzy Morales, who poses to be the president of the homeowner's association, wanted to install the sign very adamantly
 - DOT installed the No Standing sign on his block and the next block as well

- DM Rivera wanted Izzy and DOT present along with the resident that came to see both sides of the matter; there are two community groups who are conflicting on traffic signs and there needs to be a mediation but Izzy isn't there
- One resident contacted Marco Crespos' office to petition having the sign taken out; when resident approached Izzy, he said that there was an error and he was referring to Barette only
- DOT chose to do this on one part of Barette Ave and one part of Howe Ave but Izzy lives on Howe Ave
- On Barette Ave there isn't any houses, so it's okay to have a No Standing sign but there are houses on Howe Ave
- DM Rivera: What do you think about making that street a one way?
- That's what the residents on Howe asked for
- When cars park in front of Howe Ave, it is narrow but Access-A-Ride cars can pass through
- DM Rivera needs to do a site visit and he wants Izzy to be there and the other community group
- DM Rivera wants to make sure that there is an agreement on the error before going to DOT
- Residents want to remove sign from Howe Ave and they are okay with the sign on Barette Ave
- People who made the decision doesn't live on the block affected
- Sometimes some cars are parked on Barette near the water, which makes it dangerous for cars who are going down the street to make the turn around the corner
- What they probably intended to do was put No Parking signs along that street on one side but instead they put No Parking signs along their street, which is a two way street
- It shouldn't be a two way street because it's too narrow but there has never been an issue with winter vehicles, they went through fine
- Two different groups complaining about DOT and DM will do site visit with both groups there
- This is about moving the sign and making a two-way to a one-way
- Aurora: They have a No Standing and they get tickets but why is it that we have a No Standing over here in Bruckner and there are cars and trucks parked but nobody gets any tickets
- Traffic division is separate from the precinct and DM Rivera is looking forward to meeting the new Bronx commander for the Traffic division to focus on the quality of life issues and can prove that Traffic is a revenue based system that allows the city bring in money; it's easy to summons the homeowners rather than the owners of the tractor trailers and to remove them is difficult
- Brandon: It's actually corrupt
- Jennifer asks to non-English speaking business owners to bring interpreter or be provided an interpreter instead of someone else from the table translating
 - Feels uncomfortable with how the liquor license discussions go
 - We can recommend closing earlier but can disapprove liquor licenses; anyone in the community can come and get a liquor license because it's up to them whether or not they want to agree on closing earlier
 - Wants committee to have a more preventive method and let there be a motion to have a restriction on closing earlier
 - Should be an option to deny the liquor license of business owner doesn't meet halfway and agree to close earlier for the first two years
 - Too many inconsistencies in the decision
 - If there is a question, we should deliberate for a little
 - By law, liquor authority can allow a business to stay open until 4, it's a gentleman's agreement to restrict the time earlier
 - Gives us conversation if people don't abide by the restricted closing time

- Motion to discuss hours of restriction for all application if it is presented
 - It's case by case basis
 - Everybody abstained; so motion wasn't passed
- New attendee sitting in on meetings and observed that only asked questions to the CB9 members even though meeting is opened to the public; residents sitting in on meetings could be people impacted by the applicants for liquor licenses, so their opinions matter too. I'm just thinking about the transparency
 - DM Rivera: Usually asks at the end but can raise your hand and speak at any time. It may be different for other committees because they operate differently. However, it's the board members who make the vote. We always let the public speak.
 - New Attendee: Board Members should be on the same page. The public can't speak when a motion is being made but should make a stipulation to restrict liquor license to 2 AM and then later 4 AM.
 - DM Rivera: Most of the time, business owners agree to the restriction but this lady wouldn't agree
 - New Attendee: Would like to attend NYPD Community Council Meetings
 - Aurora: President of Precinct Council and have meetings first Wednesday of every month at 7 at the precinct; everything is discussed there and usually 85-95 people attend the meetings
 - Brandon: You said earlier that there was a lack of transparency but maybe you misspoke and there is a lack of participation from the public
 - DM Rivera: No one knows we exist, so I try to go out and knock on doors to visit the site of liquor license applicants; we are limited in resources, so we can't always send out notices. We also try to put ourselves in the shoes of the residents in the area
- Nicholas Himidian: There is construction going on during Saturdays at my building and Story Ave projects and they don't have licenses to do it. The Tenant Association recommended not to do the construction on Saturdays and Sundays on both sites but they go in any way. First complaint, the department was confused about which site and the time frame.
 - DM Rivera: They got back to me with the confirmation of both sites and will send the email to Nicholas
- Nicholas Himidian: Had a conversation with Will about the school on Boyton near York Studios; residents said that the garbage is everywhere and put it on the street not the sidewalk; residents should speak up about it; it seems to be a dumping ground from Story Ave to Bruckner; NCO helped out with Empire towing and traffic pattern has been a lot better. When they get involved, things get better.
 - NCO officers know the people at the school, so can speak with them

Meeting Adjourned: 8:44 PM

OFFICE INFO

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