**COMMUNITY BOARD 17**

**BLOCK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING – OCTOBER 27TH, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Marjorie Faison

Philip Manifold

Natalie Ferguson

Edwine Joseph

PRESENTER: Det. Skinner – 67th Precinct Community Affairs

Malcolm McDaniel - Director of Constituents Service, Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit,

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The meeting of the Block Association Committee was called to order by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Natalie Ferguson. Ms. Ferguson asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Ferguson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22nd, 2022 meeting. Ms. Edwine Joseph made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Malcolm McDaniel second.

**Chairperson Report**

Ms. Natalie Ferguson reported on the following:

She’s new to the community board and new to the Block Association Chair position

Concerns were raised last month regarding the following:

* sanitation issues
* cars parked in certain areas for a long period of time
* inoperable street lights and/or lights not illuminating/bright
* Outreach information to the community

Ms. Ferguson said she spoke to the Committee Chairs regarding the above matters.

There were questions pertaining to the young and elderly population, in addition to educating the public on community issues and the need for community outreach.

Ms. Ferguson said she also had a conversation with the Chair of the Social Services committee.

She reminded everyone October is Breast Cancer Awareness and the Blood drive at SUNY Downstate for anyone interested in donating blood. SUNY is also making a conscious effort to talk about cancer that affects people of color especially in regards to colorectal cancer, HPV vaccination and lung cancer. Efforts being made for smoking cessation.

Mental health is another concern. Persons should be encouraged to reach out for support and be aware there is also something called functional depression and perform wellness check on family, friends and neighbors, to ensure they are ok, especially if not seen for a period of time.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, Director of Constituents Service, Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, greeted everyone. He thanked the Chair of the Block Association and residents for attending the meeting. He said CB17 is one of the few communities that have a Block Association committee and it helps set the tone for the block, in terms of safety, garbage clean-up on the blocks. It also empowers residents, and allows for accountability and transparency. Block Association strengthen the relationship and quality of life on a block.

Block Associations also have an opportunity to work one-on-one with agencies and advocate with elected officials for resources for their respective blocks.

Mr. McDaniel encouraged the block presidents in need of assistance to reach out to his office and posted his contact information in the chat.

There were questions regarding sanitation tickets, cars parked in the street for long period not moving as per alternate parking rules, to which Mr. McDaniel said Sanitation and NYPD handles those issue.

**Detective Skinner – NYPD 67th Precinct Community Affairs**

Det. Skinner greeted everyone, he said when an officer inspects a vehicle, if it doesn’t fall under their jurisdiction, it is referred to Sanitation. If a sticker is placed on a vehicle that says Sanitation, it means sanitation is in charge of that issue. Sometimes, there is writing on the vehicle and people may wipe the writing off, it means the vehicle was claimed and the agency cannot do anything.

There were complaints regarding blocked driveways, cars parked near to fire hydrants overnight and no tickets issues.

Detective Skinner said private tow trucks have the contracts and have limited space to place towed vehicles. He encouraged residents to send abandoned vehicle information to him and the information will be added to the master list for towing by the company.

He also asked residents to be vigilant, be mindful of persons dressing up as Amazon workers, construction workers, etc. Must also be mindful of scammers calling the phones encouraging people to purchase items, and or chat about missing family members, or family member in need of assistance. No one should accompany anyone to the bank or give out their social security or bank account number. Additionally, the government do not solicit funds.

**Question:** Is there any advice or assistance for parents, should parents be diligent and is there a pattern? Do you know where the gangs are?

**Answer**: Det. Skinner said officers work with troubled kids and programs are available such as the youth explorers, there are tournaments to keep the kids active. Youth officers and the white seal have different programs that encourages healthy living lifestyles, for example taking the children to the gym. He said, there are kids who are not in gangs but participate in gang activities such as robing other kids.

Det. Skinner also notified the residents, of an ongoing problem with catalytic converter, NYPD is encouraging residents to get an NYPD serial number on their converters just in case it gets stolen, it can be recovered and returned if found.

**Complaints –**

* Residents parking their cars, preventing alternate side sweeping. Some residents do not live on the block.

Det. Skinner said street parking is public and NYPD cannot enforce

* Installation of stoplight

Det. Skinner said the highway safety officer would go out and process a field report and make a recommendation for stop signs or traffic device etc. Thereafter, a field inspection will be done

* Complaint: Raccoon problem, 311 was contacted

Mr. McDaniel said in the past someone from the agency responds with a trap, however, those type of services has scaled back immensely.

He promised to provide the Board with a list of community organizations in the area.

Ms. Natalie Ferguson thanked Det. Skinner and Mr. McDaniel for their presentation.

**New Business**

Ms. Ferguson said the Block Association committee can be something that all can be proud of and a committee that can assist residents. She said the Board’s website is a good resource with lots of information. There are other committees on the Board, some of which she sits on and those committees have information that help move the Board’s work along. Committee members and residents are encouraged to visit the Board’s website and make a request to join other committees.

**Old Business – None**

**Adjournment** - There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Ferguson asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Malcolm McDaniel made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Marjorie Faison second.