

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Frederick Watson

Audrey Henderson

Cheryl Saunders

Monica McKain Brown

J Lewis

Jessica Welch

Jorge A Tait

Adele Bennett

PRESENTER - Sandra Sanchez – FDNY CAU

---

The meeting of the Public Safety committee was called to order by the Chair, Ms. Jessica Welch. Ms. Welch asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Welch asked someone to make a motion to approve the October 26<sup>th</sup> Public Safety meeting minutes. Ms. Adele Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Frederick Watson Second.

**Chairperson's Reported on the following:**

- Lots of fires in the area, there is a need to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector.
- This is the holiday season when fires occur, therefore, Ms. Sanchez from the Fire Department was invited to make a presentation on fire safety.

**Ms. Sandra Sanchez- FDNY Community Affairs Unit made the following presentation:**

Ms. Sanchez greeted everyone, she said she attended to share fire safety tips with residents of the community. When the clock is turned back it is recommended fire alarms and smoke detectors are checked to ensure they are working, studies shown, it is the first line of defense and reduces the risk of injury and death by 50% during a fire.

- Appointments can be made to receive free alarm from the Red Cross by calling 1877-RED CROSS or 1877-733-2767

- Make sure there is a comprehensive plan that everyone knows where the meeting spot is outside of the home, where family members can meet in the event of a fire. Be sure to choose a location such as a corner store or a mailbox
- Practice your plan in the daytime and during the evening hours. As you plan, think about all your points of egress.
- Do not block egress, pathways/hallways must remain clear. If a window is an additional point of egress, it must also remain clear.
- No keys or locks on the windows that cannot be accessible in a haste
- No stand-up closet or wardrobe blocking the egress. Allows rescuers to get in quickly, it makes a differences by minutes.
- Give assignment to the adults, one can make sure the children are safe and another ensure the older adults(if any) are out safe and they can jump if needs be.
- Be sure to enforce a free zone when family visits and children are not close to the fire/stove.
- During the holidays, stay close to the kitchen when cooking.
- Keep clothing away from the fire when cooking
- Have a functional fire extinguisher in the kitchen area.
- 

Some homes and apartments were not built to withstand the current appliances. Electrical equipment must be plugged directly into the wall and power strips must be checked to ensure they are not melting.

Space heaters must be checked to ensure safety and lithium. Always use the manufacturers power adapter made specifically for the device.

Ms. Sanchez shared her email with the public and asked residents to contact her for more information.,

**Question:** What about the van that goes out to different parts of the community sharing fire prevention flyers?

**Answer:** The mobile van did not come to CB17 because there are no fires. The van is dispatched immediately when there is a large function or fatal fire.

**Question:** it is being reported the Fire Department is making the team more diverse

**Answer:** The Department is vast, consist of Firefighters and EMS, the bureau for fire prevention in addition to the civilian staff. There is diversity and inclusion bureau as well as the office of recruitment and retention. When the exams are open CB17 will be notified.

## **New Business**

**Question:** Is there a way to schedule NYPD into the meetings

**Answer:** Ms. Welch said she could only make the request, it's up to NYPD to show up.

Mr. Jorge Tait said he attended the Build-the-Block meeting on Avenue D and it was poorly attended. He said issues discussed were noise complaints, darkness in the park and illegally parked and abandon cars and repairs in the street.

Residents complained about poorly lit areas in the community.

Ms. Fraser asked Ms. Welch to compile a listing of the locations and submit to the office.

Ms. Welch said NYPD Community Affairs is on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussions, Ms. Welch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Frederick Watson made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Jorge Tait second.



