

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Public Safety Committee Meeting
ONLINE
June 28th, 2023

Welcome & Roll Call: This meeting of the Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jessica Welch at 7:35.

Present: Jessica Welch, Monica Mckain Brown, Audrey Henderson, Cathy Lovell, Samantha Obas, Cathy Lovell, Jeffrey Severe, Adele Bennett, Ms. Lyons, & Carleen Marie Gordon.

Approval of Minutes:

There are 18 members and there are only 5 members today. So, we need 8 or 9 people to be here to approve the minutes.

Public Safety Updates:

Jessica Welch: Last time we met we discussed about the new cannabis shops in the area and only 6 are legal. I spoke to Mr. Daley about it being an issue of quality of life about having so many so close to each other. We can make it a quality-of-life issue in our neighborhood.

Adele Bennett: I have found out that they must be 500 feet from a school. We should get together with our community board members to push this issue and work towards regulation. On 8910 Church Avenue, a weed lounge is being built and they have no permits to put that building up.

Ms. Lyons: I will try and find out who governs these weed shops, and we can contact this department.

Audrey Henderson: Another public safety issue is a lot of fireworks in the neighborhood.

Jessica Welch: It is only illegal when they are selling it but if they are just lighting it, is a public nuisance.

*Will work toward the issue of the fireworks since the issue of the fireworks, is only resolved if they catch who lights it, but most people disperse. But a complaint to 67th can be submitted to see if they have a unit who can get on this faster.

Jessica Welch: They are not considering daycares as a school.

Jeffery Severe: There is a recent law change where the shops will face a 10,000 dollar a day fine and for unlicensed weed shops and seize the product and padlock the door.

Jessica Welch: There should be regulation where you can't have so many shops on one street.

Adele Bennett: How about getting a name of that person/operator and banning them from opening a new store.

Jeffery Severe: If folks are not following these regulations to begin with it is hard to enforcement unless more powers like the ones that were recently enacted are done. For people opening these businesses it is high risk for high reward in a short period of time.

Jessica Welch: What could be done about this?

Jeffery Severe: Marijuana was legalized to allow those communities who were harmed by the enforcement to now gain the benefits. We can try to publicize to folks that they are using a legitimate business. For folks who are concerned about smoking in city parks, you cannot

smoke marijuana in the same place where you cannot smoke tobacco. We need to work towards coordination between the city and the state and have a robust education campaign about where you can smoke. We need to also help those who are doing it legally because they will follow the laws and not sell to the kids under 21. You can't get into the legal ones without a valid card and the ones in our community aren't legal. The illegal ones are visiting the community board.

Adele Bennett: I have seen teens come out of smoke shops and I have seen teens on the bus smoking it.

Jessica Welch: Right now, we must find out more about what the governor wants to do about it and all questions we will keep until September when we can meet back up as a group.

Adele Bennett: Did you ever think about getting involved in Insurance Board, insurance companies. Maybe if we included this and people can lose their insurance while driving while impaired.

Jeffery Severe: With the piece about the car, if you are smoking in a car and are not driving you can get a ticket for that. Insurance companies are discussing it, but the laws are just not caught up with it.

Jessica Welch: If you have any ideas or suggestions, I want you all to hold on to it and we will address it in September.

Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Adele Bennett

Seconded the motion for adjournment at 8:58 by Monica McKain Brown.

Meeting Adjourned.