

CB 10 POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Police & Public Safety Committee met on Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Community Board Office to discuss quality of life issues on 3rd Avenue.

Present were:

Mary Ann Walsh, Chair, Committee Members Robert Buonvino, Judith Collins, Nikolaos Leonardos, Frances Loftus, Mary Nolan and Husam Rimawi,
CB 10 Chair Craig Eaton, District Manager Josephine Beckmann, Vice Chair Dean Rasinya and Member Rhea McCone,
Commanding Officer Capt. Erik Rodriguez and Community Affairs Officer Sgt. John Strype of the 68th Precinct,
Kate Carberry, representing Senator Martin Golden, and Stephanie Giovinco, representing Councilman Vincent Gentile,
Patrick DeFillippo, owner of Blue Zoo and Anthony Lugaro, attorney for Muses

The main issues discussed were the numerous complaints received from residents living on 84th Street from 3rd Avenue to Ridge Boulevard and on Third Avenue from 83rd to 84th Streets. A number of the residents were present and James Law, the informal leader of the 84th Street Block Association, presented their complaints and concerns:

1. Overage (21) drinkers flooding out of Blue Zoo, Muses, etc. when the bars close, primarily on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The problems include screaming, drunken driving, fornication in cars and yards, drug use, littering yards with bottles and at times violence in the bars themselves.
2. Underage (21) kids who emulate the overage kids in the bars by hanging out on the block, primarily in the yards of residences, causing similar problems. They generally are in groups of three to six.
3. Numerous issues regarding Fort Hamilton High School students including drinking and drug use on their block during school hours.
4. Valet parkers from the various restaurants along 3rd Avenue who drive down 84th Street at 60 mph and park in front of hydrants, driveways and crowd the block.

Patrick DeFillippo of Blue Zoo expressed his concern and respect for the residential community and explained how he operates his business. His clientele is older, the men are required to be at least 25 years old and properly dressed. During the week he is closed by 1:30 AM. He does not feel that his clientele would be causing the problems which are being cited by the residents. He is willing to cooperate in any way possible and suggested that the alley behind his establishment might contribute to the problem. He proposed that a sensor light be installed to deter people from going back there and he would gladly contribute to the installation. He expressed concern about a nearby newsstand where as many as 20 to 30 underage (21) people congregate and trash the neighborhood.

Anthony Lugaro, the attorney for Muses, was unaware of the problems. He asked for some clarification particularly with regard to the issue of the bottles littering the residents' yards. Alcohol is not permitted to be taken outside of an establishment, yet this seems to happen, as do fights. It was recommended that Muses have a bouncer during the week. It was also suggested that the owners of Muses provide the residents with their personal telephone numbers. He will inform the owner of these discussions.

Capt. Rodriguez stated that he will make sure that there is a heavier police presence in the area, particularly on the weekends and will gladly cooperate with the Community Board and the residents to improve their quality of life. He also explained the various new initiatives which are being implemented in the area which will also help alleviate some of these problems. He suggested that the residents document the incidents and call the precinct with all observances. He also stated that the police will look into the newsstand.

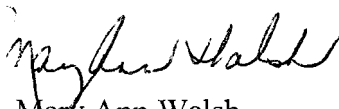
District Manager Josephine Beckmann explained to the residents that the students from Fort Hamilton are released at various times during the day as they are on three sessions. The problem will be discussed with the Principal of Fort Hamilton.

Board Member Rhea McCone inquired as to how many patrol cars are out in the neighborhood. Capt. Rodriguez stated that there are four. She owns a business on Third Avenue between 76th and 77th Streets and is concerned about the number of homeless milling about. She is able to keep her door locked, but expressed concern for the other storekeepers who are unable to lock their doors due to the nature of their business. Capt. Rodriguez stated that the homeless problem is city-wide and that he is assigning two more officers to deal with the homeless in our area.

The meeting was concluded and it was felt by all present that we were off to a good start in dealing with the problems and it was agreed to meet again in a few weeks to evaluate the progress.

Subsequent to the meeting Josephine Beckmann received a call from Joe Mento, the owner of Muses, stating that he wants to work with the Community Board and they he will be sound proofing the window located near the music. He will also put up a sign that reads "Be Courteous to your Neighbors". In addition he shared his personal telephone number.

Respectfully submitted.



Mary Ann Walsh,
Chair