

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

On Thursday, April 6, 2006, the Police and Public Safety Committee met to discuss complaints from local residents regarding LaNortena Restaurant located at 7215 Third Avenue. Board Members present included Judy Collins, Tim Cross, Nick Leonardos, Frances Loftus, Jean Ryan, Chair Craig Eaton and Josephine Beckmann, District Manager.

Kate Carberry was present representing State Senator Marty Golden and Stephanie Giovinco was present representing Council Member Vincent Gentile. Ed Reyer, NYS State Liquor Authority and Marvin Levin, Chief Enforcement at NYS Liquor Authority. Lt. Chris Montagna, 68 Precinct, Sgt. John Strype, P.O. Paul Montana and P.O. Joseph Trischetta from 68 Precinct Community Affairs were also present.

The 68th Police Precinct presented the committee with an enforcement summary of SLA violations issued – 6 in 2004 – 5 in 2005 including one felony arrest for striking a patron with a baseball bat and 9 misdemeanor arrests for a fight striking others with bottles; 2 violations for operating a dance premise without a cabaret license – So far this year 2 disorderly incidents – 4 criminal summonses issued January 22, 2006 and 2 arrests made for Assault in 3rd Degree on March 20, 2006.

The representatives from the State Liquor Authority indicated that they had not received all of the SLA notices issued by the Precinct. The process of referring these complaints was explained by Lt. Montagna from the 68th Precinct. The precinct conducted a MARCH operation at the site – it was nuisance abated and reopened despite the numerous arrests and summonses issued. The discussion concluded with an agreement that a joint inspection of the establishment is going to be arranged between our police officials and the SLA reps present at the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion with Board Members the following motions were introduced and voted upon unanimously:

Motion to ask Board office to do research on pending bills before the State Legislature as it relates to SLA.. then write to our elected officials supporting legislation or creating legislation that would give more enforcement authority to the New York State Liquor Authority to close down repeat offenders; provide for better communication with local community boards and local elected officials reporting problematic bars.


The other was to write a letter to the Commanding Officer of the 68th Precinct asking him to forward the Community Board each time a local establishment is served with an SLA violation so that we can keep track of problem sites and report to SLA upon receipt of 2 year renewal applications.

The remainder of the meeting was a discussion by concerned parents of teenagers in the Bay Ridge area. Some parents discussed the ease teens have purchasing alcohol/ beer from local vendors. A list of problem spots was provided to the 68 Precinct.

Also, other parents discussed confrontations teens are experiencing with other groups of teens at local parks and playgrounds after school. The 68 Pct informed us that increase patrols would be made at Fort Hamilton Fields, 79th Street at Shore Road, 83rd Street at Shore Road and 12th Avenue at 69th Street.

Chairman Craig Eaton suggested that the Youth Services Committee meet jointly with the Police and Public Safety Committee to get an update on situation in about one month.

Respectfully submitted,


Tom Garry