

## JOINT YOUTH SERVICES -- POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY -- MAY 15, 2006

On Thursday, May 11, 2006, a joint Committee of the Youth Services and the Police and Public Safety Committees met to discuss issues raised by concerned parents of teenagers in the Bay Ridge area. At our April meetings, a group of parents discussed problems their children were having with other groups of community teens. A list of problem spots was provided to the 68 Precinct and this meeting was scheduled to follow up to see if situation had improved.

In attendance were Committee members Timothy Cross, Nick Leonardos, Frances Loftus, Jean Ryan, Dr. Husam Rimawi, Vice Chair Dean Rasinya, Allen Bortnick, Tom Colasuonno, Mary Nilsen – our Chairman Craig Eaton and District Manager Josephine Beckmann. Representing the 68<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct were Deputy Inspector William Aubry, Lt. Fleming, Sgt. Stirton, P.O. Grillo, and P.O. Anthony Curran.

While the parents from last month's meeting were invited, they did not return; however, a different group of Bay Ridge parents learned about our meeting and asked questions ranging from teenage interactions with the police to a specific incident that happened the previous weekend where groups of disorderly conduct summonses were issued to teens after a fight ensued in front of a local bar/restaurant. DI Aubry explained police procedures when responding to large groups – when drinking alcohol plays a role. Aubry explained how he has seen first hand that teenagers cannot handle the effects of alcohol. DI Aubry went on to say that complying with the lawful order of a police officer is critical to restore order – and when alcohol plays a role – it becomes more difficult – but the role of the police is to restore order – and summonses often have to be issued to achieve that goal for the safety of all involved.

The bottom line sentiment in the room from Board Members was the frustration that our teens really have no place to go and many of them end up hanging out on street corners with their friends – and if trouble occurs many of them may not know what to do... We talked about a Youth Center – many said kids don't want to be in center – they want to be outside –

We also learned that NY State laws allow teens 16 years and up to enter locations where alcohol is served – they are not supposed to be served alcohol to minors – but often times older people buy drinks and give them to teens.

Chairman Craig Eaton suggested that the Community Board coordinate a COMMUNITY TEENAGE FORUM urging teens from local middle school and high schools – public and private, parents, and school officials. We hope to hear from teens to hear and discuss their concerns living in our community and problems they may be encountering. At this meeting we would have Deputy Inspector Aubry, Youth Officer and Conditions Officers to talk about their job – how they respond to various police situations. We will also invite reps from local Youth Organizations to be on hand to discuss youth programs in our community. Chair Eaton said he would try to organize date and time by our Board meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhea McCone

Youth Services Chair