

# Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2022



In attendance: Deputy Inspector Lavonda Wise, NCO Officers, Traffic Officers, Community Affairs Officers, Parks Department, Jeff Cohen, Queens Community Ambassador, Long Island City residents, LIC Community Action, Inc., Hunters Point Park Conservancy President, District Attorney representative and candidates for Assembly Person and City Council

**Overview:** Organized meeting to review concerns of the community to include data and updates from last meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Deputy Inspector Lavonda Wise took questions and offered statistics from the last meeting take away items

**911/311:** Inspector Wise stated she was not happy with what she discovered when reviewing response times for the area and therefore decided to make some changes to our Community Affairs Officers. She introduced the new team who have been actively patrolling the area and getting to know community members. Things have improved significantly with this change, and she is committed to continuing to review response times and keep communications open with the neighborhood.

**Traffic/Parking Concerns:** Inspector Wise and Traffic Officers reported the towing of multiple cars in the area including abandoned vehicles, illegally parked cars and the RV. Arrests were made in regard to the RV on 44<sup>th</sup> drive for theft of services. There were 140 violations in the last 28 days handed out on Center Boulevard for various traffic issues such as double-parked cars, fire hydrant blocking, etc.

**Statistics Reviewed During Meeting:** over the course of the last 28 days since our last meeting Inspector Wise reported that crime was pretty level. Grand Larceny was up from 42-43%, there has been an uptick in the theft of Honda CRV. She does not know why but she wanted the community to be aware. Further, increase in break into cars. Do not leave valuables in the car as this attracts thieves to break into the cars. All personal items should be taken with you when you park your cars.

There were several bikes confiscated and/or ticketed in the area of Laurel Hill where frequent “drag racing” occurs.

**Waterfront Park/Food Trucks:** The park hours and folks being in the park way into the late hours was discussed. Discussion of bigger signs for the park to show that the park closes at 10 p.m. The question of whether ticketing occurs for being in the park after hours came up. The Park’s Officer spoke about this and stated they do give out tickets to folks but that they leave at 11 p.m. They do not allow for too much overtime so they can’t stay later. Resident suggested that a meeting be had with the parks department to see if we can allocate better staffing hours so that there is more of a presence of the parks police during the later hours of the night. LICCA discussed that the Community Safety Team is there to help with this situation by working the hours of 10 a.m. – about 1 a.m. until we can see if monies can be allocated by the parks department to better staff. Until that time, the team will help advise folks that the park is closed and/or remind them to be respectful and keep the noise down in consideration of the residents in the area.

Food Trucks were brought up again and we will continue to talk to various departments such as Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Sanitation and Parks Department. The community would like to see the trucks leave by at least 11:30 every night so that the park is not an attraction all night long and create excess trash and late night reveler. Some solutions such as alternate side of the street parking was discussed as well as no standing signs during the over night hours.

**Police Presence:** Since the last meeting, Inspector Wise has kept her promise to have more presence in the park. Many community members recognize this change and were very happy that they feel safer. We hope this will continue. However, the 108 does not have staff to be at the waterfront all the time so the community safety team is here to assist until there is an increase of overall staffing at the 108. This can only be done by the city doing a review of increase of residents in the area and crime statistics. The ratio of police assigned to any precinct is based on this criteria and therefore, those areas that have more violent crimes will be assigned more officers. Presently, LIC is still very safe compared to other areas. Inspector Wise has added auxiliary officers to be available as much as possible and we have seen this team of 6 walking the park at various times. All these steps demonstrate her commitment to the community, and we are very grateful.

**District Attorney's Office:** The Executive Assistant District Attorney was present and gave us an overview of Bail Reform that was very informative. She explained how it has been tweaked to give judges more discretion on misdemeanors and how they manage bail. She reviewed programs that are available to community groups to encourage youth programs to help young kids know there are opportunities and programs available to them to keep them off the streets. This is something LICCA will reach to her about to gather more information so that we can be involved with that. She mentioned Saturday Night Lights which is a program for kids that is very successful. Brian, one of the new officers commented on how great this is for the kids. She discussed the need for better mental health programs. Overall, her presentation was informative and interactive.

**LICCA will be working with the precinct to get data that can be shared on this website as the source for the community to be able to review information and/or provide a "portal" where concerns/complaints can be housed and brought to the meetings on an ongoing basis. This effort is being done to organize and efficiently manage the concerns of the community and have an organized area to share the information.**

**LICCA launched a new app so that the community has direct contact with the safety team on the nights they are on tour. This allows them to get a response to their concern as soon as possible. Also, the app is available at anytime to report quality of life concerns that can then be reported back to the 108 in an organized fashion. Please see information about the app on the landing page of [www.liccommunity.com](http://www.liccommunity.com)**

**Next meeting is June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Sunnyside Community Center.**