

LenoxFive 127th Street Block Association

General Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2015

1. President's Report

The Acting Chairman, Olu Oni called the meeting to order

The Secretary, Marilyn Byrd, read the Minutes for the 5/26/15 General meeting.

- 2. Treasurer's Report** – Between the PayPal account and the Banco Popular checking account, the BA treasury is now in excess of \$700.
- 3. Adoption of Resolutions** – Each of the following resolutions were presented and unanimously adopted by show of hands:
 - The term of the interim Caretaker arrangement is 6 months.
 - BA holds election in 6 months (January 2016) to elect a Board as per the existing Bylaws, or to amend the Bylaws as needed.
 - Reimbursable Committee expenditures must be pre-authorized by the Caretaker
 - The Caretaker must present expenditures over \$50, to the GA for majority vote.
 - A GA meeting is required at least once every 3 months – to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- 4. Parks Committee** – Tal Marnin and Tony Hillary reported that they have been in contact with the ADC regarding the Park and will submit a lease from Harlem Grown to ADC as well as address the possible reversal of ADC's outstanding liens.
- 5. Community Liaison Committee**
 - Kunbi Oni reported that the CLC has organized and is assigning CLC volunteers to regularly attend CB10 meetings as well as police precinct meetings for the 28th, 32nd and 25th precincts
 - The CLC is sponsoring a community clean up day on Saturday, July 11 to encourage neighbors to get involved and get to know one another.
 - George Duran volunteered to consult with anyone on the block interested in the installation of cameras (no matter your budget).
 - George Duran will head a team to research Neighborhood Watch signs.

6. Guest speakers

- 28th Precinct – Special Officer Tom Kelly
 - Crime - overall major crimes are down for this year but they are struggling with shooting incidents. The shooting incidents so far this year appear to be isolated and not related to each other. There is also a commercial burglary problem involving vans at construction and/or renovation sites. The BA was asked to keep an eye out for and report anyone appearing to tinker with locks on commercial vans. He emphasized that when calling 911, details are extremely important.
 - Quality of Life
 - Public urination - Officer Kelly registered our concerns regarding public urination and agreed to put 2 guys on foot patrol for a couple of hours each night. He also said he would reach out to the 32 and make them aware of the problem as well.
 - The front stoop - Loitering, disorderly conduct and blocking the entrance are acceptable reasons to notify the police via 311 and can be enforced. But socializing on the stoop (if they live there) is not a good reason to call.

- 25th Precinct – Officer Rivera, Community Affairs
 - Shooting incident on 5th and 127th - They have identified a suspect and are interested in any and all information pertaining to these kinds of crimes, even it is street buzz.
 - Cameras - The big cameras that you see on 125th and Lenox and 125th and 2nd, are not police cameras. They belong to the DOT and are for traffic information. He encouraged building and homeowners to install street facing cameras. Footage from those cameras would be useful to the police. Officer Jeff Jones of the 28 said that Officer Victor Pena also of the 28 is an excellent resource when it comes to determining the best location to place a camera and also if you need a general assessment of your home's security. He can be reached at 212-678-1622.
 - Shotspotter – A program that is currently up and running in Brooklyn and the Bronx where shooting activity is far more prevalent. The 25th precinct is not registering the same kind of activity.
 - Speed bumps – He advised that this would be an uphill climb but the best course of action would be to collect data on the number of accidents and pedestrian injuries, circulate a petition and submit everything to the local police precincts as well as contacting elected officials. He emphasized that getting elected officials involved was important to the process.

- Linda Jones-Janneh, Director Harlem Office of the NY County District Attorney's Office
 - The DA's office offers services to victims of crimes and their families.
 - TAP program - The landlord or managing agent of a property signs an affidavit, which gives police officers permission to enter your building when you report a problem. The precinct is given a tenants' list and front door keys. All this helps

expedite the process when there is an arrest. IMPORTANT POINT – TAP does not cover the outside front of the building, unless, it is enclosed by a gate, so loitering outside of a building is NOT covered. TAP is mainly designed for multiple dwelling buildings. An arrest made in a TAP building carries potential jail time and can act as a deterrent to trespassers.

- Nina Saxon, representing Scott Stringer’s office introduced herself. You can reach her at Nsaxon@comptroller.nyc.gov, Cell is 917-969-5742. Please feel free to reach out to her with any and all community issues.

7. Q&A

- The NE corner of 127th and Lenox – Officer Kelly said he would alert the Commanding Officer of the 32 about our corner problem and would also check on the number of complaints currently registered at the 32.
- 311 vs. 911
 - 311 - hanging out, public urination, disorderly groups and drinking.
 - Simultaneous calls/complaints to 311 will get a more immediate response. Multiple calls/complaints over a period of 28 days will alert the precinct that it is a real problem to be addressed and not just nuisance.
 - Collect the complaint numbers of all 311 calls about a chronic area and take them to the CB meetings. Also email them to the CB with copies to elected officials. According to Nina Saxon of Scott Stringer’s office, this speaks volumes.
 - 911 – drug sales, prostitution, fights. Please DON’T call the precinct. It will slow things down. Always call 911, if you see a criminal activity and DO provide as many details as possible.
 - Officer Jones from the 28 said that if a police officer is on site and you complain about a problem on the 32 side of the street, the officer should address the problem. But if you call the problem in to the 28, it will be referred to the 32.
- K2 is a synthetic weed containing chemicals that can produce psychosis. The stores selling it have been identified. The police have been meeting for months about this problem and are working with the City Speaker and other elected officials to close these stores down.
- Off road bikes – The police won’t pursue them in the neighborhood due to the dangers of potential injuries to pedestrians. They are seeking intelligence of where the bikes are being purchased.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.