

RIRA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS MINUTES

2/21/12

Attendees:

Howard Polivy

Ellen Polivy

Matthew Katz

Romano Reid

Delores Green

Pete Digilio

Erin Feely-Nahem

Rick

Updates:

Committee Chair reported to members in attendance the following:

An email dialogue between the PS Chair and Director Guerra provided the following information:

Chair requested the statistics on the number of vertical patrols conducted in the WIRE buildings. Director Guerra responded: **“Last year, our Officers conducted a total of 11,200 Vertical Patrols (which comes to a little over 30 per day). The breakdown by building complex is as follows: 8840 in Roosevelt Landings; 962 in Westview; 835 in Island House; 563 in Rivercross.”**

In my last meeting Director Guerra had informed me about the strategy of posting officers in “hot spots” in buildings, as addition to conducting vertical patrols, as a deterrent to crime. Responding to my inquiries if this strategy was working to lessen crime in the buildings Director Guerra responded: **“Yes. Coverage in the Hot Spots has resulted in the reduction of crime in the buildings.”**

Addressing the committee’s concerns that this strategy might affect the number of vertical patrols, Director Guerra responded: **“Vertical Patrols will not be affected by special condition posts. We are doing both.”**

In response to the Chair’s inquiries concerning the resignation of any of our Public Safety Officers, Director Guerra reported: **“Officer Rivera has been hired by the NYC Department of Corrections. Officer Moretta was hired by the FDNY.”**

When I mentioned that a committee member had noticed that recently on Saturdays the Officer who provides coverage at the bottom of the ramp was no longer directing traffic, instead was remaining inside the vehicle and questioned if this is a conscious switch in strategy? Director Guerra responded **“No. The**

Officer will still assist with Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic at the intersection & crosswalk.” I was also assured that there was no plan to change back to the strategy when the Officer’s assigned to this post remained in their vehicles with their lights on.

When I asked for further information about the accident that involved a PS vehicle and two pedestrian’s cars, in front of 217, Director Guerra reported the following: **“It was an accident, caused by the driver's inattention. The officer was observing a stumbling man across the street while the vehicle was still moving, not texting as some had assumed.”**

During the meeting we also followed up on several of our initiatives.

Vertical Patrols: Visibility of Officers in the buildings conducting vertical patrols varies. Chair noted Officer visibility on the 6th floor crossover, Roosevelt Landing representative reported less Officer visibility then in previous months, the Senior building representative noted that P.S.O. continue have a strong presence in her building, and River Cross members stated they have seen them on patrol on occasion.

Traffic Control: One member noted that in poor weather the Officer posted on Saturdays does not direct traffic, rather sits in the car. Committee members were still concerned with individuals running the stop signs and suggested that perhaps Public Safety should pick a day, randomly, and monitor this area with the intention of giving out moving violations. Again members expressed their concern with the signage on the Island ie: the stop signs that are also yield signs and questioned if RIOC had in fact had a professional come out to look at this situation. A RIOC Board member who was present thought that they had but stated he would follow up on this issue.

Parking enforcement: Our South Town members reflected that there has been an increase in the exceptions given to certain cars at South Town. He mentioned that there is one vehicle owner who comes early in the morning and parks, placing a Public Safety Official’s business card on their dashboard, and remains there throughout the day, without getting a ticket, and moves at the end of the day. The Committee member also reported that on the East side of South Town it is worse then ever as far as cars remaining there all day without getting ticketed.

New business: A community members spoke on their concern that RIOC is not forth coming with any information as it relates to the criminal activities on the Island. They stated that in their experience they note a new reluctance to give out any details of criminal activities or arrests on Roosevelt Island. One committee member stated that they would look into this concern.

Next Meeting scheduled for 3/20/12 @ 7:30pm in the Senior Center

Minutes respectfully submitted by Erin Feely-Nahem