



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

Meeting
November 14th, 2018

Richard Khuzami, President of OANA, opened the meeting at 7:07PM. The attendees then introduced themselves.

Richard informed everyone that the representatives from Upstand could not attend. They will be speaking at our January meeting.

Richard introduced NYPD captain Christopher Giamboni. He is the new Commanding Officer of Police Service Area 9.

Captain Giamboni is in charge of all the housing complexes in Queens. There are seven major crimes that are monitored. These are murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny auto. There were 6 domestic violence officers for PSA 9. He expanded the coverage and how officers are placed in Astoria. There was a disparity of the coverage given to Astoria so he made sure that there was proper coverage.

Richard reminded Captain Giamboni that there was an uptick in shootings during the summer. He asked what could the community do to assist the officers in this.

Captain Giamboni informed everyone that the uptick in the shootings in housing complexes were gang motivated but not gang related. It would involve members of a gang but not hostility towards the gang. He has seen a reduction in the shootings over the past couple of weeks. This is due to the concentration of resources that Captain Giamboni has focused in Astoria.

Inga Bogulansky inquired if NYCHA have security personnel? Do they report to NYPD?

Captain Giamboni replied that the security force responds to NYCHA. They monitor the community centers and report incidents to the NYPD. NYPD is focusing on violent offenders so that they may decrease those numbers.

Aiysha Mayfield inquired why there are police cars that have markings that she was not familiar with.



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Captain Giamboni said the most common marking you will see is FSD. Fleet Service Division are the cars that are used to replace the cars used by PSA 9. SRG is Strategic Response Group. They respond to the hotspots throughout the city. They will help out with the area.

Richard introduced Mariela Herring, the Bureau Chief in charge of gang violence and hate crimes, and Assistant District Attorney Barry Frankenstein.

Mariela said the bureau focuses on grand violence and hate crimes. Gang involvement is not exclusive to any particular region: there are gang members from all areas of the city.

ADA Frankenstein informed the meeting that they focus on the violent members of gangs that perpetuate violence. There is retaliatory violence that occurs when one gang attacks another. There is also violence in which they are violent for violence' sake. The basic gang groups are the Bloods who started at Rikers Island. The signs are the five-point star, B, the C crossed out. The next group is the Crips that were started in Harlem with their signs of the six-point star, the pitchfork. The next group is the All Mighty Latin King and Queen nation. Black and yellow will be their colors. Another gang is MS13, they are the most well-known gang in the media recently. They were recognizable by their tattoos. The next is La Familia who were founded in Queens County. They will usually be wearing orange bandanas. The Trinitarios have gained attention after the murder of Junior Lopez in the Bronx. They have the green color and will often rep the Dominican flag. Gang initiations are the methods that a person may join a gang, and ADA Frankenstein described these.

ADA Frankenstein reminded everyone of the identifiers for gang members and gang activity. Gangs have moved into social media to promote their gang activities. This has assisted in prosecution of the illegal activities of gangs. There is nothing illegal in joining a gang. It is when they participate in illegal action that they are prosecuted for that illegal activity.

Mariela clarified the law on hate crimes She stated that there are certain statutes that must occur for a crime to be classified as a hate crime. A hate crime must have premeditation of perception as a certain group. The protected classes are race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation. It also requires proof of intent. This is not required with regular crimes. Intent is proved by words or epithets while the crime is being committed.

ADA Frankenstein reminded the meeting that there was an instance where an individual was caught spray painting abusive language all over Queens. Video surveillance was a major factor



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in the prosecution of this person's hate crime. The suspect was arrested early morning with spray cans in his pockets.

Mariela reminded everyone that it is important to address these hate crimes so that the harmony of our communities is not disrupted.

An attendee inquired if when gang activity involves young people, are the parents held responsible? ADA Frankenstein said if there are children involved. The DA's office has programs to set them in the right direction. There are GED and work programs so that they may get their education and be productive members of the community.

Claudia Coger inquired why were the young men in a video shown to the meeting arrested for the gang initiation?

ADA Frankenstein said anytime when a person is a victim of a crime they will prosecute. Whether the victim is compliant or not they will seek prosecution against the criminal. They prosecuted the young men because they had video surveillance to prove a crime was committed. He said that there may be a history in which it may lead to the victim's participation to not be truly voluntary.

Sarah Bologh inquired what are the proactive measures taken.

Mariela said we come to community to demystify the preconceived notions that people have about law enforcement. Their best convictions occur with neighborhood assistance. They aid first time offenders to help rehabilitate these people to not rebound into criminal activities.

Richard thanked Captain Gambioni, Mariela and ADA Frankenstein.

Richard then introduced representatives from NYC Retrofit Accelerator and Solar One, Ann Rowaconan & Noah Ginsburg.

Ann states that NYC Retrofit Accelerator provides free personalized advice and technical assistance in improve energy and water efficiency in your buildings. They help identify and prioritize energy and water conservation projects in your buildings. There is funding in grants to assist in the projects of conservation for projects. 4000 buildings are currently working with NYCRA in conserving energy and waters in NYC. Retrofit's team of efficiency advisors will assist with all steps of the project. Their advisors will walk you through the process of attaining and maintain energy and water efficiency.



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Richard reminded that everyone can take this information and give it to your landlords so that they may achieve efficiency.

David Matten inquired is there not as much to be done in newer building as in older building?

Ann said that where the building is newer or older there are opportunities for savings. One way is to implement LED lighting so that you may save on your energy costs.

Neil Herdan inquired if they had worked with Councilman Constinedes?

Noah stated that they have had positive meetings with the Councilman and his staff. Costa is supportive of legislation and policies of the implementation of solar energy.

Dimitra inquired do we know how dangerous the emission of oil heating is?

Ann stated that clean energy legislation that requires buildings to remove low efficient oil and now buildings are allowed to use Number 2 or Number 4 oil. They are working to ensure that they are forced to use Number 2 oil which is a clean energy source.

Richard introduced Noah Ginsburg, representative of Solar One. Noah told the meeting that the Solar One has partnered with the city's public schools. Here Comes Solar is the program that Noah works with. The cost of solar panels from 1970 has decreased to one hundredth the cost. Solar One will do a feasibility study to give the benefits for a building to go solar. The solar panels come with a 25-year warranty for the customer. A building that is a good candidate will have direct sunlight on the roof, open area on the roof and a roof with a long life. There is a 30 % federal income tax credit for the cost of the solar panels. There is a 20 % NYS income tax credit that can be utilized by the customer.

Kathleen Springer asked if the technology of solar will minimize like computers. Noah said that the technology has remained the same, but efficiency has improved.

Richard reminded everyone that the Amazon HQ2 project is something that we will have to address. He is interested in hearing feedback regarding the project and asks that everyone emails him their opinion.

Richard thanked everyone for coming.



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Richard closed the meeting at 8:56 PM.