

**Minutes for March 31, 2015**  
**17th Precinct Community Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Jay Litwin, who presided as chairperson.

The minutes of the February 2015 meeting were read and approved.

**Cop of the Month Award**

P.O. Christopher Neil received the January Cop of the Month Award for making an arrest for a large quantity of marijuana. P.O. Michael Pappalardo received the February Cop of the Month Award for making an arrest for assault when an individual stabbed his roommate while he was asleep. P.O. Debbie Turner received the March Cop of the Month Award for making an arrest for sexual assault.

**Sutton Area Community (SAC)**

Dieter Seelig, president of Sutton Area Community, or SAC, spoke about the neighborhood's concern with street safety, specifically with regard to bicycles and buses. He also expressed concern about the proposed 900-foot tower scheduled to be built on East 58th Street and indicated SAC's desire to oppose the building of this structure, in conjunction with other area community groups. Finally, he discussed the move afoot to support small-business owners in the neighborhood in their attempts to negotiate reasonable rents with their landlords.

**Recent Academy Graduates**

D.I. McPherson introduced the six officer trainees who have been assigned to the 17th Precinct. In a departure from earlier training methods, recent graduates are now being assigned to specific commands, where they are paired with a senior officer and work closely with mentors, who teach them about the needs of the community in which they're working.

## Q&A

A number of community members expressed their frustrations with the noise and disruption being created by the protesters outside of Sparks on 46th Street. D.I. McPherson responded that, in working with the police department's legal counsel and meeting with the union and the protesters, the precinct has been able to move the end time for the air horn noise from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m., then to 9 p.m., and then to 8 p.m. The goal is to get the protesters off the street completely. D.I. McPherson encouraged the area residents to continue to call 311, so the precinct can take the ongoing complaints to the department legal counsel. He also offered to set up a meeting between residents and the union so the two groups can speak to each other in a formal setting.

Mary Silver, representing a number of residents and business owners in the 33rd Street and 3rd Avenue area, expressed community concern and frustration about the sale of alcohol to minors, the drug deals, the aggressive panhandling, and other crimes occurring daily on the west side of 3rd between 32nd and 33rd. Renee Lesser, president of the P.S. 116 PTA, echoed these concerns on behalf of the parents who drop off their children at school each morning. D.I. McPherson responded that the precinct is aware of the issues on that block and that officers are systematically working to clean it up. Jay Litwin indicated that the community council would offer a full report on progress being made in this area at each upcoming council meeting until the problems have been resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.