

Minutes for March 18, 2014
17th Precinct Community Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by John Macenka, community council sergeant at arms, who filled in for Jay Litwin.

The minutes of the February 2014 meeting were read and approved.

Crime Stats Update

Deputy Inspector James Sheerin gave a brief recap of crime statistics for the month and answered community member questions, primarily involving traffic issues within the precinct.

Crime Prevention Tips

Crime Prevention Officer Dennis Reese provided community members with several crime prevention tips, including keeping windows properly secured, buzzing into your building *only* people whom you know, and trimming back shrubbery in front of windows to avoid creating a spot where someone can hide.

Guest Speaker: Ed Hill, re: New Family Justice Center

Ed Hill, the director of Outreach and Strategic Coordination for the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, spoke about the recent opening of the new Family Justice Center at 80 Centre Street in Lower Manhattan. These centers are one-stop locations where victims of abuse can receive all of the services they need, from meeting with a prosecutor to speaking with a trained counselor to applying for housing and financial assistance. The Family Justice Centers also work toward domestic violence prevention by providing educational workshops on what a healthy relationship should look like. Services are free, staff members are multilingual, and the centers are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Board 6

Fred Arcaro, representing Community Board 6, told community members about plans under consideration to change the traffic pattern on 33rd Street, that is, making it two-way, near the NYU Medical Center. In response to a question, he also listed the five conditions under which the Department of Buildings grants permits for an extension of work hours on a building site. They are emergencies, public safety, city projects, hardship, and minimum impact noise.

Election Committee

The Election Committee for the upcoming Community Council election was appointed and consists of the following: Mary Marangi, Barbara Guinan, and Robert Cohen.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.