

Minutes for November 26, 2013
17th Precinct Community Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jay Litwin, who presided as chairperson.

Guest Speaker

Lieutenant Kevin Paynter from the NYPD Impersonation Unit, a unit that investigates people who pretend to be police officers, described a complex scam run by so-called gypsies whose usual targets are affluent older women. An individual pretending to be a police officer calls the target woman on her phone and talks until he gains her confidence. He indicates he has a young person in custody who has, for example, either counterfeit bills or credit cards in the name of the target woman. He “swears in” the woman over the phone, provides her with a “code word” and “secret signal,” then instructs her to go to her bank—a Chase branch *different* from the one she normally uses—and to withdraw a sizable sum of cash, which he claims will be returned to her after the successful completion of the “sting.” The target woman follows his instructions, rendezvous with the designated individual, passes over the cash, and of course never sees it again. Lt. Paynter reminded council members that legitimate police officers *never* ask for money over the phone. If you receive a call from an officer asking for money, hang up.

Medicare

Eric Hausman, a Medicare education consultant with the New York City Department for the Aging, discussed the four Medicare components—Part A (hospital insurance), Part B (medical insurance), Part C (Medicare Advantage plans), and Part D (prescription drug coverage). He highlighted the differences between “original” Medicare—a Medicare/Medigap plan—and Medicare Advantage plans, and answered specific questions posed by council members. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/aging and www.aging.ny.gov/healthbenefits.

Cop of the Month

Officer Edward Blanco, who has made nearly 250 arrests during his seven-year career, received the November Cop of the Month Award for his work in apprehending an individual who was repeatedly stealing money from a church donation box.

D. I. Sheerin held a brief question-and-answer session.

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