

SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc.

Community Roundtable – January 26, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to a written notice via email, website, and social media, members of the public attended an information session (Community Roundtable) organized by the SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc. (dba SoHo Broadway Initiative) on Thursday, January 26 remotely via Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

Executive Director Mark Dicus welcomed attendees, introduced SBI staff (himself, Brandon Zwagerman, Dan Hogle), acknowledged Board Members in attendance (James Cavello Pete Davies, Neith Stone, Michele Varian, Greg Kraut, Arif Shah)

Mark introduced staff from office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg: Shawn McMahan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Estelle Strykers-Santiago, Director, Community Partnerships.

Estelle offered an overview of the Community Partnerships unit, whose role is to build trust and raise awareness about community safety issues. Activities include a community engagement team, crime prevention programming, and creation of informational materials. Contact info shared in chat: (212) 335-9340 or (646) 739-6267 | strykerssantiago@dany.nyc.gov

Shawn gave an overview of his career and Division, which is made up of over 200 attorneys and addresses areas including ordinary street crimes as well as domestic violence/trafficking, hate crimes, fencing. Shawn answered questions that had been collected prior to meeting by BID staff.

Shawn discussed DA office's approach to retail theft, how office has been impacted by bail law changes and which crimes aren't eligible (e.g. almost no misdemeanors including retail theft, even if repeat offenses, as well as low level felonies). Office resources focused on bail eligible offenders such as recidivists on parole/probation, who can be connected with appropriate resources or traditional incarceration-based path when appropriate. Highlighted unmanageable burden placed on office by discovery law changes in 2020. Every decision of office and limited resources impacted by discovery obligations, losing staff attorneys. Focus is on individuals responsible for greatest crime.

Discussion about use of trespass notice tool which can be used have a repeat offender at same location arrested before crime committed. Discussion of investigative division's focus on fencing operations, progress being made. Responded to question about 2020 looting in SoHo; some individuals involved have faced charges. Responded to question about impact of bail reform: bail reform not the problem; the discovery burden is what

is insurmountable.

Mark Dicus ended meeting with general BID update:

- Expanded sanitation service on Crosby/Mercer streets just launched, via funds from Council Member Marte, Crosby Street Association, banner sponsorship by Uniqlo. 7 days a week, 8 hours a day.
- Responding to City re: proposed Link5G tower at Broadway/Prince given concerns about pedestrian congestion, impact on historic fabric.
- 2022 Annual Retail Occupancy Report and Audited Financial Statement shared in chat.

NYPD 5th Precinct Commanding Office Tao Chen offered complements to partnership with DA's office, highlighted increased officer presence on street in SoHo. Answered questions regarding 3-card monte activities and counterfeit market locally. Mark also acknowledged Commanding Officer Thomas Smith present from 1st Precinct.

Meeting adjourned when no more questions from attendees.