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NYPD to 47 Pct: Drop dead

By Mary V. Lauro

BRONX, NEW YORK, Jan. 16- No one can accuse the NYPD of being transparent. It tries to be and usually succeeds in being as opaque as possible. Even so, every now and then some information manages to escape into broad daylight. For example, 1,500 new recruits were sworn in as police officers on December 22, 2011. Of the 1,500 not a single officer was assigned to the 47th Pct. It is easy to see we don't count.

At this time we don't know what, if anything, other Bronx precincts got. If they did as poorly as we did, one wonders what our elected representatives are doing to earn their keep. If they did better than we did, we have got to wonder why the NYPD keeps punishing us.

To begin, the 2011 NYPD CompStat figures (to Dec. 25. 2011) for the 47th Pct are nothing to cheer about. We had one less Homicide than we did in 2010 but we are still number one in highest Homicides in the Bronx, although we must add that the 40th Pct is tied with us in that category.

When one adds that to the fact that the 47th had the highest number of Rapes (35) in the Bronx, the highest number of Misd. Sex Crimes, the third highest number of Fel. Assaults and a high number of shootings, it is easy to see that the 47th is the most violent precinct in the Bronx. While it is true that no amount of officers can halt crimes committed behind closed doors, the statistics do not distinguish where they occurred. Keep in mind, however, that rape committed behind closed doors usually involves a friend or family member and consequently goes unreported.

CompStat figures, however do a grave injustice to logic. Stop to think that Homicides and Rape have the same numerical value as a stolen automobile. In counting crime murder has one point and so does a stolen auto! What kind of nonsense is that? If you had a choice, would you rather have your child's car stolen or have her raped? A car can be replaced. Insurance can pay for what has been stolen. One can overcome a beating. But who can bring a bullet ridden dead person back to life?

In Robbery and Felonius Assault the 47th was third highest in the Bronx but in Grand Larceny Auto we were second highest. Our criminals always strive for high places.

CompStat always includes 2 year, 10 year and 18-year statistics so that we can be dazzled by the inroads that have been made by the NYPD during those time periods. The 18 year figures (that is, since 1993) show declines of 60 percent - 70 percent. Okay, well and good. But, if we go back 30 years and compare, we will find how incompetent the NYPD was between 1981 and 1993.

Even so, the current two year figures show that crime is generally rising throughout the city and in the Bronx. Since 2009, crime in the 47th has gone steeply up by 5.3 percent. While crime these past two years has also risen in the 41st, 42nd and 49th, they can't match the types of crimes our criminal element excels in.

Our analysis is not to be construed as a criticism of our precinct or its officers. Our officers are top grade. They do a superb job especially when one considers how sparse their ranks are. Our precinct commander, Inspector DeEntrement is exceedingly competent. Our quarrel is with One Police Plaza which we feel is mathematically and analytically challenged. How else explain that of the 1,500 new officers, the 47th received not a single one?