

Queens

106th Precinct, which encompasses Aqueduct racino, gets more cops

Areas far from Aqueduct see rise in crime as manpower shifts

By [Irving Dejohn](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Monday, May 14, 2012, 5:47 PM



John Taggart for New York Daily News

The Aqueduct racino in South Ozone Park, run by Resorts World Casino New York City.

The prevailing concern before the Aqueduct racino opened last year was that crime would spike in the area right outside its doors.

But it turns out that crime has impacted parts of the 106th Precinct in Ozone Park most in areas far removed from the Queens attraction due to police manpower being pulled toward the racino, elected officials and community leaders said.

As police dispatched officers from other parts of the precinct to respond to foot traffic at the racino, those outlying areas have seen increases in crime, according to state Sen. Joseph Addabbo.

“Those crimes are not taking place around the racino area,” said Addabbo (D-Howard Beach). “The areas in which they pull from, those areas have picked up in crime.”

Thugs are cognizant of shifting manpower and policing patterns, Addabbo said.

“These criminals are smart, they see it,” he said. “They see the presence.”

The 106th Precinct recently added ten more officers to its ranks to address the increased foot traffic and demand for cops.

Frank Dardani, head of the 106th Precinct Community Council, said he is grateful for the influx of officers, but called for more.

“I am very pleased to get them but it’s just not enough,” Dardani said. The precinct had previously added five officers last month.

The ten new officers, who were introduced during last week’s community council meeting, have cut their teeth in “Impact Zones,” which are high-crime parts of the city, Dardani said.

“They are not rookies, they have a couple of years on the job,” he said. “They’re ready to call the 106 [Precinct] their home.”

Grand larcenies in the precinct have gone up sharply in 2012, mirroring the boroughwide trend upward. The high-end thefts are up 35% in 2012 compared to the same period last year, the latest NYPD statistics show.

Adding ranks to what has quickly become a heavily visited area in Queens will hopefully prevent other crime categories from increasing, Addabbo said.

“We all know the precinct has become a different site since the casino has opened,” he said.

Racino spokesman Stefan Friedman said their internal security and “21st-century surveillance technology” have kept the facility secure.

“The safety of our customers is our No. 1 priority,” Friedman said in a statement. “We’ve been able to ensure a safe environment for our patrons and quickly respond to any potential problems as soon as they arise.”

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/queens/106th-precinct-encompasses-aqueduct-racino-cops-article-1.1078116#ixzz1uxFcRHM3>