

# 76th Police Precinct Reports on Falling Crime Rate

By Craig McGuire

Police and community groups are hoping that the attention focused on the 76th Precinct this past year,

the city."

However encouraging these numbers may appear, both police and community groups feel more can be

McGinn said that these improvements are due in large part to the influx of troops following the shooting death of Patrick Daly, former principal of P.S. 15,

controls from 10 last year to 20 this year."

Presently the patrols are down to 16 as the precinct awaits the arrival of additional officers graduating from the police academy later this month.

"As long as we keep getting additional officers, our [crime] numbers will continue to go down," remarked McCarthy.

According to the officer, the 76th Precinct is slated to receive an additional 60 to 70 police officers by 1996 to expand its ranks to 194 officers.

The 76th Precinct cur-

rently has approximately 130 officers.

Last year's results in the major crime areas show that while the number of murders in the precinct (eight) remained the same, the number of arrests for murder increased, said McGinn.

The number of rapes were down as well as burglaries, noted the captain, who did not provide specific numbers for each of the seven major felony crime categories.

Narcotics arrests were markedly up, attributed largely to two visits from

the Tactical Narcotics Taskforce (TNT).

TNT travels from precinct to precinct throughout the city conducting intensive "buy and bust" operations.

"Morale at the precinct is fine," said McCarthy, adding that his fellow officers were anxiously awaiting any changes to be made by recently appointed Police Commissioner William Bratton.

Police officials urge residents to report all crimes so that they can effectively address the problems and secure needed manpower.



Photo by Craig McGuire

76th Precinct Community Council President Carl Peek and Captain Judy McGinn discuss last year's crime statistics which were down.

driving down the crime rate, will continue.

Annual statistics recently released have shown that reported felony crimes in the 76th Precinct, which includes Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Gowanus, fell by 21 percent last year.

At the January meeting of the 76th Precinct Community Council, Captain Judy McGinn, the precinct's commanding officer, said that while the area's crime statistics were markedly down, "Crime in general is down throughout

done.

"Often, statistics do not tell the whole story," said Community Board 6 District Manager Craig Hammerman. "You have to look at the public's perception of the crime problem."

"For the most part, we've received overall positive reaction from the community, but any crime is of concern," said 76th Precinct Community Affairs Officer John McCarthy. "How impressed would you be with a drop in the crime rate while someone was

71 Sullivan Street. In December of 1992, Daly was gunned down in the Red Hook Houses while searching for a student.

"There has been progress in the 76th Precinct following the death of Principal Daly," said Hammerman. "The attention that has been focused upon Red Hook this past year is a trend CB 6 would like to see continue."

"Down here we've got a lot more cops this year," said Officer McCarthy, adding, "We've increased our community policing pa-