

**MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2013  
RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVE. – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

*Committee Members present:*

Rosemary Ginty, Chair  
Sylvia Alexander  
Irving Ladimer  
Dan Padernacht  
Joyce Pilsner  
Robert Press  
Bill Stone  
Martin Wolpoff

*Board Members present:*

Phillip Friedman

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The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

The chair stated that the committee meeting is open to the public in accordance with the NYS Open Meetings Law.

The chair introduced board member Phillip Friedman who was going to tape the committee meeting as he had taped others. A discussion of his project proposal to tape committee meetings and make them available through the website is discussed later in the minutes under New Business.

The minutes of the October committee meeting were approved.

Legislative Review – Status of Council Legislation

The council session will end and all bills will need to be newly introduced in the new council session 2014-2017.

A series of bills were introduced concerning the recycling of polystyrene products. All were laid over in committee but newspaper accounts indicate they will pass. Bob Press will inform the Environment & Sanitation Committee of the bills and their contents.

### Legislative Review – Intro 948

Intro 948 has not been enacted yet this session. The issue has been discussed with Councilmember Koppell and various staff members at the City Council. Objections remain concerning the need for a Charter change to deal with concessions or the need to justify changes to franchises and revocable consents. We will continue working with the Council staff to forward the bill.

### Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB”) Published Decisions

Ms. Ginty presented a list of COIB decisions from October to December 2013. She will continue to summarize them & inform the committee of COIB decisions. The board office is setting up files on these lists and the opinions. Martin Wolpoff recommended choosing “key words” for each opinion to allow for easier retrieval. The chair will do this.

### Community Committee Handbook

At the last meeting, there was a discussion of issues, projects or efforts the committee wanted to follow or accomplish for the upcoming community board year. Developing a Reference Handbook for community committee members was discussed. The chair, Bill Stone and Irving Ladimer developed the Reference Handbook material handed out. The material was discussed in particular:

- It was clarified that as a matter of historic practice, a community committee member must attend three consecutive meetings prior to being recommended for membership.
- There is a COIB decision stating that community committee members are not subject to the COI Law. The Reference Handbook requires these members to abide by the by-laws and ethical guidance statements.
- Community committee members must be individuals and not organizations although affiliations will be noted.

The committee recommends that community committee members be listed with committee members on the website.

The chair will bring the Reference Handbook to the next executive committee meeting.

### Old Business

Ms. Ginty distributed the November 26, 2012 COIB advisory opinion 2012-4 concerning acceptance of complimentary tickets to sporting events which was the basis for their opinion regarding the New York Yankee tickets offered to Bronx community board members earlier this year.

In addition, the COIB Deputy General Counsel wrote:

*“The community board chair and district manager may accept the Yankees' invitation, provided that they participate in the on-field pre-game ceremony. However, the other community board members and employees may not accept the complimentary tickets.”*

### New Business - Taping of committee meetings

At a number of recent executive committee meeting, there were discussions of making digital recordings of committee meetings available through the community board website. Chair Fanuzzi asked committee chairs to discuss the proposal at their committee meetings and to report back on results of that discussion on at the February executive committee meeting.

Phillip Friedman explained his proposal for taping committee meetings and using ftp files for a storage system and accessing them through the community board website via a link. DOITT, the city agency that runs the city websites, has stated that the data storage on the website is not sufficient for digital recordings.

Committee members expressed concerns about a “chilling effect” on discussing issues, giving an incentive for people to avoid attending the actual committee meetings, a negative effect on minute-taking and technical difficulties with taping. A consensus showed a majority of committee members were opposed to taping committee meetings and a couple of members having no opinion. However, if the taping proposal is approved, the consensus was that all committees should participate or none should.

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The next meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2014 at the Riverdale Mental Health 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The chair thanks Bill Stone for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty

*Chair,*

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee