

**MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 26, 2014
RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVE. – 2ND FLOOR**

Committee Members present:

Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Irving Ladimer
Robert Press
Martin Wolpoff

Community Board Members present:

Robert Fanuzzi

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

There being no quorum, the minutes of the April committee meeting were not considered.

The incoming and outgoing chairpersons were acknowledged with best wishes for the future.

Legislative Review – Status of Council Legislation

An updated list of selected bill introductions at the NYC Council was reviewed by the committee. There was general discussion and comments on some. Any scheduled hearings or actions on relevant introductions will be tracked and reported.

Legislative Review – Resolution 164

At the request of several committee members and after comment and reference at the last two community board meetings, Resolution 164 was distributed and discussed for informational purposes only. The Resolution calls for a series of changes to the process of selecting community board members, requirements for personal information submissions and for term limits, among other things. The City Council has no current legal authority to require any of these changes, which would require an amendment to the New York City Charter. The Resolution was discussed at a City Council Committee and was laid over by the Committee.

Legislative Review – Intro 328 re: Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) changes

Intro 328 would require a new, city-developed and operated on-line system for the application for FOIL requests, tracking responses and making publically available any material offered in response, among other things. Since this should make requests for FOIL documents significantly simpler, the Introductory bill was discussed in terms of potential impact on the community board. The Council Committee hearing report was distributed to committee members for background information.

Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB”) Published Decisions

The chair presented an updated list of COIB decisions for March through June 2014. None were directly pertinent to CB 8 concerns at the present.

Old Business – Intro 948

Intro 948 from 2012 dealt with the amount of notice a community board receives prior to a public hearing by the Franchise and Concession Review Committee. It was not enacted by the City Council in their last session because it was deemed to need a change in the NYC Charter. The issue has been discussed with Councilmember Cohen with the possibility of introducing a council resolution after a discussion with administration staff from the Mayor’s Office of Contracts (MOCS).

The Councilmember’s office reported to the Chair that MOCS wants to have open lines of communication on this matter. They would like to work out plans and schedules in advance of any hearing so that both the community board and the administration are comfortable. MOCS wants to honor requests from our community board for sufficient time to hold our own public hearing on proposed concessions or franchises and they want to be contacted if this is not the case.

New Business – Reso A

A general discussion was held about the use of Reso A funding for contracts between the community board and entities, including not-for-profit organizations. As a result of discussions at the May community board meeting, the practice and process for such funding will be discussed and evaluated by the board. The past contracts and requests for City Council discretionary funds were distributed to committee members for background information and discussed.

New Business – Nominating Committee

The opinion from Robert Freeman, Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government concerning the applicability of the Open Meetings Law and the Nominating Committee was distributed to committee members for background information and general discussion. The issue of executive sessions for critical concerns was raised for future consideration. Any changes in the Nominating Committee structure or procedures are for future study by a community board committee, subcommittee or other division to be determined by the Chair of the Board.

The date of a September meeting needs to be determined but will be rescheduled from September 25th due to religious holidays.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The chair thanks Irving Ladimer for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee