

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2010 AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

Board Members of the Committee present:

Irving Ladimer, Committee Chairman
Bradford Trebach, Committee Vice Chairman
Anthony P. Cassino
Andrew Cohen
Arlene Garbett Feldmeier
Damian McShane
Saul Scheinbach
Sergio Villaverde

Other Board Members present:

Sylvia Alexander
I. William Stone
Martin Wolpoff

Also in attendance:

Candice M. Giove (from Riverdale Review)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

The Committee met at 7:19 p.m. – I. Ladimer, Committee Chairman

1. Committee Composition.

The Chairman explained that membership on the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee is limited to Board Members appointed by the Board Chair on the recommendation of the Committee Chair. He said that among the criteria are personal interest, qualifications and attendance. The Bylaws specify that membership on the Committee “shall consist of those Appointed Board Members who are attorneys at law and other interested Appointed Board Members.”

2. Board Hearings.

The Chairman addressed a question raised at the December 2009 Board Meeting about how public hearings are authorized on non-legally required matters. M. Wolpoff indicated that a Board resolution was needed and referred to Article VII of the Bylaws. The Chairman cited a Board Resolution adopted in 1991 that empowers Standing

Committees to convene and conduct public hearings. The matter will be further discussed.

3. Decisions about the Board's Budget and the Hiring, Firing and Compensation of Staff.

D. McShane discussed the subject of staff compensation. He explained that merit increases come from the existing budget if a surplus exists. A City-funded increase, however, is money that the City adds to the Board's budget for the specific purpose of providing raises to staff. These have been historically awarded without discussion or debate by the Board. Since such funding is by the City, no adjustments are required.

Discussion ensued about whether decisions on the budget and the hiring, firing and compensation of staff should be voted on by the full Board, the Executive Committee or the Board Officers. Under the Bylaws, the District Manager's compensation is determined by the Board or fixed by law; and the Board may employ other personnel.

D. McShane recommended that such decisions be done by the Board Chair in consultation with the Officers. In opposition, it was pointed out that the full Board is empowered to make such decisions under the Bylaws. The Chairman explained that the Board may delegate various responsibilities and functions to Committees. It was noted that the District Manager is in charge of Board office operations, and has customarily hired and fired Board staff with Chair approval.

It was decided that the following item should be presented before the Board for approval by resolution:

**RESOLUTION ON DECISIONS INVOLVING THE BOARD'S BUDGET
AND THE HIRING, FIRING AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF**

BE IT RESOLVED, That Board decisions relative to the internal operating budget, including the hiring and firing of staff, and the compensation of staff and the District Manager, shall be determined by the Chairperson in consultation with the other Officers of the Board.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions

IN FAVOR: I. Ladimer, A. Cassino, D. McShane, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach

OPPOSED: A. Cohen, A.G. Feldmeier, S., Villaverde

4. Communication with Public Officials and Agencies.

D. McShane stated that communication with public officials or government departments by Committee Chairpersons' should be approved by the Board Chairperson.

Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

At 9:49 p.m., the Committee was adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Irving Ladimer
Chairman
Law, Rules & Ethics Committee

IL:bt