

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2012
AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

Board Members Present:

Steven Balicer
Patricia Mullen
Tony Creaney
Paul Ellis
Philip Friedman
Maria Khury
David Kornbluh
Robert Press
Julie Reyes
Georgia Santiago

Affiliation:

CB 8, Housing Committee, Chair
CB8, Housing Committee, Vice Chair
CB8, Housing Committee
CB8 Housing Committee
CB8 Housing Committee
CB8, Vice Chair
CB8 Housing Committee
CB8
CB8 Housing Committee
CB8 Housing Committee

Guests:

Thomas Durham	
Gregoria Feliciano	Community Volunteer, Recorder
Sameea Kamal	Columbia University
Rebecca Leretsky	
Valerie Plesch	Columbia University
Andrew Sandler	Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Office

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Chair: Steven Balicer welcomed and introduced self. Round table introductions proceeded:

Mr. Balicer provided the schedule of the agendas for upcoming meetings for 2012-13. This list of meetings, include various housing topics, the October 22, 2012, will include Mark Brescia, Mayor's Office, to present on a new housing regulation mandate for buildings to cease using No. 6 and convert to less environmentally destructive oils or natural gas. On November 26th Paul Ellis is coordinating a forum on the Housing Court; Mr. Ellis has been in contact with the Honorable Elizabeth Taylor, Justice of the Civil Court. Judge Taylor agreed to assist with finding panelists who are experts in this field and to participate in the presentation.

For the October 22nd meeting, Emma Rodgers, Bronx Health Reach, will discuss, Smoke Free Apartment Legislation that is currently introduced in the NYC City Council. The Chair solicited the group for ideas for future topics of interest for the January through June meetings.

Tony Creaney raised the issue, regarding illegal conversions of private homes, specifically Manhattan College students in the area Kingsbridge. Mr. Creaney produced a newspaper article from the Daily News, 9/22/2012, titled, Deathtraps. He has raised the issue of large numbers of overcrowding of one and two family houses. He requested that the Board use its influence with the various city agencies and the collage to obtain some relief for him and his neighbors.

Mr. Creaney asked, does the Board have a list of properties of where illegal student housing? Where there may be potential fire hazards and other fatalities. Mr. Durham (former Housing Chair) promised to obtain the list and share it with Mr. Balicer. Mr. Creaney questioned, how does Manhattan College regulate off-campus housing? Mr. Balicer will contact David DeRosa a representative of Manhattan College to address these concerns and reports.

Adam Sandler of Council Member Koppell's staff reported on the "Access Legislation" sponsored by Councilman Koppell that would streamline process, investigations and expedite the process.

Tom Durham: Reported on initiative of "3 knocks" when NYPD, FDNY and HUD are denied access to possible illegally converted SRO's.

The Committee to review and possibility of supporting Councilman Koppell's bill. Tom Durham. Tony Creaney and Tricia Mullen to collaborate on illegal conversion project in the community.

Other issues to consider for forums:

1. Affordable and public housing.
2. Marble Hill and Security Cameras, October 24, 2012 – Upcoming event: Neighborhood Security/Safety, at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 146 West 228th Street, at 7 PM. Council Members Rodriguez and Cabrera (See copy of flyer).

T. Durham provided historical perspective on funding of cameras. (May 21st Housing) Council Members Cabrera and Rodriguez committed, Committee meeting minutes, \$750,000 funds to complete safety project called Total Recall: Security Camera initiative.

A. Sandler reported – NYCHA has \$1 billion on hand for security cameras, per Daily News article.

Other Committee members raised concerns regarding funding from a Manhattan City Council Member's item for security camera's allocation and appropriation.

Chair Summary –

SRO's

1. Manhattan College student & SRO's – speak to college representatives.
2. Efforts by city agencies: i.e. FDNY

Public Housing Safety

- A. How much money and from where for security cameras.
- B. NYCHA's plan.

Other Issue: 3210 Riverdale Avenue - Property in financial crises and developer has financial problems. Discussions ensued on what to do with proposal.

Housing Court Program – Paul Ellis, November 26, 2012, Housing Court Judge Taylor – Coordinated a people panel to cover on the Housing Court process. In attendance Community Based Organization's who work with individuals who have lost their residences. Proposed CB8 Housing event with three people panel to present on the Housing Court process. Judge Taylor spearheading project with Paul Ellis. Outreach effort by members needed. Details of event to be determined.

Event Objective: People who seek assistance and services from the Housing Court to obtain knowledge, confidence and information when they need to appear in the Housing Court. Participants should obtain confidence that can access the services of this court and dealing directly with their landlord.

The Sub-Committee Members are:

- Paul Ellis
- Patricia Mullen
- Julie Reyes

Subsequent committee meetings will generate further discussion on planning Housing event –
(November 26th)

5437 Fieldston Road to be demolished - notification sent to CB8. Check if it's "As of Right"

New Business – None

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Submitted by,
Steven Balicer,
CB 8, Housing Chair
With Thanks to
Gregoria Feliciano