

CB12M-Youth and Education Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 14, 2015

Meeting #8

Location: 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Alyce Smith, Assistant Chair

Committee Member (s) Absent: Glenis Aquino; **Excused:** Maria Luna; Manny De Los Santos; Prescilla Mota- Willis ; Ayisha Oglivie; Estevan Nembhard

Community Member(s) and Guest (s): *Lisa Spitzner*, Community Engagement Coordinator, NYC Smoke-Free; **Sharon Huary**, student from CUNY and Representative of NYC Smoke-Free ; **Sara A. Fisher**, Friends of Inwood Hill Park; **Dr. Gary Altheim, Psy.D.** Founder/Executive Director, Growth and Development Services, Inc; **Priscilla Thompson**, Gradual Student of Journalist school at CU; **Mayela Calderon**, Representative from Big Brothers Big Sister of NY; **Al Kurland**, PAL-Armory Foundation; **Jennifer Araujo**, Rep. District Office; **Joel Yoffie**, Community resident.

PART I: The meeting was called at 7: 07p.m by Fe Florimón, Chair
Members of the Committee and attendees were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

PART II: Discussion was conducted as indicated below:

- ❖ *Ms Lisa Spitzner*, Community Engagement Coordinator, NYC Smoke-Free.
- ✓ Ms. Spitzner thanked the committee for inviting her to the meeting and for the opportunity to present. Following her initial introduction, Ms. Spitzner provided an overview of her organization “NYC Smoke-Free” (A.K.A “*NYC Coalition for a Smoke-Free City*”) and the goal of her presentation. According to the Presenter the “NYC Smoke-Free” is a health initiative provided by the NYS Dept of Health that created about a decade ago with objective to end the NYC’s devastating tobacco epidemic. The program has been implemented in several boroughs (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens) and seeks to protect the health NYC residents through tobacco control policy, advocacy and education. To accomplish its mission, the organization also partners with legislators, community members and health advocates so they collectively support local efforts to put an end to the devastating situation of tobacco epidemic in NYC. An additional and recent effort in support of their mission, a new statewide program titled “Reality Check” (RC) has been implemented.
- ✓ The new program (RC) is led by student, supported by adult for those between the ages of 13 to 18. According to the information presented, in the new initiative, students work to educate their peers and other stakeholders including legislators, community members and key decision makers on the tobacco industry’s manipulative marketing practices and how they target youth to become replacement smokers. Ms. Spitzner also has introduced her companion Ms. Sharon Huary, student at Cuny who also spoke in defense of the organization and the mission to end the tobacco epidemic in NYC.
Presenter encouraged participants to share the word about the mission of her organization and their willingness to explore community relationship and collaboration. Following her presentation literatures about her organization were provided.

- ❖ The second presentation was provided by **Dr. Gary Altheim, Psy.D.** Founder/Executive Director, Growth and Development Services, Inc. (GDS). GDS has been around for nearly twenty years serving young people of the Community this time around Dr. Altheim come to the Committee meeting with the objective to provide the Committee and members of the community with an update of his organization recent accomplishments. According to Dr. Altheim, this past summer (July 2015) his organization embarked in a series of initiatives resulting in successful outcomes. GDS was able to secure their office space at the Armory and is expected to continue providing students with a variety of services including the new “Reach Your Potential” (RYP) program, which the number of students has been successfully increased.

- ✓ In addition, the organization was able promoted and increased collaborative partnerships with several organization including the Inwood Community Services (ICS) and Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Furthermore, Dr. Altheim also shared a video which demonstrates the services available at GDS. And, last literatures containing detailed information of his program was also provided

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PART III: New/old Business

- ❖ Chair Florimon reported that Y&EC’s Saturday October 3rd-meeting was successfully delivered. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the planning of the next Committee’s event “Community & Youth Resource Fair”. Some of the topics discussed included the need for having this event, which argued that there are many resources within the community not known to community residents including parents and students. It was also discussed the numbers of stakeholders, target population, volunteers and supporters that needs to be identified. The event is projected to be held in early spring 2016.
- ❖ Chair also reported on the latest event provided by the MBP Office titled “Improving Police Community Relations” -September 29th Meeting. According to Ms. Florimon, the event was very interesting and informative. At this event, MBP Gale Brewer along with BBP Eric Adams and Civil Rights Attorney Norman Siegel provided and in-depth discussion of the reality faced by many communities in New York City in regards to the “Police –Community Relations” During the a book titled “Improving Police-Community Relations” were distributed among participants. This consists on report extracted from the “Town Halls Meeting” held in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan. Ms. Florimon added, “Sadly many Members missed that great opportunity”.
- ❖ During this phase of the agenda the following announcements were provided:
- ✓ Clean Slate: Clear Your Summons Warrant event: To be held on Saturday 21, 2015 from 9:00AM to 3; 00PM at the Soul Saving Station Church- 302 W 124th Street (at Frederick Douglass Boulevard). Provided by the office of Manhattan DA Cyrus R. Vance Jr. and announced by **Jennifer Araujo**, Representative of DA Office. For information, please contact: (212) 335-3310 or www.MANHATTANDA.org
- ✓ NYC Smoke –Free / Reality Check- Student Kick –Off, to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 @ 10:00am to 3:30PM –for information contact: NYCSmokeFree.org

NOTE: Next meetings:

Saturday, November 7th @ 10:30am – Isabella Geriatric Center 515 Audubon Ave
(near 190 Street) New York, NY 10040

Monday, November 9th @ 7:00pm - 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Please note that location is subject to change. Please check with CB12M office before attend. Thank You!