

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes for the Housing and Human Services Community Meeting
January 7, 2016 – Office Meeting space
530 West 166th Street – 6th Floor
New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present (4):

Ayisha Ogilvie (Chair), Jay Mazur, and Felipe Wityk Sanchez, Katherine Diaz.

Committee Members Absent (4):

Estevan Nembhard (Excused), David Mattera, Barbara Frazier, and George Fernandez (Excused)

CB12 Member (1): Shahabudeen Ally

Public Member (0): Christina Burgess (Absent).

Public (3): Shellie Price (Intern from Councilman Mark Levine's Office), Joel Yoffie, Dmitri Glinski

Welcome, Opening Remarks and the Agenda. Ayisha Ogilvie, HHS Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Recording was initiated on an OLYMPUS © handheld device. Board members introduced themselves, as did members of the Public present. A quorum was not present for the meeting. Topics for the evening's agenda were outlined.

HHS Committee Chair's Report

- Ayisha spoke on need to work with previous HHS Chair to gain an understanding of any open matters, partnerships, projects or plans, as well as, best practices for proper continuity of committee affairs. Examples:
 - Upcoming Legal Clinic
 - Status of meetings with Homeless residential facility at the Fort Washington Armory and his meeting with them in December.
 - Any resource listings or contacts specific to committee functioning (i.e.: city officials, tenant associations, advocacy groups/organizations)
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- Briefly touched on matters from previous meeting as minutes were not available to be accessed online or by email
- The following documents were made available to the committee and attendees:
 - NYC's 'Rapid Repair Squad' to begin fixing homeless shelters
(<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/nyc-rapid-repair-squad-fixing-homeless-shelters-article-1.2488047>)
 - COMPTROLLER STRINGER AUDIT: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES PLACES FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN SHELTERS WITH DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS
(<http://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-audit-department-of-homeless-services-places-families-with-children-in-shelters-with-deplorable-conditions/#sthash.I2DCY4Jc.dpuf>)
 - City Paid \$31K in Rent for Dead HIV/AIDS Clients, Stringer Audit Finds
(<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20160107/civic-center/city-paid-31k-rent-for-dead-hivaids-clients-stringer-audit-finds>)
 - Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (Overview from NYC Planning)
(<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/housing/mandatory-inclusionary-housing-summary.shtml>)
 - Gale Brewers Testimony Before the City Planning Commission: Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing December 16, 2015
(<http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/downloads/pdf/GAB%20CPC%20Testimony%20for%20December%2016%202015%20re%20ZQA%20and%20MIH%20FINAL.pdf>)
 - Inwood NYC Community Survey (www.nycedc.com/inwoodnyc)

Public Hearing Update: Lantern Organization

- Ayisha informed committee that Lantern Organization requested a postponement of the public hearing related to their application to build and establish a residential facility at “444-446 West 163rd Street, New York, NY 10032” aka “Savanna Hall” to allow more preparation time. Hearing is now rescheduled for February 4th.
- CB12 Executive Chair Shahabudeen and Ayisha will be meeting Lantern Organization to tour their Harlem facility “Prospero Hall” at 110 East 118th Street which has similar design & layout to the planned “Savanna Hall” facility.
- Committee members present stated it would be beneficial to also visit/tour the location which already exists on the same street that “Savanna Hall” is planned for and is also managed by the Lantern Organization. A request will be made to do so.

CB12 Housing & Human Services Committee 2016 Priorities

The bulk of the meeting was attributed to discussion on what the HHS Committee's priorities should be for 2016. Here are the topics which came up in that discussion:

- Discussion was had about the current understanding of the scope and responsibility of the HHS
- Consensus was reached that more focus/effort should be brought to the Human Service role of the HHS Committee
- Ayisha spoke on the need to use data to remain on the cusp of developments and to inform the work of the committee
- Clarification is needed regarding which city agencies fall directly within the purview of the HHS Committee so that the following attempts can be made:
 - Create relationships with leadership on the District Level where all agencies in HHS purview are concerned.
 - Invite them to our meetings so that we can learn from their understanding of best practices, difficulties and appropriate advocacy paths for residents where their agency is concerned.
 - Give residents the opportunity to learn from and voice questions or concerns where agency services are concerned.
 - Examples of such agencies/leaders are; Director of Human Resource Administration Job Center located at 4055 10th Avenue & 216th Street, Directors of facilities run by Department of Homeless Services in the CB12 District, Housing Preservation & Development, etc.
- Overlap of purview with other committees which may deal with issues that intersect with HHS and opportunities to work together and hold joint sessions to address community needs
- Affordability/Availability of housing being a primary focus
- Possibility of having legal tenant clinics that can operate concurrent to our meetings so that residents facing specific/urgent housing matters can obtain resources, referrals, advice.
- Creating partnerships with all CBO's and Legal Tenant Clinics which service our district and bringing our meetings to their sites so that we can make CB12 more accessible to residents. Some of the organizations and supports mentioned were: CUNY Law, Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez Office, Yeshiva University, NMIC, Mirabel Sisters, Urban Justice Center and Boom Health.
- How to reach groups who may be specifically impacted by housing matters and need for supports: elderly, youth, mentally ill, and/or ill.
- Creating a Digital Resource Library with list of resources and access to educational materials for both committee members, Board members, and the public on HHS matters
- Oversimplification of Community Boards Role as advisory committee and changing discussion into actions that support our communities needs through outreach and education

- Shahahbudeen Ally Board Executive Chair spoke on his goals to make CB12 more accessible through various community engagements and expressed support of partnering with legal clinics to serve as a resource for those in need.
- Controller Scott Stringer's audit of the Department of Homeless Services.
- Gale Brewer's testimony before the planning commission on the ZQA and MIH text amendments.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.