

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2016**

**Yeshiva University – Belfer Hall
2495 Amsterdam
New York, New York 10033**

Board Members Present:

Shahabudden Ally; Yahaira Alonzo; Anita Barberis; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Jason Compton; Robin Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Natalie Espino; Fern Hertzberg; Fe Florimon; Mitchell Glenn; Joseph Kalinsky; Osi Kaminer; Elizabeth Lehmann; Richard R. Lewis; Maria Luna; Isidro Medina; Priscilla Mota-Willis; Ayisha Ogilvie; Arlene Schulman; Steve Simon; Luis Tapia

Board Members Absent - Excused:

Barbara Frazier; Lilian Saneaux; Pamela Palanque North

Board Members Absent:

Richard Allman; Mary Anderson; Glennis Aquino; Isaiah Obie Bing; Jennie Chung; Daryl Cochrane; Aldemar de Jesus Diaz; Katherine Diaz; Domingo Estevez; Wanda Garcia; Andrea Kornbluth; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Jay Mazur; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Estevan Nembhard; Maurice Owen-Michaane; Jonathan Reyes; Angela Sanchez; Carlos Suero; Karen Taylor; Javier Trejo; Felipe Wityk Sanchez

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, Debora Blow, Paola Garcia

Call To Order: *Chairman Shahabudeen Ally called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.*

There was no quorum.

NYS Senator, Adriano Espaillat spoke about the Resolution that CB 12 had passed to preclude the granting of new liquor licenses for establishments between Hillside and 218th Street. He reported that the proposed legislation at the NYS level did not pass, but wants CB 12 to continue the moratorium beyond the December 31, 2016 and to re-evaluate the situation after 12/31/2017. Copies of the December Resolution are on the Information Table.

NYS Assemblyman Farrell reported that 3 forms of grants have been secured for community youth for after school programs. See the newsletter. He also reported a groundbreaking and ribbon cutting for PS 186. There is a new program to be put into place at a school at 155th Street in Central Harlem.

Mayerling Rivera, Esq, Director of Legal Outreach of the Manhattan District Attorney's office spoke about the following:

- ~ Their office is making presentations around NYC regarding domestic violence.
- ~ In 2015 there were 700,000 calls to the NYPD regarding domestic violence of which 26 involved homicides.
- ~ the Manhattan DA's office has a social worker on staff to assist.
- ~ She emphasized the help that can be secured in the Northern Manhattan office and that the DA's office is here to help. Brochures are available.

Chair's Report & Announcements:

- ✓ Chairman Ally reviewed the upcoming meeting dates for the November and December meetings:
November 22 – George Washington High School

December 20 – TBD – probably the Board Office – 2nd floor

- ✓ Chairman Shah reminded everyone that the Board rankings are due by Monday, October 31st.
- ✓ The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) has had a mobile van outside of CB 12 offices to offer free legal intake on civil matters. to the community. Their presence was a success. They plan to return in January.
- ✓ A nominating committee for CB 12 has been formed. Richard Allman is Chair of the Committee. Other members include Wanda Garcia, Isidro Medina, Karen Taylor and Gerard Dengel.

District Manager's Report

- ✓ CB 12 has received many complaints about street vendors. It is also reported that the City may issue 3,000 more vendor licenses.
- ✓ At the District Service Cabinet meeting, there was a discussion with sanitation, the Mayor's Office and the NYPD about the number of street vendors and the need to regulate their presence in our community.
- ✓ Restaurant owners have complained about the difficulty they are having understanding inspectors and have asked for translation assistance.
- ✓ There has been a complaint filed regarding the fact that Starbucks on 181 Street is not keeping its bathroom open to the public.
- ✓ NYC DOT has requested that the time on the parking meters be changed from 10 pm to 7 pm.
- ✓ Maria Luna commended that we need better enforcement of regulations in this community.

Lesley Almanzar, Northern Manhattan Office Liaison, Manhattan Borough President's Office reported:

- ✓ A Land Use presentation for uptown business owners was conducted in a bi-lingual manner.
- ✓ The MBPO office has introduced legislation requiring buildings to have street numbers readily visible. Fines for failure to do this would range from \$25k to \$200k.
- ✓ Applications to become a member of a Community Board will be available on line beginning on November 15th.
- ✓ Community Board Leadership Training sessions will be ongoing through December. All are invited to attend.
- ✓ "Access Manhattan" training on a variety of subjects is available in the Northern Manhattan office.

Public Session (21 Board Members present – still not a quorum.)

Jeff Mulligan, Kramer & Levin representing Young Woo & Associates provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about a new building that is intended for Amsterdam & 181st Street. The site was previously occupied by a gas station and will now be the site for a building that will accommodate a hotel as well as commercial and retail space. A variance is needed to accommodate this plan. It is expected that this project may bring in many jobs to this community. Questions have arisen from the Land Use Committee and the issue will go back to the Committee for further review.

Dennis Reeder, Washington Heights & Inwood Development Corporation, spoke on behalf of Martin Collins regarding 21 Arden Street and 2110 Amsterdam regarding 26 apartments in that could be made available for occupancy. and encouraged HPD to open these buildings for occupancy.

Joel Yoffie, Community Resident, delivered a poem "120 seconds" – "when rot reached the core."

Danita Nichols & Casandra Enset New York Public Library spoke about the 11th Annual Latin

American Festival which will begin next week. (4) Free events will take place in the Northern Manhattan libraries. Information is available on the Information Table.

Jennifer Bristol, Fort Tryon Dog Owners Group spoke about the need for access to water for the dogs and also for access to the northern Manhattan shoreline.

Bruce Roberts, HDFC Coalition announced that they are holding a meeting at the Shabazz Center tomorrow evening, October 27th. The purpose of the meeting is to address proposed legislation regarding co-ops.

Catherine O'Sullivan, Moving Forward Unidos, spoke regarding #15 and registered her opposition. citing many groups who provide additional opposition to the proposed sidewalk café. She also read a statement from the group supporting the continuation of the moratorium on liquor licenses.

Caterina Rivera, Community Engagement Manager, City Harvest indicated that the WH & I Food Council will be holding a meeting on food justice at 701 West 168th Street room 2 – lower level. The meeting will be held tomorrow evening. Information is available in the

Betty Lehmann, Isabella Geriatric Center, spoke about senior housing opportunities at Isabella House, the Open House on November 15th for staff within the Home Care office and the the partnership with Presbyterian Senior Services to provide “Circle of Care” for those caring for individuals afflicted by Alzheimer’s Disease.

Peter Levy, Fort Tryon Dog Owners Group spoke in support of the expansion of the dog runs. A Halloween Party at the dog run on Saturday, October 29th at 10:00am.

David Crenshaw, (Coach Dave) spoke about Highbridge and the fact that improvements are needed for the park and for the bridge. In particular there is a need for a public bathroom in the sunken playground section in Edgecombe Park. In addition there is a need for additional park personnel.

Richard Lewis, Community Resident, spoke for two Principals at George Washington High School who are requesting additional funds for science laboratories in the schools. (Youth & Education Committee priority).

Steve Simon, NYC Parks Department, spoke about (2) important upcoming meetings.

Audubon Park Playground will be renovated and there will be a community input meeting on November 9th at 6:30 pm at the Highbridge Park Recreation Center. **Highbridge Park** is one of five parks in the city to receive capital funds (\$30 million) for improvements. A community input meeting will be held on November 28th at 6:30 pm at the Highbridge Park Recreation Center.

8:00 pm Chairman Ally announced that the meeting is still (2) members short of a quorum

If we do not have quorum by 8:15 (15 minutes from now), we will adjourn the meeting and move the Resolutions to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

8:20 pm – Still no quorum. Chair Ally adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
Assistant Secretary
November 22, 2016