

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting**

**173 Ft Washington Avenue
May 22, 2018 - 6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Richard Allman; Shahabuddeen Ally; Francisco Alvarez; Mary Anderson; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Tanya Bonner; Eleazar Bueno; Daryl Cochrane; Robin Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Domingo Estevez; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Fern Hertzberg; Danielle Jettoo; Yosef Kalinsky; Osi Kaminer; Elizabeth Lehmann; Richard R. Lewis; Matt Levy; Elizabeth Lorris –Ritter; Maria Luna; Jay Mazur; Nicholas Martinez; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Ayisha Ogilvie; Mary O’Shaughnessy; Victor Pena-Bastella; Angelina Ramirez; Edgar Roman; Gabriela Rosa; Steve Simon; Curtis Young

Board Members Absent: Glennis Aquino; Jennifer Chung; Waldys Cruz; Katherine Diaz; Bianca Guerrero; Andrea Kornbluth; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Jonathan Reyes; Luis Tapia; Karen Taylor; Christopher Ventura

Staff: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia; Ely Silvestre

Call To Order: 1st Vice Chair Richard Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm due to Chair Shah Ally late arrival. Quorum is attained. Agenda adopted. Last month’s minutes adopted.

Chairman’s Report: Richard Lewis, 1st Vice Chair, report covered the following topics:

- Upcoming events listed.

District Manager’s Report: Ebenezer Smith’s report covered the following topics:

- There were many meetings to attend in the past month regarding the Dyckman Street bike lanes.
- There will be a public meeting regarding the proposed Inwood Rezoning at City Hall 7/10.
- Welcome to all new board members!
- The DDC reported to CB12 on 2 water main replacement projects in Inwood and in Washington Heights.
- There have been lots of noise complaints coming from residents around Safety City on West 158 Street.

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**Pubic Speakers Session:**

Note that in the course of the Public Speakers session there was much heckling when people who reached the lectern spoke in favor of the Dyckman Street bike lanes.

**Michael Hano** – Spoke about the Haven Avenue Mall proposal. At the T&T meeting a few months ago, this project was voted down unanimously. He fears that the project will be pushed through despite what he termed strong community opposition.

**Elizabeth Starcevic** – Spoke about the GW Bus Station environment. Despite the recent renovation it is already in bad repair. The streets around the station are in bad shape, filled with potholes. Traffic is miserable around the bus station. What can be done to clear the intersections during rush hour?

**Luis Tejada** – First in a long line of speakers to talk about the Dyckman Street bike lane. He maintains that the lanes were not set up the right way, and this configuration is bad for the local businesses, and should be removed.

**Neile Weissman** - Spoke about the importance of enhancing the regional bike lane network. An improved network is critical for improving the local economy.

**Joel Yoffie** – Read a poem called “Remember This”.

**Aaron Simms** – Invited to the community to visit the new popup Culture Hub at 440 West 202 Street. 30 local artists are currently on exhibit. There are plans for opera, film, theater, dance parties and many other cultural events geared to the community. There will be events for all ages. See [inwoodartwork.nyc](http://inwoodartwork.nyc) for more information.

**Guillermo Ali Perez** – Spoke about the Dyckman Street bike lanes. He loves bike lanes, but thinks that these bike lanes cause a public safety hazard and problems for business. Jobs are being lost. He wants bike lanes on both sides removed.

**Lisa Stepanian** – Spoke about the Haven Avenue Plaza. Columbia is working in the dark, without community input. She called this an attempt for Columbia to try to expand the campus while calling it a public plaza. She maintains that the community is being ignored, and is asking CB12 to stand up for the local residents.

**Lena Melendez** – Spoke against bike lanes at Dyckman Street and also at West 207 Street. Businesses are struggling and parking congestion is terrible. She called bike lanes a sign that developers and gentrification are coming to Inwood.

**Jose Moronta** – Spoke against the bike lanes on Dyckman Street, though he made a point of not being against bike lanes elsewhere.

**Rafael Matos** – Spoke against the Dyckman bike lanes. He worries about public safety. Small businesses are being hurt. The lanes must be removed.

**Tirso Pinto** – Spoke against the Dyckman Street bike lanes and also against Community Board 12 Manhattan. Claimed that the fix is in and the Community Board will support the bike lanes regardless of the community's position.

**Jose Serrano-McClain** – Representing the Mayor's Office of Technology. He announced a new program coming to Inwood: NYCx Co-lab = NYC Community Labs.

**Orlando Rosado** - A former elected official in the Dominican Republic, he was here to talk about the Dyckman Street bike lanes. He says they are disrupting the traffic, and asks that we please get rid of the lanes.

**Wendy Genao** – She spends lots of time on Dyckman Street and is worried about the public safety aspects of the bike lanes. She supports removing the bike lanes.

**Paul Hintersteiner** – He spoke to alert the community to a big problem coming to Fort George Hill. He says that a new housing development will bog down all the traffic in the area.

**Osi Kaminer** – She spoke on behalf of Little Wanderers NYC, a feral cat protection group. She says that this group needs people to volunteer to foster or adopt the cats that are saved by the organization.

**Andrew Rosenthal** – He spoke on the Dyckman bike lanes issue, says that 77% of Manhattanites do not own cars. And that bike lanes save lives. He supports preservation of the bike lanes as currently configured.

**Timothy Frasca** – He spoke in support of bike lanes. Evidence documents that bike lanes save lives. They are not your enemy. He adds that we need to save our neighborhood from gentrification and developers.

**Karla Fisk** – She spoke about the Dyckman Street bike lanes. Remarked that removing bike lanes has never happened before (but she was probably not around for the removal of the bike lane on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 1981). And yet, public safety issues are a higher priority and so she supports removing these lanes.

**David Vassar** – Representing Transportation Alternatives, he asked us to keep the Dyckman Street bike lanes in place. To give it time to settle in. Among the reasons he offered was that pedestrians are assisted by bike lanes. They are eco-friendly and quiet; let's give these a chance.

**Deborah Cardona** – Starting her talk with a word on the Dyckman Street bike lanes, she suggested that removing one of the lanes is a good compromise. Her main emphasis, though, was to speak against Columbia University's Haven Plaza proposal. She asserts that open space already exists in the neighborhood: J Hood Wright Park is nearby, as is the Armory (which, parenthetically, will not open its doors to the elderly on hot days).

**Maggie Clarke** – She is a regular bike rider. Her concern is that Inwood is very dangerous for bike riders. She supports separated bike lanes on Dyckman Street. She claims that studies show that bike lanes actually increase local business activity.

**Sally Fisher** - Speaking on behalf of Friends of Inwood Hill Park, she spoke about recent events that cleared garbage and built a garden in the park. She also listed the organization's future events.

**Omar Tejada** – He spoke on the Dyckman Street bike lanes, suggesting that we need to find a solution that works for everyone. He says that double parking was the big issue before the bike lanes were installed, and that traffic has always been bad on and around Dyckman Street. Additionally, he says NO to the Haven Avenue Plaza proposal.

**Ross French** – He spoke on the Dyckman Street bike lanes. He supports the lanes' retention.

**Rafael Escano** – HE spoke on the Dyckman Street bike lanes, saying it is clear that safety must come first. He maintains that the FDNY and the NYPD are saying these bike lanes must be removed. He asks the community board to remove the lanes.

**Brad Conover** – Before moving uptown he had been active in getting bike lanes installed downtown. He maintains that bike lanes protect bike riders and pedestrians, and claims that resistance to these bike lanes only comes from double parkers.

**Laurie Tobias Cohen** – Wearing a different hat than we are used to seeing her in, she announced a new film series sponsored by Chabad of Inwood that will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Michael Julliard** – He supports the Dyckman Street bike lanes. His child uses the bike lanes, but he would never let his child ride on Dyckman Street before the bike lanes existed. H maintains that the opposition stems from the fact that the bike lanes removed the possibility of double parking.

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**Government Officials:**

**Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President, Borough President Gale Brewer's office.**

- It took 6 months of hard work to appoint the new crop of Community Board members, 10 in CB12 alone. The announcements went out this week.
- The Rikers Island task force has been meeting, with the goal of ultimately closing the prison.
- BP Brewer, working with Public Advocate Letitia James and others, succeeded in passing the Charter revision bill. Next step will be to convene meetings in the neighborhoods to develop improvements to the current city charter.
- Until now, the city had its \$75 Billion pension fund partially invested in private prisons. The BP worked to get the council to vote to get these holdings divested.
- The BP is against the current configuration of the Dyckman Street bike lanes, and wants to see a relocation of the bike lanes.

**Natalie Espino, Community Liaison to the Borough President**

- The BP says lanes on 2 sides of a commercial street is unprecedented.
- She listed future events.
- The BP is involved in an L Train traffic mitigation task force.
- The BP wishes a warm welcome to the 10 new CB12 members.

**Laurie Tobias Cohen, Community Liaison, Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat –**

- Congressman Espaillat stands against the Dyckman Street bike lanes. Ms. Cohen discussed the complaint that some make wondering why the Congressman gets involved in local issues, suggesting that his work should be focused on Washington. Ms. Tobias supports the Congressman's getting involved in local issues, maintaining that this is a critical part of his job.
- Regarding the heckling that went on during the public speakers session, Me Cohen asks that everyone show respect to all speakers.

**Richard Allman, Office of NYS Assemblywoman Carmen de la Rosa**

- He listed past and upcoming events.
- And offered a warm welcome to the new CB12 board members.

**Mariel de la Cruz, Upper Manhattan Representative, Office of the NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**

- She listed upcoming events.
- She noted that the Comptroller supports legalization of marijuana. Among the reasons for this support are additional tax revenue and reduced arrests of non-white residents.
- The Comptroller is very concerned about Airbnb, forcefully claiming that this type of short term rental raises the rent of all long term renters, suggesting commercial operators are gaming the housing system.

**Jetsenia Cenices, District Office Manager, Assemblywoman Marisol Alcantara's office.**

- She announced upcoming events.
- The Assemblywoman wants a better solution for the bike lanes, and suggests that maybe rerouting them would be the basis for a solution. She wants to sit down and find a solution that accommodates everyone, and asks that we respect each other and refrain from shouting.

**Jessica Reynoso**, Public Advocate Letitia James Office

- The Public Advocate has a Constituent service line. It can be reached at (212) 669-7250 or by email at [GetHelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov](mailto:GetHelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov). Please call for help.

**Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez**

- The Councilman offers congratulations to CB12 Chair Shah Ally for being selected as a civil court judge.
- He announces a tour to Hart Island tomorrow (May 23), the largest Public Cemetery in the country. The Councilman will be introducing a bill to give this property to the Parks Dept. for maintenance.
- The Councilman spoke to the concerns of local car owners:
  - He will be trying to pass a residential parking bill, like many other cities already have.
  - He wants to allow people to park after the street sweeper comes by, instead of waiting until the end of the period noted on the no parking sign.
  - He would also like to sponsor a bill to allow members of the media the right to park when they are actively reporting.
- The Councilman supports a bill to create the right for Small Businesses to enter lease arbitration when they can't come to an agreement with their landlord.
- He listed of upcoming events.
- The Councilman said the following in regard to the Dyckman Street bike lanes: he is for a changed configuration of the bike lanes, but bike lanes should exist. He recommends removing the bike lane on the south side of the street.

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Resolution Reports:

Resolution A - Resolution Regarding Dyckman Street between Nagle Avenue & Broadway.

Executive Committee— 1st Vice Chair Richard Lewis begins the discussion:

- The Board's position is that the bike lanes should be removed by June 30 and the DOT should begin a new study to determine how to balance the needs of all members of the community.
- Edgar Roman introduces an amendment to remove one lane and leave one bi-directional lane.
Discussion ensues:
 - Barbara Frazier suggests removing the south side lane.
 - Gerard Dengel asks that we all speak to each other with respect.
 - Domingo Estevez speaks strongly against the single bike lane compromise.
 - Sally Fisher suggests removing parking to accommodate emergency vehicles.
 - Fran Hertzberg refers to the vicious speech prevalent throughout the meeting and asks that it end. She speaks in favor of a single bike lane as a temporary solution.
 - Eleazar Bueno focuses on safety. He is concerned about the ability for the fire department to get through. He maintains that the bike lanes need to leave Dyckman Street.
 - Ayisha Oglivie says that nothing will stop the backup of traffic on Dyckman Street. She spoke to the Fire Dept. issue with FDNY vehicles avoiding Dyckman Street. She suggests that the bikers can move to another east-west street.
 - Danielle Jettoo asks that further study be done to determine the best solution for Dyckman Street.
- A vote on the Edgar Roman amendment – that one lane remains on the north side of Dyckman Street - begins. The vote is 26-10 with 3 abstentions in favor of the amendment.

- Danielle Jettoo asks that bike traffic be monitored. Richard Lewis accepts this as a friendly amendment.
- Liz Ritter asks that we beef up the resolution with strong language to encourage DOT to study moving the bike lanes to another location. Richard accepts this as a friendly amendment.

Licensing Committee Resolutions

Assistant Chair Osi Kaminer opened the discussion. Highlights of the discussion follow:

- A discussion on confusion surrounding resolution 7 is clarified below.
- Resolution 10 was brought up by Barbara Frazier, pointing out that Vapor Lounge was a community sore spot, emanating lots of noise and bad behavior, including selling of alcohol to minors. Gerard Dengel, speaking for the Licensing Committee, represents that the whole place has been renovated and will now be run as a restaurant only. Eleazar Bueno and others brought up further complaints about the prior establishment. Gerard Dengel suggests that others appear at Licensing Committee meetings to better understand how the committee reaches its conclusions. The owner's lawyer was given a chance to explain that the same owners will be running a completely different business.
- Resolution 5: Steve Simon discusses Papasito's many summonses as enumerated in the Licensing committee's minutes.
- Sally Fisher asks why hookah smoking still runs rampant in Inwood establishments despite the new law passed by the City Council. Councilman Rodriguez explains that businesses have until October to sell hookah legally before tighter rules take effect.

The Licensing Committee Resolutions:

1. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Silvia L Duran dba Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 St. Nicholas Avenue (at the corner W. 188th St.)
2. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: La Casa del Mofongo Inc. – 1451 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W. 182nd St. & W.183rd St.)
3. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Vida Café Inc. dba Mamajuana Café – 247 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Seaman Avenue.)
4. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its Catering Establishment License to: The Metropolitan Museum of Art– 99 Margaret Corbin Drive (Fort Tryon Park & Trie Cloister.)
5. Resolution of No Objection to the DCA Renewal of its Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Vida Mexicana Inc. dba Papasitos – 223 Dyckman St. (btw Broadway & Seaman Avenue.)
6. Resolution of No Objection to the DCA New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Silvia L Duran dba Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 188th St.)
7. ~~Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Alteration application of its License to: Kon' to Euro Caribbean Cuisine Corp. dba Seawalk Restaurant – 261-267 Dyckman Street (At the corner of Payson Avenue.)~~ Changing Method of Operation to Extend On-Premises Liquor License to Sidewalk Café - No vote necessary. Correction handled by Executive Committee letter, correcting a clerical error in a prior month's resolution on the matter.
8. ~~Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: San Francisco Restaurant II Corp. dba TBD – 2166 Amsterdam Avenue AKA 501 West 167th St. (at the corner of W. 167th St.)~~ Application Withdrawn
9. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: Gabriel Xpress Rest. Corp. dba Caribe Restaurant – 1562 St. Nicholas Avenue (btw W. 188th & W. 189th St.)
10. Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Vapor Lounge & Bar Corp. dba Rincon Mexicano – 4160 Broadway (at the corner of W. 176th St.)

11. Resolution of Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Dos Meses Seafood & Lounge Corp. dba Dos Meses Seafood & Lounge – 25 Sherman Avenue (btw Sickles St. & Arden St.)

Committee Reports:

Land Use - Chair Wayne Benjamin presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- Refer to the minutes

Parks & Cultural Affairs – Chair Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- Refer to the minutes on the joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee.

Youth and Education – Chair Fe Florimon presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- Listing of events.
- Thanking the volunteers at last month's event.

Traffic & Transportation, Liz Ritter presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month and agenda for next:

- Next meeting will vote on the Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza, as well as host the MTA for a presentation on the deep station elevators.
- Refer to the minutes.

Public Safety: Chair Richard Lewis presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- Refer to the minutes.

Health & Environment: Chair Steve Simon presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- There is an update of the elimination of the psychiatric beds at Allen Hospital. The beds will remain in place until next year. Representatives of the Hospital will be coming to H&E June meeting to talk about this.
- Representatives of the DDC will appear at the June meeting to talk about the upcoming water main replacement in Inwood and in Washington Heights.

Concerns of the Aging: Chair Mary Anderson presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- She apprises the Board that there are serious problems with the Seniors Helping Seniors program. It is seriously underfunded. Councilman Al Taylor will provide additional support to upgrade the equipment.
- Refer to the minutes.

Business Development: Chair Eleazar Bueno presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- There was a joint meeting in May with the Traffic & Transportation Committee.
- Refer to the minutes.

Housing & Human Services: –Chair Ayisha Oglivie presented the following highlights from the Committee's work this month:

- 5 important reports on housing came out this week. These will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- Refer to the minutes.

Voting on the Resolutions:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Voting: Y-N-Abst- Absent- NV</u>	<u>Passed or Failed</u>
A	Resolution Regarding Dyckman Street between Nagle Avenue & Broadway.	32-4-1-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
1	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Silvia L Duran dba Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 St. Nicholas Avenue (at the corner W. 188th St.)	35-2-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
2	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: La Casa del Mofongo Inc. – 1451 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W. 182nd St. & W.183rd St.)	32-3-0-0-2	<i>Passed</i>
3	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Vida Café Inc. dba Mamajuana Café – 247 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Seaman Avenue.)	34-3-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
4	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its Catering Establishment License to: The Metropolitan Museum of Art– 99 Margaret Corbin Drive (Fort Tryon Park & Trie Cloister.)	37-0-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
5	Resolution of No Objection to the DCA Renewal of its Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Vida Mexicana Inc. dba Papasitos – 223 Dyckman St. (btw Broadway & Seaman Avenue.)	12-25-0-0-0	<i>Failed</i>
6	Resolution of No Objection to the DCA New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Silvia L Duran dba Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 188th St.)	34-3-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
7	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Alteration application of its License to: Kon’ to Euro Caribbean Cuisine Corp. dba Seawalk Restaurant – 261-267 Dyckman Street (At the corner of Payson Avenue.) Changing Method of Operation to Extend On-Premises Liquor License to Sidewalk Café. No vote necessary. Handled by Exec Cmte letter		
8	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: San Francisco Restaurant II Corp. dba TBD – 2166 Amsterdam Avenue AKA 501 West 167th St. (at the corner of W. 167th St.) Application Withdrawn		
9	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: Gabriel Xpress Rest. Corp. dba Caribe Restaurant – 1562 St. Nicholas Avenue (btw W. 188th & W. 189th St.)	32-4-1-1-0	<i>Passed</i>

10	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Vapor Lounge & Bar Corp. dba Rincon Mexicano – 4160 Broadway (at the corner of W. 176th St.)	22-14-1-1-0	<i>Passed</i>
11	Resolution of Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Dos Meses Seafood & Lounge Corp. dba Dos Meses Seafood & Lounge – 25 Sherman Avenue (btw Sickles St. & Arden St.)	36-1-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>

Motion to Adjourn- passed at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Mitchell Glenn, Secretary
Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann, Assistant Secretary
May 22 2018