

**Housing & Human Services Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 3rd, 2019**  
**CB12 office**

**Members Present:** Asst. Chair; Barbara Frazier, Waldys Cruz, Naysha Diaz, Richard Allman, Christopher Ventura, Ariel Miranda.

**Absent:** Johnathan Nuñez-Frometa, Carolina Charles, Karen Taylor.

**Public Member:** Alexander Melendez

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Meeting call to order at 7:15pm

**Agenda Items:**

1. FY'20 Capital & Expense Budget
2. New Business
3. Adjournment

**Opening:**

FY'20 Capital & Expense Budget:

-When beginning our discussion on the budget, Interim Chair Barbara asked that all committee members took a moment to review the items from the year prior.

-The committee began with discussion on the Capital budget items.

-The committee immediately decided to remove item 42 because Barbara noted that the Board Chair has specifically asked us to consider the fact that NYCHA is now under federal review and will not as easily be able to modify its spending budget anymore.

- When reviewing item 43, the community members asked that the language was changed to include land banks.

- When reviewing item 44, the Committee and public agreed that they would like to keep it in the coming year's budget rankings because the matter of unused public property for affordable housing is agreed to be a pressing issue in the community.

- The committee discussed how much transitional housing programs need to be included and decided to introduce new language for the adopted budget item number 9 that addresses at-risk and transitional individuals and families.

-Barbara stated she wanted to continue providing more financing for limited profitability housing.

-Ariel asked if we want to introduce new items for the Capital budget.

-Waldys asked for clarity on which items refer to rented units and homeownership units' programs for which it was then made clear how one was

input as line item 6 in the adopted budget. -Interim Chair Barbara decided to introduce language for a new proposed item and asked for further funding for more middle-income homeownership opportunities.

-Ariel recommended a friendly amendment to have working class and limited equity opportunities with Barbara's assistance after Ariel noted the "middle income" language was too restrictive for the community.

-Interim Chair Barbara then attempted to introduce a new method of voting on the proposed budget items and request that all board members take a vote altogether to choose five items in order of preference as per the new sheets given to us by the Board Chair so that they could be filled out and be sent directly to the Board.

-Committee members overwhelmingly decided to argue they were in favor of keeping the current method in place whereby everyone would be able to vote independently and submit their personal rank preferences so as to keep the voting process neutral and then have votes tallied so as to make the entire committee's votes reflective in the ultimate committee proposed capital and expense budget items that would then go before the board.

- Committee agreed after that they were to keep line items 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, from the year prior as well as have the new one just introduced by Barbara and amended by Ariel with the language such as "Provide financing to build more working class and limited equity cooperatives" alongside "Explanation: Provide opportunity for permanent housing".

- Naysha offered after having discussed amongst all Committee members how we would like to stick to our older method of voting again, that she would like to offer to create a google sheet in which we would individually vote and present the total back to the committee once everyone has voted, to which everyone on the committee agreed.

-When moving over to expense items, the committee decided to immediately keep line item 40, but recommend "maintain and continue to" be cut from the language because Naysha pointed out that such funding does not exist currently and is something the board would like to see be allocated to assist working class families living above the current city poverty level as well.

-The Committee decided to follow with keeping line items 41, 42, and 43.

-Interim Chair Barbara asked to have 43 amended to include "at-risk and veterans" within the language.

-For line item 45, the Committee decided to look for a report for underutilized properties Ariel noted may have already been done by Scott Stringer's office and potentially have the item removed.

\*Note: Ariel and Barbara discussed keeping the item just in case to account for "dilapidated" dwellings language in the item, which former CB12 Chair Martin Collins agreed was important.

-Ariel recommended keeping line item 44 to continue providing direct tenant related services to the community beyond when the current 18-month organizing funding given by the De Blasio administration during ULURP goes away to keep direct services available and potentially expand upon them as the neighborhood continues to change.

- The Committee agreed and kept line item 44.

-Interim Chair Barbara suggested putting forward a new one focused on funding for immigrants' housing resources, immigration related issues, and food insecurity.

-Ariel asked to create a new line item after reading from a news article written in the Gotham Gazette about the City Council's Committee on General Welfare findings pertaining to DHS.

-Ariel's proposed item stated, "Provide increased funding for TGNC (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming) individuals and families seeking shelter".

- Naysha asked to have another Capital line item focused on the "creation of TGNC shelters" and most committee members agreed

-Barbara decided to add to line item 44, stating "and fund initiatives to inform tenants of their rights"

-Waldys introduced a line item such as "Provide more funding for community organizations to get spaces for various community groups" but the Interim Chair Barbara asked that the meeting end there.

-Naysha lastly asked before ending that we look to include other items focused on other human services that would service community-based organizations focused on the LGBT/TGNC, youth, and other marginalized groups.

-The meeting adjourned at 10:20pm

Submitted by,

-- Ariel D. Miranda