

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting**

**Alianza Triangle Building 2nd Floor Conference Room
530 W. 166th St., NY. NY. 10032**

December 17, 2019

Board Members Present: Richard Allman; Francisco Alvarez; Mary Anderson; Glennis Aquino-Gil; Lilliam Arias; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Tanya Bonner; Eleazar Bueno; Carolina Charles; Daryl Cochrane; Nobles Crawford; Robin Cruz; Waldys Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Katherine Diaz; Naysha Diaz; Domingo Estevez; Ashley Fernandez; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Mariam James; Danielle Jettoo; Osi Kaminer; Elizabeth Lehmann; Matthew Levy; Richard R. Lewis; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Maria Luna; Jay Mazur; Nicholas Martinez; Cindy Matos; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Ayisha Ogilvie; Rosy Perez; Bruce Robertson; Steve Simon; Omar Tejada; Curtis Young

Board Members Absent: Gabriela Estrella; Yosef Kalinsky; Francisco Lopez; Karen Taylor; Christopher Ventura

Staff: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia; Shinelle Paniagua

Elected Officials/Representatives Present: NYS Senator Robert Jackson, District 31; Johanna Garcia, Chief of Staff, Office of NYS Jackson; NYC Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez; Natalie Espino, Liaison, Office of Manhattan Borough President; Rosie Perez, Director of Community Affairs, Office of Manhattan Borough President; Manuel Belliard, Liaison, Office of NYC Councilman Mark Levine; Orlando Ovalles, Chief of Staff, Office of NYS Assemblywoman Carmen De La Rosa; Maria De La Cruz, Liaison, Office of NYC Comptroller Stringer, Debbie Nabavian, Constituent Liaison, Office of US Congressman Adriano Espaillat

Call to Order: Chair Richard Lewis called the meeting to order at **6:46 pm**. He welcomes everyone. Quorum is attained. Agenda is adopted (Bruce Robertson moved; seconded by Mary Anderson – vote unanimous). November minutes were adopted (Mary Anderson moved; Maria Luna seconded. Vote unanimous with E. Lorris Ritter abstaining).

Chairman's Report - Richard Lewis' report covered the following topics:

- *Spectrum has completed the installation of the high-speed connection for live streaming of CB 12 meetings at the CB 12 offices.*
- *DOITT has been involved in the upgrade of technology at CB 12 and is working with us to upgrade the web page layout and navigation to ensure a more interactive website.*
- *There will be a Public Hearing with the MTA/ NYCTA at Isabella Geriatric Center on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 pm regarding the planned closure of the 191st Street subway elevators and their plan to provide alternate transportation during the one-year shut down. All are invited.*
- *He thanked Paola Garcia and Shinelle Paniagua for their excellent work they did during Ebenezer Smith's absence.*
- *He presented a special award of thanks to outgoing Traffic & Transportation Chair and CB 12-member, Nick Martinez, who will be leaving the Board due to a change in his work in commercial real estate which will preclude attendance at CB 12 meetings. Nick thanked the Board for the opportunity he has had to serve the community.*

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith reported the following:

- Thanked Paola Garcia and Shinelle Paniagua for the excellent work done while on vacation
- Asked the Committee Chairs to review the January 2020 calendar and make sure that their meetings and agenda items were correct.
- Announced that the District Service Cabinet meeting will take place on Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 12 noon at the Board Office and that all Board Members were invited.

Public Speakers Session:

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Announced that Beth Am, The People's Temple, is hosting a pre-Chanukah concert with klezmer artists, Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi on December 18 th at 6:45 pm at 110 Cabrini Blvd in the Community Room. Fliers are available.
Betty Lehmann	Spoke about the impact of the 191 st Street subway elevator closure and encouraged all to attend the Public Hearing on December 19 th at 6:00 pm at Isabella.
Sarah Fisher	Announced that Saturday, December 21 is Winter Solstice Day and there will be candlelit walks at sunrise (7am) and sunset (4 pm) in Inwood Hill Park. Earth Day is 127 days from now. Look for notices on various events that will be scheduled on that day.
Martin Collins	Is Coordinator of the Uptown Arts Stroll. The 18 th Annual Uptown Arts Stroll will take place from Memorial Day through the end of June. The opening ceremony will be in West Harlem and the closing event will be in Washington Heights. There is a poster contest with financial awards for the winners. Fliers are available.
Fe Florimon	Announced the joint effort by the Aging and Youth & Education Committees of CB 12 are hosting a holiday festival for the residents of Isabella Nursing Home and the community. Many youth groups will be performing. All are invited.

Political Officials and their Representatives:

Natalie Espino (Constituent Liaison) and Rosie Perez, (Director of Community Affairs), Office of Manhattan Borough President

- Spoke about the need for applications for community board positions. The first 50 applicants will be invited to dinner at Gale Brewer's home. 22 Current members of CB 12 are up for renewal.
- The Manhattan Complete Count Committee's Regional Director met with the MBPO's office on December 16th. The Census Bureau is looking to hire 180,000 census workers to complete the 2020 census, 80,000 of whom will be needed in NYC. The term is from January to June.
- The MBPO's office is hosting its Annual Baby Diaper Drive from now through January in coordination with the Food Bank of NY. Drop off is at the MBPO's northern Manhattan Office at 431 West 125th Street.

Debbie Nabavian (Constituent Liaison), Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat:

- Congressman Espaillat's legislative accomplishments in 2019 are outlined in a summary that is available on the table in the back.
- The Congressman is delighted to announce several priorities from District 13 that made it into the Federal Appropriations bill:

- \$21M to body cameras for border agents;
 - \$45M for Hispanic college and university to expand STEM programs;
 - Funding for fresh foods nutrition programs;
 - An increase in Capital Grant to cover the expansion of the 2nd Ave. subway
- Spoke about the constituent issues that are brought to the 181st Street office particularly as they relate to health care and the elderly.

Manuel Belliard, (Constituent Liaison) Office of Councilman Mark Levin:

Wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Orlando Ovalles (Chief of Staff) for NYS Assemblywoman Carmen De La Rosa:

The Assemblywoman has a summary of year end results in the latest newsletter including the following:

- The Greenlight Law passed permitting undocumented individuals to be able to get drivers' licenses.
- She co-hosted an information session with Dr. Guillermo Linares, President of HESC, on the Dream Act.
- She participated in a panel discussion with We Act on the toxins in cosmetics. and will introduce legislation accordingly.
- She participated in a Town Hall regarding the crisis at NYCHA.
- She will be represented at the upcoming Public Hearing on the closing of the 191st Street subway elevators.

Senator Robert Jackson

- Talked about the importance of today's vote on the Executive Committee composition.
- Last Monday/Tuesday, the Senate Democrats held a retreat where they were briefed in all of the subject areas that affect New Yorkers (Reforms, Issues, etc.), but the goal is to deal with the deficit of \$6 Billion.
- Spoke about the law suit that deemed that the NYC school system has been shortchanged in terms of state funding.
- Broke-down political composition of the Legislature and discussed the opportunity to elect 45 Democrats to the Senate and ensure a veto-proof majority.
- Spoke about the make-up of his district and the need for re-districting in 2020.
- He will attend the Governor's State of the District address in Albany
- Encouraged attendance at the December 19th Public Hearing at Isabella

Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez spoke about the following:

- Promoted his Holiday Party here, scheduled for December 21st at 530 West 166th Street on the 2nd floor.
- Announced a bill he's sponsoring permitting those who have a green card to be able to vote in municipal elections.
- He has secured \$60M to renovate GW High School including \$22M for the pool.
- December is the deadline to whoever wanted to respond to lead the Immigrant Research Center for the Performing Arts
- Elizabeth Lorris Ritter rose to a point of personal privilege and requested an apology from Councilman Rodriguez claiming the Councilman had said that Ms. Ritter lied in saying that the he did not want her to be elected as Board Secretary. The Councilman denied making any statement to that effect and offered no apology.

Maria De La Cruz, Liaison, Office of Comptroller Scott Stringer reported the following:

- The Comptroller's office has issued many reports in the past several weeks and they can be found on the Comptroller's web site.
- One of the reports concerns the Rain Gardens. DEP is supposed to maintain the Gardens but has not been maintaining the maintenance logs in an accurate and up-to-date manner.

Nominating Committee and Executive Committee Voting Results:

Matthew Levy, Nominating Chair (2019) addressed the following:

- Announced and thanked the members of the Nominating committee
- Quickly reviewed the By-Laws and rules of the election process (speaking time, Q&A and the importance of signing the voting ballot), etc.
- Introduced the candidates for the various positions:
 - Secretary Elizabeth Lorris Ritter - nominated from the floor by Osi Kaminer. Liz Ritter accepted
 - Treasurer Sally Fisher, Gerard Dengel
 - Assistant Secretary Osi Kaminer
 - Second Vice Chair Danielle Jettoo, Ayisha Ogilvie, Isidro Medina
 - First Vice Chair Tanya Bonner, Katherine Diaz, Barbara Frazier
 - Chair Eleazar Bueno, Curtis Young, Richard Lewis (who withdrew at the meeting)
- Each candidate addressed the Board for up to 3 minutes and took questions from Board members.
- **Voting Results** indicated that the following individuals won election:
 - Asst. Secretary - **Osi Kaminer** (36 votes)
 - Secretary - **Elizabeth Lorris Ritter** (33 votes)
 - Treasurer – **Gerard Dengel** - Dengel (24 votes); Fisher (17 votes)
 - 2nd Vice Chair - **Isidro Medina**
Jettoo (4 votes); Medina (26 votes); Ogilvie (12 votes)
 - 1st Vice Chair (following runoff) - **Katherine Diaz**
#1 Bonner (11 votes); Diaz (14 votes); Frazier (16 votes) - (4 unsigned ballots)
#2 Diaz (22 votes) vs. Frazier (17 votes)
 - Chair - **Eleazar Bueno** - Bueno (24 votes); Young (19 votes)

Resolution Reports:

Traffic & Transportation: Nicholas Martinez, Chair reported the following:

Resolution for Revocable Consent to construct and maintain the use of a proposed telecommunications conduit at 701 W. 168th Street and 104 Haven Avenue, Block 2139, Lots 51 and 229.

- Ayisha Ogilvie had a couple questions
- Steve Simon proposed a friendly amendment which was accepted.

Public Safety: Curtis Young, Chair Curtis Young reported the following:

Resolution opposing Gov. Cuomo's plan to hire 500 New MTA Police Officers & Recommending funding of Community Public Safety Initiatives.

- Daniel Jettoo reported on a similar resolution from Community Board 11.
- Curtis Young represented that CB's 9 & 10 are considering a similar resolution.
- Ayisha Ogilvie proposed a friendly amendment that was accepted.
- Barbara Frazier added to the amendment and the modification was accepted.

- Osi Kaminer proposed a friendly amendment which was not accepted after the Chair's explanation.

Housing and Human Services: Barbara Frazier, Acting Chair reported the following;

Resolution Supporting the Levine Amendment 1783-A of the Administrative Code of NYC to exclude certain Cooperatives & Condos from Housing Portal.

- Committee member Ariel Miranda expressed his opposition to the Resolution with respect to economic inequality.
- Sarah Fisher and Ayisha Ogilvie addressed the fact that the Resolution had been tabled in the previous month and that several issues remain unreconciled.
- James Berlin indicated that the Resolution as written is very confusing and recommended that the Resolution be sent back to Committee
- Resolution be brought back to the Housing & Human Services Committee
- **Motion to Refer the Resolution** back to Committee (James Berlin): Seconded (Maria Luna)
Vote: 38 – 2 – 9 – 0
- Liz Ritter requested the office staff include this agenda item specifically on next month's distributed agenda so the community can be encouraged to attend at the committee meeting.
- Steve Simon indicated that this may be a moot matter since the Council may vote on this before the next committee meeting.

Licensing Committee Resolutions: Chair Isidro Medina reported the following:

- 5 of the 13 resolutions on the calendar have been withdrawn. (2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10)
- Steve Simon addressed his reservations concerning Resolution #7 due to prior incident. Chair Medina addressed this issue with his knowledge.
- Liz Ritter asked for clarification on a renewal or new license, on Resolution #13 (given by Chair Medina. It was a "no show" at the meeting.
- Daryl Cochran requested clarity on time designations for Resolution #3 – provided

Voting on the Resolutions:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Voting: Y-N-Abst- Absent- NV</u>	<u>Results</u>
A	Resolution for <i>Revocable Consent</i> to construct and maintain the use of a proposed <i>telecommunications conduit</i> at 701 W. 168th Street and 104 Haven Avenue, Block 2139, Lots 51 and 229.	40-0-1-0	<i>Passed</i>
B	Resolution <i>Opposing</i> Governor Cuomo's Plan to <i>Hire 500 New MTA Police Officers</i> & Recommending funding Community Public Safety Initiatives.	37-0-3-0	<i>Passed</i>
C	Resolution <i>Supporting the Levine Amendment</i> 1783-A of the Administrative Code of NYC to exclude certain Cooperatives & Condos from Housing Portal. <i>Referred back to committee.</i>	N/A	N/A
1	Resolution of <i>Objection</i> to the SLA Corporate Change of its License to: Guacamole Corp. dba <i>Guacamole Taqueria</i> – 5025 Broadway (at the corner of W 215th Street) <i>Change of principal</i>	36-5-0-0	<i>Passed</i>

2	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Corporate Change of its License to: Floridita 3856, Inc- 3856 10th Avenue (at the corner of W 206th Street) – Withdrawn at meeting. Change of principal.	N/A	N/A
3	Resolution of Objection to the SLA Method of Operation Change of its License to: Boxers Washington Heights LLC. – 3820 Broadway (at the corner of W 159th Street). To extend hours from 2:00am to 4:00am on Sundays & for special events such as Halloween, New Year’s Eve, Gay Pride Day and Saint Patrick’s Day.	31-10-0-0	Passed
4	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Method of Operation Change of its License to: D&C Restaurant Bar & Grill Corp. dba La Esquina de Nagua Restaurant – 2244 Amsterdam Avenue (at the corner of W. 172nd Street To extend hours to 12:00am Thursdays and Sundays. Extend hours to 2:00am on Fridays and Saturdays for karaoke. – Withdrawn at meeting	N/A	N/A
5	Resolution of No Objection to the NYC TLC Renewal of its Livery Car Base License to: Xpress Transport & Multi Services Inc. – 2326 Amsterdam Avenue (at the corner of W 176th Street.	41-0-0-0	Passed
6	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: VIP Room NYC Inc. – 219 Sherman Avenue (btw 204th & W 207th Streets) – Withdrawn at meeting.	N/A	N/A
7	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Floridita 3856, Inc- 3856 10th Avenue (btw W 204th & W 207th Streets)	17-24-0-0	Did Not Pass
8	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Doden LLC- 3760 Broadway (at the corner of W 156th Street) – Withdrawn at meeting.	N/A	N/A
9	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Viva Colombia Corp. – 4126 Broadway (btw W 174th & W 175th Street) – Withdrawn at meeting.	N/A	N/A
10	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant License to: A A E Enterprises LLC dba Monumental – 550 W. 181st Street (at the corner of Audubon Avenue) – Withdrawn prior to meeting	N/A	N/A
11	Resolution of Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: El Nuevo Valle Seafood Restaurant Corp. – 231 Sherman Avenue (corner of W 207th Street)	33-8-0-0	Passed
12	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Restaurant Wine License to: Jade Sushi and Bar Inc. dba Mr. Mangus Kitchen – 1506 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W 185th Street & W 186th Street)	39-2-0-0	Passed

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Committee Reports:

Parks and Cultural Affairs: Chair, Elizabeth Loris Ritter reported the following

- The NYC Parks Dept. is going to pilot a gender-neutral bathroom in our area (first in NYC).
- There will a discussion about street co-naming concerning the Lenape tradition.

Health & Environment; Chair Steve Simon reported the following:

- NYP's Medical Director for Infectious Disease made a presentation at the most recent meeting concerning the progress they have made in eliminating HIV /AIDs in the community. They will follow up at future meetings.

Business Development: Chair Eleazar Bueno reported:

- Refer to minutes

Land Use: Wayne Benjamin, reported the following:

- Refer to minutes.
- December's meeting will have a member of City Planning who will discuss the 87-page document concerning the City's commitment on Inwood Rezoning.

Traffic & Transportation: Nick Martinez reported:

- Refer to minutes for updates

Public Safety: Curtis Young, Chair, reported:

- Refer to minutes

Concerns of the Aging: Mary Anderson, Chair, reported:

- Refer to minutes

Youth and Education: No report at this time.

Announcements:

Steve Simon announced that the Parks Department will be holding a scoping meeting on the renovation of the ball fields at Inwood Hill Park on January 6th at 6:30 pm at IS 52. Ebenezer Smith will send out a notice. The Councilman has set aside over \$6 million of the renovation.

Natalie Espino, on behalf of the **Borough President's** office ***thanked Nick Martinez*** for his service on the Board and as Chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee and thanked ***Richard Lewis*** for his service as Chair of CB 12 for the past year.

Motion to Adjourn (by voice acclamation):

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann, Assistant Secretary, Acting Secretary
Nobles Crawford, Reporting Associate
December 2019