

**Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting**  
**April 28, 2020 / Online via Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Richard Allman, Mary Anderson, Glennis Aquino, Wayne Benjamin, Jim Berlin, Tanya Bonner, Eleazar Bueno, Daryl Cochrane, Nobles Crawford, Robin Cruz, Waldys Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Katherine Diaz, Naysha Diaz, Domingo Estevez, Gabriela Estrella, Ashley Fernandez, Sally Fisher, Fe Florimon, Barbara Frazier, Mariam James, Danielle Jettoo, Yosef Kaminsky, Osi Kaminer, Betty Lehmann, Matt Levy, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Ariel Miranda, Debby Nabavian, Jonathan Nunez Frometa, Ayisha Oglivie, Bruce Robertson, Steve Simon, Omar Tejada, Chris Ventura (left meeting prior to Roll Call vote), Curtis Young. **Excused:** Rud Morales. **Absent:** Francisco Alvarez, Carolina Charles, Francisco Lopez, Cindy Matos; Rosy Perez, Karen Taylor. **Staff Present:** Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia.

**6:41pm Call to Order:** The Zoom call began at 6:30pm; the meeting was called to order with quorum.

**6:43pm Agenda & Minutes:** Glennis Aquino-Gil made a motion (second by Daryl Cochrane) to approve the agenda; passed without objection. Elizabeth Lorris Ritter made a motion (second by Gabriela Estrella) to approve the March minutes; passed without objection. Liz Ritter made a motion (second by Wayne Benjamin) to approve the February minutes; passed without objection.

**6:48pm Chair's Report, Eleazar Bueno**

- Office is almost 100% virtual. Phones are being forwarded to a new cellphone number assigned by DoITT so they can answer phones when people call asking for any type of service.
- We also participated in several food distributions in the area, including those sponsored by the Manhattan Borough President & Fresh Direct, and the one sponsored by Uplift NYC, which feed almost 400 people every Saturday; shout-out to btw. Angela Fernandez and CB12M's own Domingo Estevez & Katherine Diaz. (Much virtual applause.)
- DoITT is working with the Manhattan Borough President's Office and all of the Manhattan Community Boards to revamp our dinosaur of an office telephone system.
- Acknowledged Dr. Lorna M. Breen, the Allen Hospital ER Medical Director who took her own life on Sunday. Read a statement from NewYork-Presbyterian which said in part: "we are grieving as a community and feel this loss deeply." There was a moment of silence.

**6:52pm District Manager's Report, Ebenezer Smith:**

- As noted by our Chair, the office has been fully made remote. We can handle virtual meetings with the Zoom platform, and we are starting with the WebEx platform as well so we can host two meetings at the same time. It seems like we will be doing this kind of work for a while.
- We have created a Facebook page and YouTube channel so that meetings can be livestreamed. We didn't announce it for this meeting as we are testing out the functionality but will publicize in the future. Thanks to Jonathan Nunez-Frometa for his invaluable assistance in this regard.
- We are working with local businesses and organizations to help them apply for NewYork-Presbyterian's Northern Manhattan Recovery Fund, which was negotiated by Congressman Espaillat and is administered by the Hispanic Federation.
- Sent out information about CitiBike Town Hall
- We have been working with local funeral homes to help community residents with the burial of their loved ones. Funeral homes have been overwhelmed with the number of COVID deaths
- Last Thursday 4/23 the Mayor's Office gathered all the Community Board District Managers & Chairs to give information about COVID. I asked why the Hispanic community and why in particular our ZIP codes (especially 10032/33/34/40) are so highly affected. A few days later, I saw that the Mayor has appointed a task force, chaired by his wife, to look into these disparities.
- There is emergency in center lane of the Washington Bridge. DoT have placed barrels in the center lanes in both directions. The bridge doesn't need to be shut down, and is being repaired as we speak.
- All Committee chairs should review the May calendar to make sure that it reflects the correct meeting date/time and agenda items; please provide any changes/corrections ASAP

**Q&A / Q (Liz Ritter):** Are platforms the same? A: basically yes, but WebEx is more secure. **Q (Sally Fisher):** what's the balance in the CB fund? We are #4 in the number of frontline workers, and perhaps the balance can be used for outreach. A: I don't have off the top of my head. Q: the funds expire in two months; we shouldn't give any \$\$ back. A: The Chair asked the DM to make it a priority to look into this and report back ASAP. **Q (Barbara Frazier):** What is the current situation with food pantries? A: they're not working in the regular way. People must register through 311. Grab-and go at senior centers no longer operating, but schools are still distributing meals (beginning at 7:30am, and the period 10-11:30 is for the general public). Curtis said that he's working at the Community League of the Heights (CLoTH) pantry which is open every day, 9am-1pm. Bruce Robertson has also been helping. The Chair also stated that the Pentecostal Church on 180<sup>th</sup> St. & St. Nicholas Ave. also is operating a food pantry. We will put out a list. Debby clarified that senior centers' lists were transitioned to DfTA, but now it's running through 311, which has hired additional staff. **Q (Daryl Cochrane):** are food pantries are being promoted to homeless shelters? A: I don't know.

**7:11pm Steve Simon, Health & Environment Committee Chair gave an update on the Coronavirus situation from the NYC DOHMH** Presumed to be 17,215 COVID-19 NYC deaths, with close to 12k confirmed deaths based on tests and an additional 5400+ considered probable based on symptoms. (That's what death certificate says, but these were not confirmed with testing.) The numbers are not being published by Community District, so I cannot say for CD12M. But we have a breakdown of positive tests by ZIP code; these are residents of our district: 10032 has 1,125 positive tests; 10033 has 1,032; 10040 has 748; 10034 has 534. Those are positive tests, not hospitalizations. I have not been able to get a breakdown at 168<sup>th</sup> St. vs. The Allen. All NY-Presbyterian has said is that they've had 2,400 cases system-wide, but that includes their facilities in Brooklyn, Queens, Westchester, etc. I also ask that when we adjourn we do so in memory of Dr. Breen, who died a hero.

**7:16pm: Report from the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Natalie Espino:**

- Good to see you. Congratulate you for all you are doing to keep people informed and to keep these meetings going.
- MBPO 4/28 blast is out; subscribe on website for the daily.
- I know you are anxious to know the outcome of (re-)appointments. We will be making those announcements by the weekend. Appointments will be effective 5/1. We also will be offering virtual trainings on land use, parliamentary procedure, ethics, etc.
- Thanks to all who participated in the uptown arts call, which was productive and informative.
- Virtual NYCgo.com sharing online arts/culture programming; this is an invaluable resource.
- Fresh Direct distributions to NYCHA has been extended. The Hunter college food policy center is looking for volunteers to help update their NYC food guide from SNAP/WIC to food pantries to soup kitchens, to food markets.
- Announced upcoming webinar on bridging the digital divide (tomorrow, 4/29 at 6:30pm).
- Tomorrow is Denim Day, a virtual all-day rally in support of/solidarity with survivors of sexual violence. [www.denimdaynyc.com](http://www.denimdaynyc.com). Please wear your denim even though no one will see it.
- The MBP continues to support road closures to increase capacity for social distancing while people are out and about.
- Census: Manhattan is at 45.4%, and we are second to SI, and WE CANNOT HAVE THAT! Visit [mobilize.us/nyccensus](http://mobilize.us/nyccensus) for information on how you can get involved and spread the word.
- Lastly, I cannot believe I have to say this: DO NOT ingest, inject, or inhale cleaning products!

**7:23pm: Office of NYS Senator Robert Jackson, Chris Nickel:** defer to Senator who will be joining shortly.

**7:23pm: Report from Office of Assemblymember Al Taylor Wendy Olivo:** Announced ongoing community aid efforts and then-upcoming events.

**7:25pm Public Session:**

**Martin Collins, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance** The Uptown ArtStroll is online! Join NoMAA & artist Wilhelmina Grant for our first #StayHomeOpenStudios, weekly Thursday evening virtual exhibitions followed by Zoom artist chats to provide a forum for artists to share their work & engage in meaningful conversations. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nomaas-stayhomeopenstudios-with-wilhelmina-grant-tickets-102857054218?ref=eios>. See [www.artstroll.com](http://www.artstroll.com) for more information!

**7:27pm NYS Senator Robert Jackson, 33<sup>rd</sup> District:**

- We go back into conference on Thursday and will be discussing all of the emergency legislation.
- We can't settle the budget deficit on the backs of public service when we need it now the most, with so many dead, sick, and unemployed.
- Workgroups on housing (we have the most rent regulated units in the state) and also revenue raising. We will do this in preparation of the emergency which we have now and which we will continue to face.
- Housing bill: my team introduced a bill to be able to use security deposits to pay for all or part of rents due. Salazar has another bill SA175 to have tenants to have a one-year rent freeze. Mayor de Blasio has asked the Rent Guidelines Board for no increase.

**Q&A: Q (Eleazar Bueno):** Is there anything in there for commercial tenants? **A:** I don't know; I will have my Budget/Legislative Director, Matt Levy, review and share with you. We have many bills in the hopper. **Q: (Nobles Crawford):** Has there been any conversation on hazard pay for state workers, especially for transit, DSNY, and other essential workers, since we cannot rely on federal funding. **A:** We are \$13bn in the hole. This will come up. MTA union has a \$50k death benefit if you die on the job. And the MTA upped that to \$500k. We need to do that for all workers who died on the job [due to COVID] and also must provide hazardous duty pay for all workers. It would come to hundreds of millions of dollars, and I don't know how we'd pay for it, but we must do something. I am open to ideas. I would welcome a resolution on this from CB12. **Q (Danielle Jettoo):** regarding rent freeze, given that May 1<sup>st</sup> is right around the corner, what can we expect? **A:** The Senate is in conference and discussing with the leadership, but we don't have a date for coming back into session. More than likely the legislation will be done after May 1<sup>st</sup>, but it could be retroactive? Follow-up Q: what are you advising tenants to do? **A:** if you can pay your rent, pay your rent. Talk to your landlord; communication is key. If you only can pay partial rent try to work something out. Communication is key. Our state Comptroller is putting together millions of dollars (not sure if it's \$50mm or \$500mm) for 0% interest for small business loans. This is good news since so many businesses are closing their doors. **Q (Steve Simon):** Can you speak to Sen. Gianaris' bill suspending rent for 90 days? **A:** Yes, there is that bill and also Kavanaugh has a voucher bill. We will be discussing it in conference. Follow-up Q: we are discussing a reso this evening on rent relief; are you a cosponsor on these bills? **A:** Yes! I am cosponsor on all of these bills.

**7:44pm: Report from the Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Laurie Tobias-Cohen**

- Horrible just how many people in our district find themselves without any revenue and without a sense the Unemployment Insurance to which they are entitled will come through in any reasonable time. This, and delays in tax refunds, is the preponderance of what we deal with. All of the states have been given an extra burden for UI, with no additional resources.
- We have been contacted by three different people of Presbyterian congregations in our district that are experiencing huge increase in their food pantry demand. We put them together with two other congregations that don't have food pantries but are happy to contribute. So it's good that people are able to come together to help their neighbors in need. **Q (Liz Ritter):** regarding the Northern Manhattan Emergency Fund: who applied, who is getting? **A:** we are helping people w/ applications. All of the first \$2 million, there have been 400 applicants awarded,

which is all the money. It's a \$10 million pot overall. I don't know when the next set of funding will be made available but we are helping people submit their applications so that they're in the cue when the money is made available.

**7:48pm Report from the Office of NYC Councilmember Ydianis Rodriguez, 10<sup>th</sup> District, Kiani Diaz**

- Our office working with small businesses on SBA loans. Application process opened up again yesterday. Many of our business owners don't have the ability to complete these applications. Many of the Chambers of Commerce are overwhelmed so we are helping them. PPP loan preference is given to biz who have good relationships with the banks doing the processing, so we are encouraging businesses to work with their banks.
- Contrary to what was reported by a speaker earlier in this meeting, 809 is NOT closing. The owner is negotiating with his landlord. Cirillo [the owner] will not have same amount of staff that he used to have but he is aiming to continue in business.
- The Office of the NYC Medical Examiner is overwhelmed and there are cases of families having to wait for more than 24 hours with the deceased's body in their home.

**Q& A: Q (Ayisha Oglivie)** re PPP situation. Banks were giving preference to businesses that had higher amount requested because the bank gets a higher fee, it's a percentage. That puts smaller businesses at a disadvantage, and that is wrong. When will we get information about how these funds are being distributed, and how our businesses are benefitting, and how do we change that dynamic so that smaller businesses aren't penalized? **A (Debby Nabavian, for Rep. Espailat)** This is a federal issue. Banks needed to work with existing customers. It's hard to process if you don't already have a business relationship. We all read what happened with the first \$349 billion, and a lot of it went not only to businesses with "big bank" lending relationships and some of our smaller banks like Banco Popular, Ponce, etc. did help their clients. Yesterday morning the window opened again. We hear that Chase was waiting with hundreds of applications and the system was crashing. We are hoping that all of the people whose applications are in and will be considered, and so that smaller banks are able to service their customers. **Ayisha:** it should be first come/first served, not the "favored" clients. **Q (Nobles Crawford):** Mayor signed legislation from the City Council regarding street closures. Can you tell us what is the process to decide which streets get closed? **A:** No decision made, but we'll let you know what the decision is. **Q: (Liz Ritter):** It's great that streets are being closed, but can you let us know what is the process to decide which streets get closed? **A:** Yes, I will get that info to the Chair to get CB input. **Q: (Steve Simon):** with PPP, you get the money, but it's premised on bringing back your staff. So it's a real catch-22, and I don't get how it works. **A:** It's a problem for businesses that have closed. Yes, 75% of the costs have to be for staff. **Q: (Eleazar Bueno):** there's no good way to take advantage of it; payroll isn't our major expense, we have all the other overhead. This is a set-up for failure. **Q (Ayisha):** re: closing of streets & CitiBikes: we were promised that more parking would NOT be eliminated from the Haven Plaza. CitiBikes were supposed to have been placed IN the plaza, and yet more parking spaces were eliminated from the street to accommodate CitiBikes. T&T Committee should be providing oversight.

**8:02pm Report from NYC Councilmember Mark Levine, 7<sup>th</sup> District**

- We've made real progress on almost everything we can measure, from new infections to hospitalizations, and even a reduction in the daily death toll.
- I know that people are getting antsy with the economy and reversing the shutdown. It must be done in a way that is sensitive to the real economic need while also avoiding a rebound in new COVID-19 cases. We must have the proper public health protections in place. The lesson we have learned from around the world is we can prevent that from happening with robust testing and contact tracing, and quarantining/isolating for those who need it. That's the basic model but to do it in a city of 8 million people is an epic undertaking. We are going to need thousands of employees to do contact tracing, run a call center, take care of people, etc., but this is the key to

opening up the economy safely. Communities MUST have a voice in shaping this programming, and in delivering the programming. We must develop trust. I want community-based organizations & Community Boards to have a roll in this. We have to be on people's doorsteps with groups that they trust, in language they understand. We need trust, buy-in, cultural sensitivity, etc. This is happening fast; we have to build this in the next 30 days.

**Q & A / Q (Nobles Crawford):** We should've been thinking about the now months ago. So what are we doing now to think about the future, which will be "the now" sooner than we think. What will be small business assistance for people who shut down, or for people who left temporarily and will need to come back to NYC? A: This pandemic has exposed enormous failings into society. We were familiar w/ them, but this has brought it into stark relief: in access to healthcare, racism in employment and housing, and worst impacts on communities of color. Small biz were already struggling, and now they are facing an existential threat that cannot be overstated. We need federal assistance; the state can't meet all of this. We need to help businesses and tenants renegotiate their leases. We need to help w/ renegotiating leases. We need to help businesses with hazard insurance and with insurance companies are refusing to pay out. This is wrong. Our office has an offer from Legal Aid attorneys to help people through this. This will be YEARS of rebuilding, not months. The City must be a partner, not a burden. **Q (Eleazar Bueno):** also echoed issue with the Department of Health and how that can be weaponized against small businesses. A: Yes, this is a good opportunity to review that. We have been working with DOH on this prior to the pandemic and are continuing to focus on this. We have to make sure that The City isn't imposing burdens on small businesses. **Q: (Tanya Bonner):** good to see you and that you are feeling better. I know there have been a lot of new task forces. How do we integrate Community Boards going forward? A: Community Boards must be at the table because you are on the ground and an independent voice in the community. I don't have a direct voice in appointments, but I will deliver this message to the Administration. You have my commitment to partner with you and CB12 and other Community Boards. **Q: (Ayisha Oglivie):** echoing what Nobles was saying about being proactive, and taking steps as soon as possible. I spoke w/ you about a block-chain solution, a database that could connect w/ the majority of the community. So that when something big happened we could push out and pull in information and use the open data we have from many agencies to effectively make the right decisions. I never imagined there would be something so large, so soon. In any other arena that would be IP, but it became a casualty of the dynamics on this Board. We don't always have to look outside; all of us are here because we have value and a certain skill set. A: Yes, tech is for everyone. This pandemic is pushing tech forward. I have been working on block-chain for a couple of years now, and I would like to be able to use this moment to go forward with equitable use of tech. But there is a digital divide, which has impacted (for example) many families who haven't been able to take advantage of distance learning. **Q (Fe Florimón):** Small businesses are the lungs of the community. Many of our businesses will not be able to survive. Is there any plan for small businesses be tax-exempt from paying property, sales, payroll, and other taxes during the months in which they were unable to operate? A: We've talked about this in the Council. Some of those taxes aren't in the City's control. You also want to be careful with payroll taxes because you don't want to harm employees. We need help on this from the federal government. The PPP was a huge failure, like 2% went to true small businesses. There's an attempt to correct that but I'm reserving judgment. Only the feds can borrow for deficit spending, but that doesn't let the City off the hook; there's still a lot that we can do. **Q (Ariel Miranda):** Black & brown People of Color lost their properties in '08 and we must not have a repeat of that. A: no eviction order through June; might need to be extended. I am concerned that we will have a flood of eviction actions, either in June or later. I DO support legislation in Albany, in both the Senate and the Assembly that will allow for the cancellation of rent for tenants who are suffering. But there are provisions that account for concerns that you articulated: e.g., that banks not charge mortgages to small landlords. We can account for the

needs that small landlords have in addition to protecting tenants. **Q (Maria Luna):** there's a testing site in Harlem. You can just show up, and bring a pen and clipboard and answer a lot of questions, and get tested. Not like the one here, where you have to make an appointment. Also, I have two relatives working at Rikers, and the issue is that people being released from Rikers are not being tested, they are just being released. How secure are we? **A:** There has been real inequality in testing. It's been available for the wealthy. As for Rikers, this is a sensitive population and they need even more support at this time and I am working with local CBOs which are providing these vital services. **Q:** we have so many people who are suffering and we need more support for people first responders and for Veterans with PTSD.

**8:37pm Committee reports**

**Housing & Human Services Committee, Ariel Miranda, Chair:** Presented a resolution highlighting a number of the concerns that have already been raised by our elected officials, in terms of protections for economically vulnerable populations who have been negatively impacted by this pandemic. **Q&A / Q (Wayne Benjamin):** Is this focused on the tenant side, the landlord side, or both? There are many other things, not just rent but other operating expenses, utilities, etc. **A:** we are trying to be not-too-specific so that we can be flexible on if it goes to the City Council, the State Legislature because they have different roles. **Q (Sally Fisher):** can we add the Assembly same-as? **A:** Accepted as friendly. **Q (Steve Simon):** had a question about mortgages and the wording to include that. Jim Berlin, the Parliamentarian, rose to a Point of Order that whatever we vote on is what we vote on so if there is language being cleaned up it needs to be done before we vote. Steve will figure out the wording and the conversation circle back to that point. **Q (Barbara Frazier):** forgiving utilities should be limited to those impacted financially by the pandemic. **A:** Accepted as friendly.

**8:52pm Public Safety Committee, Curtis Young, Chair:** Presented a resolution which calls for the release of those most vulnerable incarcerated (age 50+, and low-level/non-violent offenders and technical violations) as well as for providing additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and the expansion of re-entry services. This is an issue of safety for communities as well as for incarcerated individuals. The reso also calls for testing, as well as for extended mental health services, housing, and other services: we can't release people without supportive services. The reso passed unanimously at the Committee level (4 in favor, and 1 not voting due to conflict (Danielle Jettoo works at Rikers)). **Q&A / Q (Steve Simon):** passed by Committee on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the City has since released 1500 prisoners. Is this still germane? **A:** At a minimum, the reso should add this fact. **A:** accepted as friendly. The reso is still germane. **Q:** Given that many of these recommendations in the reso are consistent with what DOC itself has recommended, is it still correct in the Ninth Whereas to say that DOC hasn't commented on condition in our jails? **A:** They have not been responsive, particularly with regard to hygiene & sanitation. **Q:** can you please make that explicit? **A:** accepted as friendly. **Q (Daryl Cochrane):** you listed 50? Is that what they recommended? I thought it was 55? **A:** yes: it was 50+ and/or medical complications. **Q (Ayisha Oglivie):** I want to raise the context of people's Sixth [sic] Amendment rights? Normally there's a six-day window about your charges so that you can advocate for yourself. That has been pushed to 20 days, and might go to 30, and this is potentially a problem if a person could be released sooner, and are being exposed to COVID while in jail. Also, attorneys are having a difficulty getting into the jail to speak with clients, and to meet with DAs. We should add this to the reso. **A:** yes. Can you give specific wording; I believe the reso already addresses that, so can you provide language? Ayisha provided and Curtis accepted the language. **Q (Barbara Frazier):** I agree with a lot of this, but the part that says "anyone over 50" I disagree with. We have a guy who is 63 who was in jail because he stalked his girlfriend and then stabbed her repeatedly, and this was the second time stabbing a girlfriend. He has cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes, but I think he shouldn't be on the street. **A:** can add "non-violent offenders". **Danielle:** we are just supporting a document that's already been put out there, we

are not charting new territory here. **Q (Liz Ritter):** The reso should acknowledge our Councilmembers Levine & Rodriguez if they are cosponsors, and call on them to become co-sponsors if not. A: accepted as friendly. As of April 8<sup>th</sup>, Mark is a co-sponsor; Ydanis is not.

**9:06pm Traffic & Transportation Committee, Debby Nabavian, Chair** introduced two resolutions, one supporting NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)'s proposed changes along W. 178<sup>th</sup> St. between Fort Washington & Wadsworth Avenues, and another regarding NYC DOT street improvements on Riverside Drive at the Henry Hudson Parkway & Trans-Manhattan Expressway entrance/exit ramps (at roughly the equivalent of W. 169<sup>th</sup> – 173<sup>rd</sup> Streets). We need improved access to Ft. Washington Park, as well as real crosswalks, curb extensions & sidewalk additions, and curb cuts. The improvements wouldn't be constructed for a while (2021 or '22), but the work would be funded by a grant from NYS. Also important to note that most DOT work is halted. There were no questions; there was no discussion. Regarding upcoming agenda items:

- Many of the other upcoming projects that DOT would have presented are up in the air. The agency cannot make promises about when things will start given the uncertainty as to what is actually going to be done.
- May agenda will include the safety situation at Riverside Oval. I will look to Bruce Robertson to help make sure that the people impacted are aware and can participate.
- June agenda will include a discussion of CitiBike presentation and prospective siting within CD12; tomorrow's DOT meeting a general informational meeting about the program.

**9:16pm Roll Call vote:** the Public Safety reso passed 32-2-2, with one member not voting due to conflict (works at Rikers). The Traffic & Transportation reso on changes to W. 178<sup>th</sup> St. passed 34-2-1; the T&T reso on street improvements to Riverside Drive passes 35-0-2.

**9:28pm: Resumption of Discussion of Housing & Human Services Reso & additional Roll Call vote:** Ariel Miranda read the changes to clarify the wording in the Fourth Resolved regarding mortgages, add the Assembly same-as legislation in the First Whereas, and clarify the First Resolved. The reso passed unanimously with 36 votes; a member who works for one of the elected officials to whom the resolution is directed did not vote due to conflict.

**9:38pm: Health & Human Services Committee, Steve Simon, Chair:** NY-Prebyterian's auxiliary facility in Baker's Field is up and running, with 250 beds for less acute patients and staffed by veteran medical workers. NYP is encouraging the tele-health model, and to not use the ER if they can avoid it. They also have established a bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline to answer questions about the Coronavirus & COVID-19: 646-697-4000, every day from 6am-11pm; please share this information. Psychiatric service has shifted to Gracie Hospital on the Upper East Side. I have asked NYP to commit to returning these psych beds to the community psych once the crisis subsides, but have not yet received an iron-clad commitment from the Hospital; we look to our elected officials who have been helpful in the past on this issue to advocate on our behalf. Columbia University med students graduated a month early, and many are now working at the hospital. CU is performing clinical trials on hydroxychloroquine; they do not recommend people using this drug on their own unless they are part of clinical trials. And under no circumstances should people ingest bleach or other cleaning products. At Isabella, they are taking the temperature of every staff person before every shift and if they leave the building during their shift. They could use some more PPE, though they have received some with the help of local elected and NYP. They have suffered one staff death, and as of about a week ago there was a report from the Department of Health that were 13 patient deaths. They've had a refrigerator truck parked outside of the building because they only have space for four bodies in the morgue. There has been a community effort to provide more masks for Isabella. **Q (Liz Ritter):** Do they need surgical masks, or are cloth masks? A: They'll take whatever they can get.

- 9:43pm: Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair** If you've been paying attention to my Zoom backgrounds you can see that our parks are open, and they are beautiful! There is plenty of room to use parks safely and maintain a distance of 6 feet, to go alone or with the members of your household or with a friend. Playgrounds, dog runs, skate parks are closed. If we work w/ our neighbors to make sure that we're using our parks sensibly then they will remain open, but if, particularly as the weather becomes nicer, people are not maintaining distance from each other we may be looking at forced closures. There continue to be a lot of online resources for culture, Hispanic Society has a lots of good programming and many educational modules, as do many of our other institutions; recommended to the Youth/Ed Chair that she share these resource with her school contacts. Shout-out to the MBP & staff for an excellent call last week getting uptown cultural organizations together on collaborating to get more funding for artists and arts organizations that are really suffering right now, and for getting arts & cultural programming into our homes. **Q (Domingo Estevez):** What's going to happen with permits? **A: (Steve Simon):** No decision has been made about July & August; all permits have been cancelled for May & June. Parks is not currently accepting applications. **Q (Daryl Cochrane):** reminder that pools/beaches will not be open this summer, and to call 311 if people are not socially distancing in parks; Liz thanked her Assistant Chair for this important reminder.
- 9:47pm: Youth & Education Committee, Fe Florimón, Chair:** There was no meeting in April because all of our presenters cancelled. We have an interesting agenda on our upcoming meeting. **Q (Domingo Estevez):** Big budget cuts will be coming to DOE & schools. What will we be doing to support our students. How will we brace ourselves for cuts that will impact District 6? **A:** I have been speaking with different principals and have offered my assistance. We are having a very difficult time ascertaining the number of students who still do not have the resources they need. We need help from the City Council to make sure all students have the technology they need. We are also looking to have a forum so that we can really ponder the challenges that the students and parents are facing.
- 9:52pm: Business Development Committee, Domingo Estevez, Chair:** this month has been all about leveraging technology to help our local businesses. Last week we partnered with The Legal Aid Society to discuss contracts, insurance, leases, etc., and set up free follow-up consultations. We are having "what you need to know" sessions with businesses so that they are not overwhelmed by all the information. We also worked with the NYC Comptroller's Office to get the word out on "MWBE University" every Tuesday & Thursday at 11am.
- 9:55pm: Licensing Committee, Isidro Medina, Chair:** Thanked Domingo for the event with the Legal Aid Society, which was really useful for our small merchants." I don't recommend that you send that information out by eblast because I don't read my email. I could have had over 1,000 businesses represented. I recommend that when we have these kinds of events to send email to each individual Board member or specific stakeholders, and not by eblast. Domingo: we're all busy and it's important to pay attention to the correspondence from the Board staff. Regarding the Licensing Committee, we did not meet on April 6<sup>th</sup>. My question for the next meeting is if we will be able to bring in the merchants and the residents through Zoom; this will be a challenge and I am very concerned that they won't be able to log in. My question for Ebenezer is how will we proceed with the items from April: do they automatically move to May, or will the merchants have to reapply again? **A (Eleazar Bueno):** as the person working closely with Ebenezer, we will meet and then follow whatever is the procedure in place.
- 10pm: Land Use Committee, Wayne Benjamin, Chair:** The Committee did not meet in April. ULURPs are not on hold. The activity can proceed (and is proceeding) virtually, though there's nothing in our District. Landmarks/LPC also working virtually, as well as the Bureau of Standards & Appeals also is operating virtually. So the Office should continue to keep us informed of any notices that



we may receive as the City is still conducting business albeit virtually, and we must still meet the usual timeframes and deadlines. **Q (Ayisha Oglivie):** As soon as the Open Meetings Law was eliminated due to this crisis, this is a concern I had. Things are happenings, and there are people who don't have access to technology and they would be showing up and don't have the ability to do so. Can we get a comprehensive list of all the meetings that have gone virtual so that we can make it more transparent and people can know what the schedule is and can participate.

**10:03pm MBPO Representative Natalie Espino** added several items of clarification:

- This Friday we are having a meeting with the newly-appointed CEC members from across the borough. Please email me your concerns/questions about any soft-openings of schools so that I can bring it back to that meeting.
- I also ask that we work closely with the Parliamentarian to make sure there is clarity about what can be done in a meeting. When in doubt please consult with the MBPO General Counsel or the City's Law Department.
- Also very pleased that CB12 has the live on YouTube option to allow greater public access. The Open Meetings Law was not eliminated, only modified to allow attendance by virtual platform.

**10:05pm New business:**

- Eleazar Bueno: the City is asking for a comprehensive list of hotel rooms so that vacant capacity can be used to isolating individuals who are COVID-positive so that they do not endanger their families. Ebenezer and I are working on this and will have a full report for our next meeting.
- Barbara Frazier: Mark Levine started to speak to this, as we talk about "the New Normal". Spectrum is currently giving internet access to school families. Many of these families had had their cable cut off or didn't have it in the first place. Used to be that there was a very low rate for basic "lifeline" telephone service if you were senior or disabled because this is a vital service. Why don't we have the Public Service Commission or the NYC Council institute a basic rate for internet access, as this is also a vital service. **Q (Liz Ritter):** Shouldn't that go through a Committee for a resolution? In response there was some discussion as to which would be the right Committee, since it touches on Aging, Youth/Education, and Health, as well as the IT Task Force. The Chair will follow up with Barbara as to which is best committee to go through.
- The Chair invited Betty Lehmann to give a brief report on Isabella and how we can support the institution with community resources. She confirmed COVID deaths at Isabella have gone up to 20, from 13. We have the refrigerator truck because the City's funeral parlors are so overwhelmed. We have been very lucky for the assistance of our elected officials, and are grateful to Rep. Espaillat, Sen. Jackson, A/M De La Rosa, and MBP Brewer for intervening, and to NY-Presbyterian, which donated two palettes of PPE. Now we have a week's worth of supplies, which is better than last week when we only had 24-hour's worth. We are happy to accept masks. Staff must use medical masks or N95s, but we have residents in Isabella House and about a thousand residents in the NORC program, so we can use cloth masks as well. We also had a staff death, and at least ten staff have tested positive. Early on we had a 20% absent rate. We brought in staff from around the country. It's been a tough and exhausting several weeks and we are hoping it abates. For donations, contact Marilyn Pacheco is on-site: 212-342-9224 / mpacheco@mjhs.org. Most of us are working from home, but she is in the office. Domingo Estevez volunteered to donate 100 N95 masks. Eleazar: this is the time to pour our hearts out, and this is the time that we need to help Isabella, and the community.

**10:13pm A motion to adjourn** by Liz Ritter was second by Richard Allman; there was no objection. The meeting was adjourned in memory of Dr. Breen.

**Respectfully submitted:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary