

Community Board 12
Washington Heights & Inwood
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Business Development Committee (BDC)
Minutes for January 22nd 2018

Present: Dr. Jason E. Compton, Chair; Eleazer Bueno, Asst. Chair; Glennis Aquino, Sara Fisher, Rud Morales, Bruce Robertson, Public Member

Excused: None

Absent: None

1. Welcome / Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM by Dr. Jason E. Compton.

Dr. Jason E. Compton presided as Chair and he was also taking minutes.

Public and Committee members were welcomed.

The public was updated on recent changes to the committee

- New Chair - Dr. Jason E. Compton
- New Asst. Chair – Eli Bueno
- Untimely Passing of Pamela Palanque North
- Untimely Passing of Isaiah Obie Bing

Dr. Jason E. Compton will speak to CB12 Chair Shahabuddeen Ally with regards to committee replacements.

There was a recommendation to alter the NEW BUSINESS agenda. The committee would like to add the following issues to the agenda

Community Rally's Addressing Rent Hikes
Seminar: 2018 Labor Law Update
The Inwood Rezoning Proposal

2. New Business

Gender Pay Equity - Salary Negotiation Workshop for Women

Lisa D. Hayes, Esq. - Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee of the North Manhattan Alumnae Association of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (NMAC) addressed the committee. One of the goals of the Economic Development Committee of the NMAC is to promote and support local businesses. This year they have been focusing on the issue of gender equality and they would like to conduct a workshop in Upper Manhattan which would train women on how to negotiate salary increases. This goal is in response to research that they site which states women are paid significantly less than their male counterparts.

Below is a short listing of the goals of the workshop:

- Help participants gain confidence in negotiating for a new job, raise, or promotion.
- Help participants identify and articulate their personal value
- Teach participants how to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits

Lisa D. Hayes, Esq. is consulting with the CB12 BDC for help with obtaining a date, time and location. There is a desire to hold the workshop in March or April. The challenges that we face is that they are requesting help with obtaining a location, but CB12 allocated space is only available during business hours Mon-Fri. An event like this could only take place afterhours or on the weekends. During the meeting, several venue options were presented to Lisa D. Hayes, Esq. She was also encouraged to seek the assistance of Sandra Harris at the Chamber of Commerce. Lisa D. Hayes, Esq. will speak with Dr. Jason E. Compton, committee chair, offline in planning the meeting.

Community Rally's Addressing Rent Hikes

This past month, there were two different community events addressing rent hikes.

- **Coogan's – 4015 Broadway New York NY 10032.** On Sunday January 14th there was a rally for Coogan's. This rally was organized in part by CB12 and had the support of various elected officials.
- **Galicia Restaurant – 4083 Broadway New York NY 10032.** On Sunday January 21st there was a rally for Galicia Restaurant. This rally was organized by the Dominicanos Pro Defensa Negocios y Viviendas (Dominicans Defending Businesses and Housing).

Both committee members and the public were happy that an active role was taking place assisting local business. There was a desire to generalize our efforts as these are only two examples of many aggressive rent hikes occurring around our district.

The CB12 BDC decided to take to active roles

1. Apply pressure legislatively. This could possibly be in support of the "Small Business Jobs Survival Act" - File#0402-2014. Because committee members were not familiar with this act, it will be reviewed and if appropriate, CB12 BDC may consider a resolution in its support.
2. Create an awareness campaign. While specifics were not detailed, this was seen as a more effective short-term solution. Details to follow.

Seminar: 2018 Labor Law Update

On January 30, 2018, at 2:00 PM, with cooperation from the New York Latino Restaurant Bar and Lounge Association and the Dominican Bar Association, Martin E. Restituyo will be hosting a seminar at 809 Restaurant. The seminar is intended to briefly update all business owners with respect to the most recent labor laws and what they must do in order to comply. The Seminar will be titled "2018 Labor Law Update: wages, sick pay and family medical leave." A flyer is being created and will be handed out to board members.

Inwood Rezoning Proposal

The Inwood rezoning proposal has passed the pre-certification process. CB12 now has 60 days to review the proposal before it goes to the next step (Borough Presidents Office). CB12 will be holding a public hearing as well as submitting a recommendation. During the last executive meeting the "CB12 - Inwood Rezoning Schedule" was set up.

- Public Hearing - Thursday, Feb 22nd
- General Meeting (Voting on the proposal) – Tuesday, March 20th

Each committee is being encouraged to review the document and submit their recommendations to be included in the Land Use Committee recommendation. This is to be done prior to the Public Hearing.

The following concerns were brought up during the CB12 BDC meeting.

- Our next CB12 BDC meeting is Feb 6th. This is the meeting where we will collect public comments as we compile our recommendation. There was a recommendation to relocate this meeting somewhere in Inwood. Committee members will attempt to secure a location in time to announce it at the CB12 General Meeting, January 23rd.
- Aggressive marketing to local business owners is required for this event. The following groups offered to collaborate in the marketing for this event. These groups will be contacted when we secure a location and a flyer is created.
 - Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale
 - Inwood Small Business Coalition
- Some of the concerns that should be addressed in our recommendation
 - Where does the city need to invest dollars for business development?
 - Are there specific projects the city should support?
 - Bike lane consideration

3. Old Business

Dyckman Corridor Bike-Lane

There was an overall consensus that the bike lanes are having a negative impact on our community (specifically local businesses). The committee was reminded that the Dyckman Bike-Lane initiative was approved by a previous resolution of the Traffic & Transportation subcommittee. It should be noted that, while the resolution was in favor of the Bike-Lanes it was in favor of (1) Bike-Lane ONLY on the south side of Dyckman. The current Bike-Lanes take both the North AND South sides of Dyckman.

In response to our last meeting Dr. Jason E. Compton met with various involved parties.

Spoke to the Manhattan Borough President

- Loves the idea of bikes for health and transportation reasons
- Understands the business quality of life issues (deliveries, etc.)
- In contact with Lucille Songhai – Community Affairs Director who would like to play an active role in any future discussions

Spoke to Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez (Councilman)

- Respects to concerns vocalized by both business owners and the community
- Reminder that a previous resolution in support of the Bike Lanes came out of CB12
- Willing to revisit the issue as we address the overall rezoning of Inwood

Spoke with Yahaira Alonzo (Chair – CB12 Traffic & Transportation)

- Reminder that a previous resolution in support of the Bike Lanes came out of CB12
- Expressed willingness to collaborate with any future initiatives
- Would be willing to communicate with their contacts within the DOT

Inwood Merchant Association Steering Committee Meeting (Isidro Medina)

- Initiative of the Washington Heights BID - Tuesday January 30th – BID
- Inviting local Inwood Merchants
- Representatives from the NYC DOT

At this point, the committee needs to make a decision how we plan to proceed with this issue. There was a request made by the chair to the public if they would allow us time to discuss this outside of committee so that that we could present options at the next meeting. Details to follow.

Street Vending Modernization Act Discussion

Street Vending Modernization Act was a bill that would have increased the number of permits for street vendors, but it faced opposition from real estate interests and the mayor, and couldn't get the 26 votes necessary to pass. While de Blasio does not support the legislation in its current form, it's likely to be introduced with a new sponsor next session.

CB12 BDC was recently discussing this potential act as the Washington Heights/Inwood Food Council wanted our approval of a policy statement for the Street Vending Modernization Act. While action on the policy statement has been tabled, there was concern by the public, and committee members, as to the overall issue of street vendors.

After an extensive discussion, it was decided that Dr. Jason E. Compton, committee chair, would reach out to Speaker Corey Johnson and Borough President Gale Brewer to determine where our current legislators stands on the issue.

2420 Amsterdam Avenue Hotel – Hiring Process

No new business to report.

GWB Terminal Market-Mercado

Heidy Hernandez, of the Washington Heights Chamber of Commerce, updated the public on construction within the facility. Currently there are (8) companies with preconstruction packages. There are (3) spaces open and available. The Community space is not built yet and there is little information available about how it will be allocated.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn @ 9:05 by Eli Bueno, Asst. Chair. The motion was seconded by Sarah Fisher.