

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting**

**Isabella Geriatric Center
515 Audubon Avenue New York, New York 10040
January 23, 2018 - 6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Shahabuddeen Ally; Richard Allman; Mary Anderson; Glennis Aquino; Anita Barberis; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Eleazar Bueno; Daryl Cochrane; Jason Compton; Robi n Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Katherine Diaz; Natalie Espino; Domingo Estevez; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Fern Hertzberg; Yosef Kalinsky; Osi Kaminer; Andrea Kornbluth; Elizabeth Lehmann; Elizabeth Lorris –Ritter; Richard R. Lewis; Maria Luna; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Ayisha Ogilvie; Mary O’Shaughnessy; Victor Pena-Bastella; Angelina Ramirez; Edgar Roman; Steve Simon; Luis Tapia; Christopher Tapia

Board Members Absent: Yahaira Alonzo ; Jennifer Chung; Mitchell Glenn; Jay Mazur; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Derek Peralta; Jonathan Reyes

Staff: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia; Ely Silvestre

Call To Order: *Chair Shah Ally called to meeting to order at 6:47 pm. There is quorum.*

Chairman’s Report: *Chair Shah Ally reported the following:*

- He asked for a moment of silence for Pamela Palanque North and Isaiah Obie Bing, Board Members who passed away within the past couple of weeks. In addition, he asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Board Member Sally Fisher’s son.
- Presentation by **Isabella Geriatric Center:**
 - Isabella Board Member, John Green, introduced the recent development of Isabella becoming an affiliate of MJHS Health System and introduced Alex Balko, President & CEO of MJHS Health System.
 - Alex Balko spoke about the long history of MJHS as a non-profit provider of care to the underserved, and that the affiliation with Isabella will bring additional services to the Northern Manhattan Community. He introduced Loyola Princivil-Barnett as the new Administrator and Sr. VP. Of Operations at Isabella.
 - Loyola Princivil Barnett spoke about her background as a nursing home Administrator and her dedication to the care of patents, program clients and at-risk community residents. She introduced Dolores Roque, AVP of Admissions at Isabella.
 - Dolores Roque spoke both in English and Spanish about her desire to strengthen ties Between Isabella and the community.
- Introduced the February Calendar and spoke about the various dates for important meetings.
- He introduced **Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer** who reported:
 - She attended the funeral of Pamela Palanque North, Obie Bing and extended condolences to Sally Fisher on the death of her son.
 - The deadline for Community Board applications is fast approaching and advised new applicants and those up for renewal to get their applications in on time. Deadline is February 9, 2018.
 - She is doing a series of outreach meetings to solicit Community Board applications from 16 and 17 year olds – and is holding one on Friday, January 26, 2018.
 - She congratulated Coogan’s on the recent lease renewal and indicated that the community

- must pay attention to other small businesses that are being pushed out of the community.
 - She also spoke about the current effort to survey vacant real estate that could be used for the development of affordable housing.
 - She also spoke about the importance of everyone – especially small businesses - to pay attention to the Inwood Rezoning effort.
 - She reported that the deadline for capital funding applications is February 20th.
 - She reported that every school that applied for capital funding last year received funding.
 - She said that the Borough President’s office supports keeping open the High School for Health Careers and Sciences.
- **Presentation by NYC Councilman Mark Levine:**
 - He has recently become Chair of the Committee on Health
 - He indicated that he is part of the effort to file a half-billion dollar suit against drug companies that produce and do not regulate the distribution of opioid drugs.
 - He is working on efforts to develop affordable housing on the site of “Safety City” at 158th Street and Riverside Drive.
 - Several Board members (Liz Ritter, Barbara Frazier and BID Executive Director, Angelina Ramirez) reported on the prevalence of opioid drug distribution in the community.
 - Maria Luna asked for his assistance to help victims of the recent fire at the condos on 775 Riverside Drive. He indicated that he is already working with these families.
 - He is working on a bill to require automatic closure of doors in the event of fires/
 - He reported that his District has started a mobile food pantry in his district.
 - February 23rd is the deadline for applications for discretionary funding for non-profits.

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

- He expressed condolences to the Palanque-North, Bing and Fisher families and recognized the contributions of Pamela Palanque North in choosing a CB 12 banner.
- He is looking into the circumstances surrounding the fire at 775 Riverside Drive and has some fliers on fire prevention. He also mentioned that the residents of this building should retain attorneys to follow a process to preserve their rights to return to this building.
- He thanked local politicians for their help in maintaining leases at Coogan’s and Galicia restaurants.
- DDC announced a new water sewer project in Inwood between 214th and 218th Streets beginning in mid-February. Parking will be affected. They are looking for available field office space.
- DEP plans to clean both Harlem and Hudson Rivers and plans a hearing at Manhattan College on February 1st.
- The public hearing for Inwood Rezoning will take place on February 22nd at 650 Academy Street.

NYS Assemblyman Al Taylor addressed the meeting as follows:

- He said that there is a deficit in the budget between 4.5 and 6 million dollars.
- He will continue to advocate on the community’s behalf.
- He is conducting listening tours around the community. The first one is at Hebrew Tabernacle on January 25th from 7 pm to 9 pm. The second one will be at Esplanade Gardens on January 26th from 7 to 9 pm. The third one will be at the Polo Grounds Public Housing on Saturday, January 27th from 10 am to noon. The fourth one will be on Saturday, the 27th from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Church of the Intercession.
- He also announced that there will be “Coffee with the Assemblyman” the last Thursday of the month each month.

~~~~~

**Public Speakers Session:**

**Fern Hertzberg**, Executive Director, ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Services reported on the fact that the Center must move in 5 to 9 months but does not have a space to relocate. She is looking for a 20 year lease in the community.

**Jennifer Doran and Emily Kim** spoke about a new Zeta Charter School they are opening this fall on West 187<sup>th</sup> Street and Fort Washington (St. Elizabeth). They would like to have the Board's support to use the playground that is used by the local public school. If that does not work, they will have to close the local street during play times

**Robert Jackson**, former City Councilman, supports the Resolution not to close the High School for Science and Health Careers and suggested that the Resolution be changed to reflect that the Department of Education wants the school closed – not the City of New York. He also suggested that the Inwood Library project be abandoned due to the existing brown field situation.

**Mary O'Shaughnessy**, First Responder for the American Red Cross, reported that in 2017 there were 26 fires affecting 56 adults and 11 children and that required that 6 apartments be vacated affecting 24 adults. She also reported that as a concerned citizen, Fire Marshall Records are readily available.

**Joshua Goldberg**, Bio Medical Researcher, Mary Lasker Research Center spoke about the need to maintain affordable commercial leases and objects to efforts by CUMC to eliminate their presence at the at Audubon Business and Technical Center. He is asking for a joint meeting of the Land Use, Business Development and Health & Environment Committees to address this issue.

**Nancy Wexler**, Community Resident, at risk for Huntington's disease, spoke about her accomplishment of capturing the Huntington's disease gene in 1993 and the establishment of the Huntington's Research Project and the fact that their Foundation is also affected by CUMC's efforts to displace them at the Audubon Business and Technical Center.

**Yhanka Veras**, Community Resident, advocated for the preservation of the High School for Health Careers and Sciences. . She thanked Senator Alcantara for her support and recommended support for the Resolution.

**Eva de Jesus**, ENL Teacher, Dual Language Coordinator, supports the Resolution to maintain the High School for Sciences and Health Careers.

**Lena Melendez** spoke about the need for bi-lingual translation at various CB 12 meetings and requested the use of the translation equipment that the Board has. This is especially important where rezoning is being discussed.

**Graham Ciroulo**, Community Resident, Housing Advocate, spoke about the need to pay attention to the impact of Inwood rezoning efforts on small businesses. We need to downzone the commercial areas in the ULURP proposal.

**Rita Gorman**, Community resident, spoke about the need to upgrade infrastructure in light of the uptick in planned population. Gas mains are 150 – 180 years old. Inwood transmission lines are 80 – 90 years old. The North River sewage plant is over 60 years old and is currently insufficient

**Valinn Ranelli**, Community Resident objects to the current Inwood Rezoning Proposal and suggests that all residents pay close attention to the plan and its impact

**Paul Hintersteiner**, Community Resident, supports efforts to "GOYA" – Get off your A and support the community.

**Karla Fisk**, Community Resident, spoke about the need to preserve small businesses in the community in the Inwood rezoning.

**Jeanne Ruskin**, Community Resident, spoke about the Unified Commentary on rezoning that was created by 5 PhD's in a variety of related disciplines, one is an attorney and several are engineers. They are not resistant to change but want it done right.

**Katherine O'Sullivan**, Community Resident, spoke about need to preserve the Inwood Library and noted that the NYPL received donations from hedge fund managers, which may put the whole library system at risk.

**Ruth Beck**, Community Resident suggested that if the Inwood Library need to relocate that they take over the space occupied by the former car wash next to the Library.

**Jeanie Dubnow**, RENA (Riverside & Edgewood Neighborhood Association), and "Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale" supports the Resolution that the lot occupied by "Safety City" should be used to develop low-income housing and suggested similar action with respect to Inwood rezoning.

**Manny Vasquez**, Community Resident for more than 43 years, opposes the Inwood Rezoning Project. Which will displace him and his family in the community.

**La Asia Hurdley**, 2nd Vice President, Delta, spoke about Black History Month and a celebration on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4 pm in the Triangle Building. All are invited.

**Caterina Rivera**, Washington Heights & Inwood Food Council, spoke about Pathways to Food Justice. There are (2) events: a General Meeting at 701 West 168<sup>th</sup> Street on January 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 pm and a Community Pot Luck to be held on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 178 Bennett Avenue. The theme is “story telling”.

**Denise Rickles**, Community Resident, spoke about the need for a new Public Library in light of anticipated Community expansion.

**Luis Cortez**, Coordinator of Worker Center, Northern Manhattan for Immigrant Rights, offers workers for various projects.

**Chris Nichol**, “Northern Manhattan is Not for Sale” spoke about the need for affordable housing. He said that Housing needs to be permanently affordable, we need to use public land for affordable housing and we need to preserve existing affordable housing.

**Lauren Delgado**, Inwood resident, spoke about the need to preserve affordable housing and the need to preserve the library.

~~~~~  
Government Officials:

Laurie Tobias Cohen, Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat, announced the State of the District address which will take place on 172nd Street and Haven Avenue in the Medical Education Building on February 1, 2018.

Jessica Reynosa, NYC Public Advocate’s Office reported that there are free lead inspections for children in NYCHA buildings and that these inspections can be arranged by calling (347) 507-3684. There was a hearing on the impact of climate change resulting in a decision by the City to divest its funds of investments in fossil fuel companies. Jessica can be reached at (212) 669-4121.

Richard Allman, Office of NYS Assemblyman Carmen de la Rosa, spoke about continuing support to preserve commercial businesses in the community. He referred to the Assemblywoman’s letter and solicits feedback on the budget agenda. He also highlighted recently passed legislation that the Assemblywoman supported to permit alternative forms of identification for WIC recipients.

Mariel de la Cruz, Office of the NYC Comptroller reported: There will be a Trailblazers’ Event on February 6th at 2116 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. at 6:30 pm. The results and recommendations of an Access a Ride audit are now available on the Comptroller’s web site.

~~~~~Z  
**Resolution Reports:**

**Resolution A** - Youth & Education Committee – Chair, Fe Florimon said the following:

- Paid her respects to Pamela Palanque North and Isaiah Obie Bing
- Introduced a Resolution opposing the closing the High School for Sciences & Health Careers.
- Spoke about the successful efforts by the principal hired in 2013 to turn the school around.
- Liz Ritter suggested that some editorial changes need to be made to the Resolution and agreed to work with Fe Florimon to make the needed improvements.
- Steve Simon suggested a friendly amendment to change the wording of the final “whereas” and all agreed to include the edited version.

**Resolution B** - Executive Committee – Chair Shah Ally reported that he is

- Introducing a Memorial Resolution commemorating the contributions of late Board members Pamela Palanque North and Isaiah Obie Bing the Board and to community.
- Planning to start a Community Award in the future and will discuss this with the Executive Committee.
- Wayne Benjamin suggested an editorial change and Shah Ally agreed to the change.

**Resolutions 1 – 4:** Isidro Medina reported the following:

- Only (4) licenses were considered.
- The Committee had uniform consensus on the voting.
- Barbara Frazier suggested that the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct visit the locations in advance of the Committee hearings. She thought that had been agreed to previously, and Isidro indicated that they will do so in the future.

---

**Committee Reports:**

**Land Use Committee,** Wayne Benjamin, Chair presented the following:

- Refer to the Minutes.
- He reviewed the important dates for the Inwood Rezoning Project responses.
- The Board meeting will take place one week earlier to allow for sufficient time for final input.

**Parks & Cultural Affairs** – Chair, Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter, reported the following:

- Refer to the Minutes
- The discussion about the dog run did not result in a favorable recommendation.
- Next month there will be a discussion about open spaces and the Inwood Rezoning.

**Traffic & Transportation,** Assistant Chair, Debbie Nabavian, reported the following:

- Refer to the minutes.
- Next month, we will be talking about the impact on traffic of the Inwood Rezoning Plan.
- Yahaira Alonzo is escalating the issue involving the student from Community Health Academy of the Heights who was involved in a recent traffic accident.

**Public Safety Committee:** Chair Richard Lewis Reported the following:

- The minutes will be forthcoming.
- They spoke about year-end statistics.
- EMS response time is 6.2 seconds. EMS will be running a workshop on CPR soon.

**Health & Environment:** Chair, Steve Simon reported the following:

- The minutes will be forthcoming due to a postponed January meeting due to weather problems.
- There was a presentation by the Clinical Director of Project Renewal.
- There was a presentation by Allen Hospital regarding the plan to decertify 30 psychiatric beds.
- The Hospital was asked what happened to the 300 beds that were originally certified and the fact that only 196 are currently in use. The Committee will have answers and a Resolution next month.

**Committee for the Concerns of the Aging:** Chair Mary Anderson reported the following:

- They met at ARC XVI Senior Center in January and will meet at Riverstone Senior Life Services on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- The January meeting was productive and they brought up issues related to quality of life for seniors.

**Business Development:** Chair, Jason Compton reported the following:

- Refer to the minutes.
- They are working on a coordinated response to small businesses being pushed out of the community.
- They are working with business owners on the Inwood Rezoning and will hold their next meeting at the Church on Arden Avenue so that small businesses in the area can attend.
- They are still working on the bike lane issue on Dyckman Avenue.

**Housing & Human Services:** – Chair, Ayisha Ogilvie reported the following:

- There was no meeting this month due to inclement weather.
- Charlie Samboy of HPD will be at the next meeting.
- The topic of children's exposure to lead will be discussed at the next meeting.
- There have been some executive changes at NYCHA.
- Wayne Benjamin suggested that they reach out to the Dyckman Houses for representation concerning the Inwood Rezoning and that the committee consider having a meeting there.
- Barbara Frazier suggested that the committee invite Mr. Vanterpoole, Vice Chair of the Tenant's Committee to attend the next meeting.

**Voting on the Resolutions:**

| <b><u>Item #</u></b> | <b><u>Resolutions</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><u>Voting:<br/>Y-N-Abst-<br/>NV</u></b> | <b><u>Passed or Failed</u></b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A.                   | <b>Resolution strongly opposing</b> the District Superintendent's proposal to close the <b>High School for Health Careers and Sciences</b> .                                                                                | 36-0-2-0                                   | <b><i>passed</i></b>           |
| B.                   | <b>Memorial Resolution recognizing</b> the accomplishments of late CB 12 Board Members <b>Pamela Palanque-North and Isaiah Obie Bing</b> .                                                                                  | 38-0-0-0                                   | <b><i>passed</i></b>           |
| 1.                   | Resolution of <b><i>No Objection</i></b> to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: La Rueda Restaurant Inc., dba <b>Tu Sabor Latino Restaurant</b> 3862 – 3864 Broadway (corner of 161 <sup>st</sup> Street). | 36-2-0-0                                   | <b><i>passed</i></b>           |
| 2.                   | Resolution of <b><i>No Objection</i></b> to the SLA Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to: Tampoco LLC dba <b>Tampopo Ramen</b> , 1 – 15 Bennett Avenue (bet. 181 and 184 <sup>th</sup> Street)                         | 32-4-0-2                                   | <b><i>passed</i></b>           |
| 3.                   | Resolution of <b><i>No Objection</i></b> to the SLA Renewal of its Tavern Wine License to: <b>Taszo Coffee LLC</b> , 5 Edward M. Morgan Place, (bet. 157 <sup>th</sup> & 158 <sup>th</sup> Streets).                        | 36-1-1-0                                   | <b><i>passed</i></b>           |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |                      |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 4. | Resolution of <b><i>No Objection</i></b> to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Café Bark Inc., dba <b>Café Bark</b> , 833 West 181 <sup>st</sup> Street (Bet. Cabrini and Pinehurst Ave.) | 31-5-2-0 | <b><i>passed</i></b> |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|

***Motion to Adjourn- Made by Edgar Roman and Seconded by Rud Morales at 9:55 pm.***

**Respectfully submitted:** Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann  
Assistant Secretary  
February 27, 2018