

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting January 24, 2012
Yeshiva University – Lamport Auditorium – Zysman Hall
2540 Amsterdam Avenue @ W186th & W 187th Street

PRESENT

Richard Allman	Nicole Alexandra Foster	Edith Prentiss
James J. Amodeo	Mitchell Glenn	Harlen Pruden
Anita Barberis	Melanie Hidalgo	Zead Ramadan
Wayne Benjamin	Ernest David Kach	Tamara Rivera
James Berlin	Yosef Kalinsky	Gabriella Rosa
Isaiah Bing	Elizabeth M. Lehmann	Angela Sanchez
Rolando Cespedes	Richard R. Lewis	Steve Simon
George Cruz	Maria Luna	Alyce Smith
Manny De Los Santos	Helen Morik	Gloria Vanterpool
William T. Devlin	Angelo Ortiz	Raybbllin Vargas
Aldemar De Jesus Diaz	Cheryl Pahaham	
Michael Diaz		
George Fernandez		
Ariel Ferreira		
Fe Florimon		

EXCUSED

Pamela Palanque-North
Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter

ABSENT

Frank Alvarez
George Espinal
Julissa A Gomez
Leandro Hidalgo
Rafael Lugo
Carole Mulligan
Edgard Nau
Jose Polanco
Robert Reynolds

The General Meeting was called to order by George Fernandez, 1st Vice Chair who introduced himself and thanked everyone for coming out for the first meeting of the year and stated that Pamela Palanque-North, Chair of CB12M is attending to personal matters tonight.

No quorum

Chair's Report

- Chair North had a meeting with the NYPD 33rd Precinct Commander to address increase in crime including a shooting and homicide on Edgecombe Avenue.
- CB12M was represented and participated in the:
 - Mayor's Dr./Rev. Martin Luther King Service Day Project at the Mirabel Sisters School
 - NYC Council Committee Hearing on Higher Education
 - NYS Governor Cuomo's WAHI Presentation on his State of the State Address by Commissioner Towns
 - Forum on Occupy Wall Street "Occupy The Mind" with Dr. Cornel West, Rabbi Michael Lerner and Prof. James Vrettos at the Riverside Church
- Future Events
 - Participation in the SLA demonstration of the Geographic Information System (GIS). This is intended to balance the growth of the liquor industry and control adverse impact of industry growth on quality of life on NYC residents.
 - CB12M Education Forum Spring 2012, focus will be on DOE schools and services to the community being coordinated by Chancellor Walcott and his staff
 - CB M 12, 11, 10 and 9 – Healthcare Forum Collaboration (Spring 2012)
 - CB12M Members Leadership Forum – A special committee will be formed to design a one-day forum that will provide information to support the CB12M membership to best address the needs of the community (Summer or Fall 2012)
- Upcoming Events
 - Manhattan Borough Presidents State of the Borough Address @ the NY Historical Society, Feb 2nd at 6:00pm
 - NYC Council Speaker Quinn's State of the City Address @ City Hall, February 9th at 11:00am
 - CB12M February General Meeting is February 28th at 7:00pm, location TBA by District Manager, Ebenezer Smith
- Chair North thanks Yeshiva University for extending their facility to Community Board 12M.

District Manager's Report, Ebenezer Smith

- Thanked Yeshiva University for use of Lamport Auditorium and stated CB12M does not have a location yet for February
- On January 3rd there was a fire on 207th Street and Broadway
 - Exact address was 4549 Broadway where several business were burned down
 - Fire Department said the problem was a delay in reporting the fire
 - The fire was from an illegal torch
 - The contractor had a permit, but were working after hours which was illegal
 - Must educate community on how to use fire torch
 - Construction hours are from 7:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday require special permit
 - Community need to report to Fire Dept. if you see after hour work being done
 - Citibank branches are available to everyone who had an account

- 4249 Broadway @ 181st Street
- 5665 Broadway @ 233rd & Broadway
- Safe deposit box location is for personal items are at Park Avenue and 53rd Street, 1 800.637.3999
- Idling school buses in front of Armory is not permitted
- Transit Union report there is high crime at train stations but not on the trains itself
- Street Vendors meeting convened with Council Member Rodriguez
 - One table each
 - 3 feet distance from each other
 - Clean their space
 - Do not block fire hydrants
 - No unfair competition with merchants
 - There will be a meeting on January 14th & 15 with the 34th Precinct regarding enforcement of the rules
- 66 Fort Washington Avenue resident complained that Fire Dept. shut down illegal conversion of an apartment where bedroom was blocking the exit
- DM would like to start a campaign to repair every pot hole in the district and would like the communities help to report unsafe conditions
 - This has been reported to Con Ed
 - Contact DM @ 212.568.8500
- DOT has asked for a list
- Summer Public Health Application is available, must be in by February 14th
- Our web page has been updated with General Minutes Meeting from December 2010 – November 2011
- Resolutions from January 2011 – December 2011, pdf
 - Check website and let DM know your thoughts for improvement/ideas
- DM hopes to have a translation service for the community soon

Quorum @ 7:40pm

Motion to adopt Agenda and Minutes was accepted

Patrick Moynihan, Special Operations Lieutenant, 34th Precinct

- Has 20 years on the police force, 28th and 34th Precincts
- Inspector Rossetti asked him to come and speak to CB12 as he has just had surgery
- Crime is falling 21%, which is down, 17% compared to last year
- New Year's Eve was uneventful, it was a good night
- There was a murder/suicide on Arden Street and the family had no indication of domestic violence
- January 12th at 179th and Broadway we targeted prostitutes and those who try to pick them up
- Began to address illegal activities with vendors at 181st Street and Broadway
 - Gave out literature in English and Spanish
 - They were given a months' notice
 - Began to move them out
 - No enforcement action taken, just rules and regulations on selling on 181st Street
- Arrest at Mamajuana Café, victim in hospital and is brain dead, Café is not responsible

Elected Officials' Reports

Borough President Representative – Ingrid Sotulo

- Happy New year
- Reminder: Applications for CB are being reviewed, should know by April 1st
- Tree Guard funding applications should be in by January 27th
- State of the Borough on February 2nd at 6:00pm, NY Historical Society, 170 CPW
- Town Hall Meeting with the Borough President Stringer, Assemblyman Farrell and Councilmember Jackson
 - Thursday, February 9th at 7:00pm @ Jewish Center located 187th and Bennett Avenue

Senator Adriano Espaillat

- Over 150 small businesses participated in training for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) organized by State Senator Adriano Espaillat, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, and other local officials.
- They will be able to compete for contracts and services and must be certified
- Toured GWB Terminal and will have a ground breaking ceremony
- Census show this community lost 22,000 jobs and 10,000 students dropped out of school
- Need healthy percentage of jobs for locals
- We need affordable housing on par with River Plaza
- Mental health services for young people

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez

- As Chairman of Higher Education Committee with a focus of college readiness, only 50% of High School students graduate
- And of that 50% only 13% are college ready
- DOE and CUNY want to bring this conversation to the community via joint hearing addressing "How Can We Have A comprehensive College Readiness Program in our School From Pre-K to 12th Grade"
 - Town Hall Meeting on February 15th at IS 203
 - Meeting at Betty Shabazz Center on March 3rd
- Interested in affordable housing and want a fair share of \$165,000 to build, not renovate
- On January 27th have invited Chair of housing Board to discuss building affordable housing along with the issue of the two towers on 190th Street and Broadway
- This community has been left behind with the affordable housing issue

Assemblyman Denny Farrell – Frank Hess

- Check Denny's Educational Hearing in Albany

Assemblyman Guillermo Linares – Fernando Fernandez

- Introduced himself to CB12

Raybblin Vargas conducted the Public Session

Public Speakers' Session

Vidales

- Man was brutally attacked on January 8th at Mamajuana and management argued to take body off premise as he suffered from brain damage

Manny Rosario – 812 W 181st Street – Red Room Bar

- He has been working with the 34th Precinct on noise reduction removing DTS from Red Room

Russell Sandford – 10th Bennett Avenue – Red Room Bar

- He can't sleep and is here to support neighbors who have a problem with the noise coming from the Red Room at 181st Street and Bennett Avenue

David Chadwick – 10 Bennett Avenue – Red Room Bar

- Red Room has drunken fights, cars on sidewalk, knife fights, unsavory behavior and quality of life not good if have to hear noise every night, not just weekends

Diane Perez – One Bennett Avenue – Red Room Bar

- Moved into the neighborhood four years ago and there were no problems with noise in the neighborhood, but since Red Room Lounge at One Bennett Avenue, she wants the noise to stop

Paul Hampton – Red Room Bar

- Has lived at 10 Bennett for 32 years, but the last four years have been difficult. He sleeps on an air mattress in his kitchen because he had to give up his bedroom because of the noise

Peter Walsh – chamber of Commerce/Coogan

- Wanted us to know about 14th year of 5K race that was sold out last year which will be on March 4th grown up and children at the Armory

Edith Prentiss

- Is concerned about the fire on 207th Street and the effect it has on transportation in the area. She inquired whether the MTA has any plans for an elevator. Also, there is no bus after midnight. She wants them to run a special bus

Mary Anderson & Lisardra Almarante

- Isabella offers the YUM Fresh Produce Project led by the Seniors of Isabella
 - Families want to see more fresh produce in the area

Betty Lehmann – Director of Marketing & Communications – Isabella Foundation

- Isabella has scholarships for high school grads in this community in the range of \$1000 to \$3000 to outstanding students who reside in Washington Heights/Inwood community
- Application deadline is March 1st

Pedro Suarez – Manager - NYC Business Solutions

- Is introducing himself as new manager for NYC Business Solutions
- He helps launch and establish businesses for entrepreneurs
- Has small business services and helps educate them
- Contact #: 212.928.3400

Gisselle Mejior – City Harvest

- Is a rescue agency
- Promotes healthy neighborhood, nutrition, food needs, hunger
- Washington Heights has high rates of obesity
- Invite CB and community leaders on Tuesday, February 7th to participate in a focus group whose purpose is needs assessment identifying neighborhood's needs.
- Goal is to eat healthy

Estevan Nembhard – Jobs & Education

- Bronx & WH organizer for the group La Fuente.
- Education in this community
- Translation needed because Victor Gosman left our meeting because he didn't understand what was going on
- Dyckman has a lot of bars and clubs
- Need center in neighborhood, need jobs and resources to go to our schools, need to rebuild the community

Mark Levine – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – February 28th

- New Credit Union Branch Open House
- Affordable financial services, Loans, mortgage, workshops
Neighborhood Trust
The Triangle building
1112 St. Nicholas Avenue (166th Street)

Veronica Liu – Word Up Community Bookshop

- We introduced our bookshop to the CB, 100% volunteer
- We were given free space through May
- Now must start paying rent
- We introduced our member program last month and encourage you to join
 - We have an after school program with 16 students
 - 7pm Power Up Series
 - Career Building Tips
 - Storytime at 9:30am
 - Arts & Craft Workshop
 - Family Literacy Day
 - 100 of books for giveaway
 - 4157 Broadway @ 176th Street

Zead Ramadam – Shabazz Center

- Freedom Sisters Program @ Shabazz Center

- February 4th – April 22nd – 10:00am – 5:00pm
- \$10,000 essay contest 4th – 8th grade

Committee Reports

Traffic & Transportation – Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Chair

- Idling of buses at Armory. Police radar and community radar on top of this
- Last month we tabled resolution about 157th Street one way street
- We wanted Dot to look at entire area for a greater study
- Friendly amendment suggest western boundary, force them to look at parkway, also access to greenway
- Resolution for NYCDOT to undertake a comprehensive traffic and pedestrian safety study at 155th Street, Broadway, 158th Street and the Hudson River. VOTE: (F) 32 (O) 0 (A) 0

Economic Development – Nicole Foster, Chair

- #7 No recommendation, 12 summons, were voted down this summer, illegal speakeasy
 - #6 No show, no vote
 - #4 No Valet parking, Mamajuana
 - #2 Red Room stipulation added, security at door, 1am closing
 - #3 rationale, work with establishment went above and beyond
 - #? Security and sound proofing, trained in certain practices
 - #? Stipulation, owner has not agreed to, opened as wine bar, now full bar.
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| • VOTE: 1. (F) 32 | (O) 0 | (A) 0 | 5. (F) 18 | (O) 12 | (A) 0 |
| • 2. (F) 5 | (O) 26 | (A) 1 | 6. (F) 32 | (O) 0 | (A) 0 |
| • 3. (F) 32 | (O) 0 | (A) 0 | 7. (F) 32 | (O) 0 | (A) 0 |
| • 4.(F) 12 | (O) 19 | (A) 0 | | | |

Youth & Education - Fe Florimon

- Thanked Steve Simon for attending Youth & Education Meeting
- P.S. 173 water contamination
- Have not been successful as yet to attract parents and youth to our Saturday Committee so please share flyer about our Saturday Meeting with your neighbors

Health & Human Services – Richard Lewis

- Refer to the minutes

Public Safety – Angelo Ortiz

- Refer to the minutes done by Richard Lewis

Land Use – Wayne Benjamin

- Refer to the minutes

Health & Environment - Steve Simon

- Alternate side of street is reduced by one day
- Acting on resolution B passed
- Thank Council Member Jackson's office for restoring funding

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm

Submitted by Alyce Smith