

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting-February 28, 2012
Isabella Geriatric Center
515 Audubon Avenue @ W. 190th Street**

PRESENT

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

EXCUSED

Pamela Palanque-North
James Amodeo
Rolando
Cespedes
Ariel Ferreira
Maria Luna

ABSENT

Frank Alvarez
Rafael Lugo
Carole Mulligan
Jose Polanco
Edith Prentiss
Robert Reynolds

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

Chair's Report

- Chair North attended a press conference concerning NYPD Stop, Question and Frisk Policy
- CB12M held a Public Hearing on NYC 2013 Preliminary Budget
- Chair North attended Senator Espallat and Councilmember Jackson's Town Hall Meeting at PS 187
- Chair North attended Manhattan Borough President's Borough Board, Comptroller John Liu's Address
- Pace University forum; Planning Committee on affordable Housing Rally and authoring of a White Paper on the Imperative for More Affordable Housing in CD12M
- CUNY Forum on Urban Education
- Up and Coming Meeting & Events
 - 2/29/2012 @ 9:00am, West 181st Street BID Street Board Meeting
 - March, CB12M Public Safety Committee Hearing on NYPD Stop & Frisk Policy coming in March. Encourage all to attend
 - 3/11/2012 @ 1:30pm, West 172nd Street & Amsterdam, we encourage all residents to attend Press Conference & Rally to Demand affordable Housing & Preservation in CD12M. Encourage all residents to attend
 - 3/21/2012, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Board Meeting
 - 3/31/2012, CB12M Human Services Festival @ United Palace Cathedral @ West 176th Street & Broadway @ 11:00am – 3:00pm
 - Service providers inform residents of activity update to community
- Salute-Salud Black History Month & Dominican Independence Day

We had quorum at 7:35pm and the agenda and minutes were adopted.

District Manager has yielded to Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez

Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez

- I have been in conversation with Quadraid One as I promised from day one. I am for affordable housing and I've been asking for 50% affordable according to median income of our community. We have not come to an agreement.
- Issue of Stop and Frisk, on Sunday Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer held a press conference and he has been a champion in the city on this issue. I have organized in the past against police brutality, but it doesn't mean I don't respect and give credit to the men and women in uniform. We have concern how 90% Black and Latino are stopped and frisked.
- This coming Saturday at W.165th there is a ceremony at Dr. Betty Shabazz Center and we would like to have your presence
- I have proposed to the Council Manolo Justo Tavaréz to name a street at 181st as he has become a symbol against domestic violence for people in Latin America
- We have to have our fiscal budget by July and there are major cuts like last year
- Trying to get state level support to have Pre-Kindergarten full time, not 5 hours
- Want to put some capital money to build children recreation center at Dyckman and Broadway
- Also working with Parks to have an Ice Skating Park

- We are working with city to have affordable housing since only one has been built and that was through HPD. We are asking the city to give us couple hundred more so there is a rally on Sunday, March 11th at 1:00pm at 172nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

District Manager's Report, Ebenezer Smith

- It is a great pleasure to report to you
- Residents complaint regarding summons late at night by PA Police in locations within the district far away from the GWB like Dyckman & Broadway. PA has jurisdiction in NY & NJ
- CB12 have a few changes made to their webpage to reflect the requirements made to the Open Meeting Law and recommendations made by our 2nd VP Raybblin Vargas
- Everything is ready for the Coogan's Salsa, Blues and Shamrocks 5K race on Sunday, March 5th. DM Smith has attended all planning committee meetings representing CB12
- DM Smith has requested to the DOT to ask contractor demolishing the structure that was on fire on Broadway and West 207th Street in early January to make a safe pass for pedestrian on the north side of W 207th between Broadway and Cooper Street. The contractor closed the sidewalk a quarter of the roadway without providing a safe pass for pedestrian. Later contractor was observed reducing the space and made available a safe pedestrian pass
- DM Smith attended a meeting by Councilmember Rodriguez regarding the street vendors issue early this month. Some progress was made and vendors were informed that Police will enforce regulations on W 181st Street and no one will be accepted to set up on W 181st Street. 33rd and 34th Precinct participated

Elected Officials' Reports

Borough President Representative – Ingrid Sotulo

- In honor of Black History Month, the Manhattan Borough President is honoring Trailblazer at Chocolat from 6-8pm located at 120th Street and 8th Avenue,
- Borough President had a press conference on Stop & Frisk and each CB of Manhattan was represented.
- Report on Solar Panels called Rooftop Revolution outlines why solar panels will be good for the environment, how it would impact our economy and create jobs

Senator Adriano Espaillat Representative – Liz Ritter

- Direct us to lengthy report from Senator
- Resolution from Traffic and Transportation Committee supporting designation of area around Park Terrace East and West Seaman Avenue from 214th – 218th Street as a slow zone
- Resolution from four committees jointly including Traffic & Transportation regarding PAGWB Bus terminal redevelopment, many recommendations to enhance that project and we concur with those
- Under New Business there is going to be a resolution under Housing Committee calling on State Assembly to restore funding to Neighborhood & Rural Preservation Programs

Councilmember Robert Jackson

- Copy of his community & legislative report is available
- March 5th preliminary Budget hearing begins OMB
- Schedule is on line or call office
- Reduction in every agency
- After school programs heavily hit
- Will maintain services currently have in this budget
- Rally today calling for Assembly Member Keith Wright 's bill
- Anytime there is a co-location of a school whether charter or otherwise, CEC must approve the co-location before its passed by the panel for educational policy
- There are 1.1 million students and the education budget is 24B out of a 68B dollar budget.
- Concern is maintaining services currently have to constituents whose average earnings for family of 4 is less than 434,000
- State of Borough and State of City focus are about jobs
- Staff changes at City Hall and Harlem

Public Speakers' Session

Mr. X

- He has three agenda items
 - Event – Flea Market on March 10th
 - Board meeting
 - University Neighborhood Housing Program

Brenda Padillo – New York Life

- works in community bringing importance of financial planning
- educate with free workshop and seminars how to save for education and retirement
- 646.291.7354

David Thom – W 217th Street

- Proposal for neighborhood slow zone which is on February 3rd application he made to DOT for NW corner of Inwood, Park terrace area
 - Goal is to reduce the risk and severity of vehicle collision
 - To reduce and deter short cutting traffic at Isham North to 218th Street, Inwood Hill Park to Broadway
 - Spoke to other stakeholders and have 40 letters of community support along with elected officials support
 - Encourage Board to pass resolution
 - Expect future meeting before implementation actually occurs

Mary Anderson – YUM Fresh Food

- Presented last month at CB about YUM fresh food
- Produce program every week from Isabella
- Reasonable cost every week at Isabella on Wednesday we bag it up and send it out to our distribution sites in the community

Ben Hedges – Shen Yun Performing Arts

- Performing Arts Company coming in April,
- Premier Chinese Performers that will take audience through Chinese dance and revival of Chinese culture
- Based in upstate NY, emigrated to US from China and Taiwan
- Community outreach free presentations at schools and clubs

Jacob Morris –Central Library Plan

- Informed CB about Central Library Plan
 - Library will be selling off Mid- Manhattan Branch and Research Library for Science
 - 150M of taxpayers' dollars will go into a big lending library system
 - Wants CB to pass a resolution calling for the city council to have a hearing on this issue

Gail Addiss – Slow zone

- Thank CB for putting resolutions on website
- Supports the slow zone on 218th Street where she lives
- 218th becomes bypass for those on the Henry Hudson Bridge and increases traffic
- Thanks Land Use Committee for work on George Washington Terminal
- Port Authority need to create a review committee comprised of preservationist, historians and engineers to review restoration for ground works

Julie Zuckerman- Castle Bridge School

- Opened new small school, Castle Bridge School, not a Charter School
- Kindergarten, Dual language, progressive, mixed age classes, projects, self-initiated work, cooking classes, skating November – March
 - Swimming from fall through spring
 - Need 1st graders
 - Dual grade or looping model
 - There will be a lottery
 - No larger than 200 children

Catarina Rivera – Healthy Kind in the Heights

- New non-profit to help children to eat better
- Pilot Program, want parents to help, parents asked to educate those around them
- Cooking and fitness
- Looking to expand for partnerships and allies

Liz Ritter – Cornerstone Coral

- Concert, Sunday, April 29th @ 3:30pm, singing Requiem
- Seeking altos, tenors and bass singers

Craig Borchard –J Hood Wright Dog Run - Haven Avenue

- Lives across the street from Jay Hood Wright Park – think it's a treasure because dog run just reopens, but Dog Run noise is from 6am – midnight.. There are no structured hours. Some of the noise is too loud. 6am is too early and midnight too late.

Martin Pena on behalf of Dr. Alex Guervaz

- He is the General Secretary Central Cultural Los Prados?
- Planning and organizing many services to the community
- Located at 522 W 158th Street, main floor,
- Have courses, computer, internet domestic violence, housing, immigration

Sandra Garcia – President of NoMaa

- Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance
- Celebrating Women's International month at 175 Bennett on March 8th at 6pm
- 27 artist exhibit their work
- They are finalist in a national contest supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Ford Foundation

Ruben Dario Vargas- Traffic

- Broadway facing North at Dyckman attempting to make a left turn onto highway is an accident waiting to happen
- Need arrow signal at that light
- 1112 St. Nick avenue at 166th street is new building not being utilized by community, but by businesses

Pedro Suarez –NYC Business Solutions

- There are three upcoming Human Resource Seminars for restaurant owners in March
 - March 8th wage & hour issues 9-11am
 - March 15th Employment Records 9-11am
 - March 22nd Discipline actions 9-11am
 - Location 181st Street & Audubon, 212.928.3400

Announcement

- \$10,000 writing, painting, poem essay about Freedom Sisters Exhibition
- Youth 8-14 years old
- 5 winners and the prizes are: \$5000 \$2500 \$1000 \$1000 \$500 education savings bond
- Let's inspire our youth to write about these freedom fighters and win the contest

Committee Reports

Traffic & Transportation – Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Chair

- Has four resolutions, 3 from last meeting, details are in minutes
- GWB Project, this resolutions critical to community and brought back to Land Use, Parks Cultural and Economic Development Committee, as it not only affected Traffic & Transportation
- Other three are straight forward
 - Speed hump which was requested on Haven Avenue, another refer to a slow zone and DOT will look into going about the process of implementing the slow zone and the CB supports the concept, and the 3rd one support a possible Henry Hudson parkway exit
 - Have accepted comments from Liz mostly grammatical and an insertion, instead of Hudson Height in the Henry Hudson Parkway resolution, it will say North Western Washington Heights
 - On the GWBBS resolution, the 5th Whereas Steve suggest adding "and the developers"
 - Steve: in the 1st Resolve on the 3rd page I would delete the reference to regarding traffic control
 - The last Resolve "guarantee 50%", we should strike last phrase. We want all guarantees to be in writing.
 - Steve commented he would give Yosef these things afterward
 - Susan: guarantee that all jobs at the site will get living wage consisting with people we are advocating for will pay a living wage of \$10 an hour with health benefits and pay sick days and indexed wage?
 - Richard is proposing three additional things:
 - The upcoming Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting is having hearings that are proposed for GWB reconstruction. There are major projects coming up that bound to have an impact on traffic. He suggests adding the bullet "Whereas planned construction on the GWB and its approaches and ramps for which CB12 has not yet received

information, they have a significant impact on bus terminal area traffic and necessitate revision of traffic mitigation plans”.

- Our elected officials have put a lot of time into this one “Whereas uptown elected officials have made a substantial effort to prioritize construction jobs, permanent jobs, and business development opportunities prior to the planning of bus terminal reconstruction transfer”.
- Additional Resolve: CB12 Chair and Executive Committee will in 30 days of this resolution designate a bus terminal project monitoring working group. Working group phrasing could easily be sent to EDC where decision to set up a separate group, Chair of CB would be person who can create this special committee/task force.
- George: present to Executive Committee Meeting, taken under consideration when to enact such a task force.
- Liz: we don't need resolution to empower ourselves to do that, but Richard's point is well taken
- Last Whereas on 2nd page “already creates tremendous” (take out word complete)?
- 2nd to last whereas?
- Richard wants to know before voting, what are we voting on because there has been so much chatter on the issue
- Steve: understand rationale for including Manhattan zip codes because of tax benefits of hiring residents for empowering zone zip code area, but why Bronx zip code? Because of redistricting.
- Jim: we want to include in the resolution wording that they are aware of these requests of ours.
- Yosef: dates if those committees can get back to me on those dates. My personal concern is we haven't formed the group yet. Resolve CB12 will monitor.
- I ask all of you who made comments to scribble them down and email me in the next few days.
- Yosef: order of vote is GWB, Speed hump, Henry Hudson, slow zone
- Yosef would like to thank all co-committee members and chairs for all the effort, hopefully see some of the fruits of our labor. VOTE : GWB : (F) 32 (O) 0 (A) 0 (N) 1, Speed Hump: (F) 33 (O) 0 (A) 0
Henry Hudson: (F) 33 (A) 0 (O) 0 Slow Zone: (F) 33 (O) 0 (A) 0
- In next week's meeting representatives from MTA coming, so if there's any specifics about bus routes or idling , anything that needs to be presented to the MTA, we want the appropriate information passed on.

Land Use – Wayne Benjamin, Chair

- Will present 3 resolutions, but will actually present 2 as 3rd one listed is a modification of the Traffic & Transportation resolution
 - Dept. of City Planning proposed zone Green text amendment. This is a 20th century document as of 1960. We are talking about green and sustainable building features, none are recognized in the zoning resolution, and some may be prohibited. What this text amendment does is eliminate obstacles to either building green or to retrofitting existing buildings to be green.
 - 2nd resolution pertains to application submitted by developers to get eligibility for 421A real estate tax benefits for project either 29 overlook terrace or 524 Fort Washington Avenue depending on which address he uses. In the 421A process it is the HPD that has jurisdiction over determining whether you get it or not. Project is out of scale with 23 stories in a neighborhood of 6-8 story buildings and affordability is off the charts, a low of \$1800 to a high of \$5200.
 - Friendly amendment proposed as there is a mistake in the math. The highest rent for 13 apartments is \$5400 so have to recalculate to \$216,000. Math can be corrected.
 - Steve: Remove the word “unduly”, it should have no impact on tenants. They should not pay back major capital rent increases as a result of this work, so move to strike the word “unduly”, a subjective term as what's unduly to me may not be to the landlord. Remove “unduly” and put a period after text amendment as we don't need the rest of that phase.
 - Accepting the change for the MCI? There should be no MCI consideration.
 - VOTE : Zone Green Text Amendment: (F) 32 (O) 0 (A) 0, Oppose 421A Tax Exempt: (F) 32 (O) 0 (A) 0

Rabbylin Vargas is now Acting Chair

Housing & Human Services – George Fernandez, Chair

- Passed 3 resolutions. Resolution opposing 421A tax abatement application at 29 Overlook and 524 Ft. Washington Avenue and we have resolutions that speaks to illegal conversions emergency declarations, single room occupancies and the need to ensure safe and habitable living spaces within CB12. This resolution presented in January, we had no quorum, but had quorum in February, so it was presented and passed. Next resolution is in response to ranking of the building of the Worst Landlords Watch List 2010 & 2011.
- Jim: explain difference between resolution just passed and this one. George: our resolution speaks straight to the point on affordable housing issues within CB12. 421A is under the HPD. We speak historically the development of the 421A, amendments, lack of affordable housing in our community; we highlight studies that were conducted by Pratt Analysis, a community developer where they presented information in regards to millions of dollars that are being invested in luxury class developments. We put this in to show that it's a waste of money where investing all this money in high class developments and we are not getting affordable housing. Discussion ensues.
- Liz: Would ditch Be It Resolved as grammar is challenging and doesn't add anything
- Refer back to Executive committee or get this into one resolution

- Two proofreading corrections
- Liz friendly amendment: they don't conflict, it's not horrible. We already passed the one. Let's just pass the other. George: I accept your friendly amendment.
- Discussion on Illegal Conversions or Worst Landlords
 - 6th Whereas "lost" as friendly amendment in illegal conversions
- VOTE: 421A: (F) 31 (O) 0 (A) 0, Illegal Conversions: (F) 33 (O) 0 (A) 0, Worst Landlords: (F) 33 (O) 0 (A) 0

George Fernandez returned as Chair

Economic Development – Nicole Foster, Chair

- We have 14 resolutions.
- #7 and #9, no shows, couple friendly amendments that Liz submitted grammatical spelling, capitalizations which are friendly
- #1 viva Café, Mamajuana, therefore, Be It Resolved: CB12 offers no objections to Dept. of Consumer Affairs renewal of an unenclosed sidewalk Café license for Vita Café doing business as Mamajuana Café with 63 tables and 128 seats with the provision the license continue to operate the unenclosed sidewalk Café Sunday-Thursday until 10pm, Friday-Saturday until 12am. This will be accompanied with the agreement letter that was signed between Mamajuana as well as community residents and elected officials.
- #12, no recommendation. The Police Precinct was very concerned in regards to both physical traffic of cars and human traffic given its proximity to Umbrella where a lot of patrons come out. Very concerned about safety given traffic patterns and parking for that area.
- #13, LaConcina, the 34th Precinct had no idea that this establishment or anything was going into that space and they confirm that its less than 500 feet from United Church.
- #14, Grand Slam Wings were previously operating without a license and serving this past December and there's been several arrests in the establishment.
- #5, Yosef, believes there is a school within a block on 182nd and Audubon that would fall within the 500 foot rule
- #7, Resolve: change from on premise to restaurant wine and near the corner. VOTE: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, (F) 31 (O) 0 (A) 0
 - #4 (F) 40, (O) 0 (A) 0 (N) 1, #11, 13 (29) (O) 0 (A) 1 (N) 1,
- A new website from SLA will be releasing information that gives actual license and history of violations for establishment so there is a better understanding of establishment as a whole.
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Aging – Gloria Vanterpool, Chair

- Refer to the minutes

Youth & Education - Fe Florimon, Chair

- I would like to thank Council Member Robert Jackson who came and spoke to us about the budget on Saturday, February 5th and gave us encouragement and spoke to us about advocating for the youth
- I also want to thank Christian Guerrero, Director from Inwood Academy who came to expand his relationship to the community.
- Y&E will have its third meeting this Saturday and I ask everyone to share this with the community. We will have a documentary about educational issues with students from Tucson, AZ.

Public Safety – Angelo Ortiz, Asst. Chair

- Refer to the minutes
- Will have a Stop & Frisk discussion this March
- George: Please get the word out that this discussion will take place

Health & Environment - Steve Simon, Chair

- Refer to the minutes

Parks & Cultural Affairs – Liz Ritter & Harlan Pruden, Chairs

- Harlan was congratulated on being the new chair of Parks & Cultural Affairs
- Harlan acknowledged Liz for her many, many years of service and the leadership she has shown.
- Liz will continue to mentor Harlan
- Liz chaired the February Meeting
- Minutes are self-explanatory
- The meeting was held at Our Savior Atonement Church sanctuary and following the meeting everyone went upstairs to NOMMA exhibit
- Liz is sad to leave committee since being a part of it since 1995. She will now be serving on Traffic & Transportation and Economic Development
- Steve spoke on behalf of the Parks Department and thanked Liz for bringing good projects into Washington Heights/Inwood and being helpful for facilitating moving things along

Update on Street Activities Permits

- Applications are being worked on that were submitted for street activities and permits

New Business

- Resolution on funding housing preservation and affordable housing that's being presented. It comes from Senator Espaillat's' office. It's an initiative that all the Democrat Senators signed on urging Gov. Cuomo as well as all Senators asking to not take away the funding from the Neighborhood Preservation Program. VOTE: (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0

Assemblyman Denny Farrell – Frank Hess

- Any questions concerning Assemblyman Farrell's report feel free to contact Frank

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm

Submitted by Alyce Smith