

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**General Meeting-May 22, 2012**  
**United Palace Cathedral Chapel**  
**4140 Broadway**  
**@ corner of W. 176<sup>th</sup> Street**

**PRESENT**

Richard Allman	Leandro Hidalgo	Pamela Palanque-
James J. Amodeo	Melanie Hidalgo	North
Wayne Benjamin	Michael Jimenez	Edith Prentiss
James Berlin	Ernest David Kach	Harlan Pruden
Isaiah Bing	Ellen Kackman	Robert Reynolds
Dulce Bueno	Yosef Kalinsky	Tamara Rivera
Rolando Cespedes	Elizabeth M.	Gabriella Rosa
Manny De Los	Lehmann	Steve Simon
Santos	Richard R. Lewis	Alyce Smith
Michael Diaz	Elizabeth Lorriss-	Raybblin Vargas
George Fernandez	Ritter	Anina Young
Ariel Ferreira	Maria Luna	
Fe Florimon	Jay Mazur	
Nicole Alexandra	Helen Morik	
Foster	Carole Mulligan	
Mitchell Glenn		

**EXCUSED**

James J.  
Amodeo  
William T.  
Devlin

**ABSENT**

Anita Barberis  
Aldemar De Jesus  
Diaz  
Julissa Gomez  
Ernest David Kach  
Edgar Nau  
Angelo Ortiz  
Zead Ramadan  
Angela Sanchez  
Victor Santos  
Christopher Smith  
Gloria Vanterpool

The General Meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Pamela Palanque-North at 7:15pm.

**Chair's Report**

- Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Chair welcomed CB12 new Board members to their official 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and thanked them for their service
- Chair has been a part of Special Task force working over several months trying to increase the amount of affordable housing available to residents of this district
  - CM Ydanis Rodriguez is helping us to understand that we have only received two affordable housing units in a decade
  - On Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a walk meeting arranged by CM Rodriguez to be held in the office of the Commission on Housing Preservation Development with representatives from various organizations
  - Chair has petitions from residents and want to walk into the meeting with 2000 signatures
- Chair was on a panel with Pace University to discuss Lessons Learned regarding her term of office on how to attract youth and young adults in our community to the Board.
  - This is giving them an opportunity to be involved in emerging leadership positions, such as becoming a part of the planning committee
  - If you know young adults interested in the Board, encourage them to think about becoming a part of it
- Past chairs have taken a look at our Economic Development Committee which is buried under applications for liquor license with little time to devote to business development
  - We have decided to split out licensing from Economic Development activity
  - In September we will try this out with another Standing Committee where we will need a minimum of five people to participate meaning a redistribution of members across committees
  - We will then look at it, get feedback and see if its' working
- We process through the District Manager street permits for single block closings
  - This is an application for giving people those kinds of certifications
- Bylaws allow Chair and Executive Committee to launch special committee when needed
  - Chair has been looking at nuclear energy location to the North of us that disbanded
    - Residents have requested a committee on hot spots on problems areas
    - Problems such as Dyckman Street and the Southern Tier don't seem to eradicate itself from drug sales that are being done in front of people and to the North we have similar problems with hot spots
    - We will organize by sector (ABC) like the police precincts call them when they talk about Southern tier, mid-section and to the North
- Executive Committee has sub-committee taking on Personnel Matters of the Board
  - Work will begin in June with review of District Managers' work and contributions and we try to reward for good work and focus on Board members and staff relationship including feedback from the community

- June 18<sup>th</sup> New Member Orientation. Anyone from Board can join us and new members are encouraged to attend
- Family Day Picnic and Outing for Board members and community.
- Memorial Day is a day for picnicking and family fun, but let's remember those who are no longer with us especially those in the armed services
- CB12 passed a resolution in support of a modification of the NYPD Stop & Frisk policies and across the city focus in on improving that process
  - On Father's Day, June 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a Silent March to Reform Stop & Frisk at 110<sup>th</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue at 1:00pm
  - There has been a class action suit started by NYC Civil Liberties Union around Stop & frisk and if you have been stopped without cause, you may join in the suit
- Martin Collins informed Chair that City Council passed Kindergarten Resolution to make Kindergarten mandatory for all
- Chair announced Youth Talent Contest sponsored by Fostering A Life, Inc. on June 29<sup>th</sup>, location, Ft. Washington Collegiate Church on 181<sup>st</sup> Street
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#### **District Manager's Report - Ebenezer Smith**

- Thanked the United Palace Cathedral Chapel for the use of their space
- In your packet is a Board Member's directory.
  - Let the DM know if any information is inaccurate
- NYSDOT has a special advisory regarding the Alexander Hamilton Bridge
  - It will undergo construction work that will impact traffic on the Bronx bound lanes for approximately six months
    - The impact will be Riverside Drive North bound
    - DOT suggest using as an alternate route - Washington Bridge (181<sup>st</sup> Street)
- The Department of Design & Construction (DDC) has indicated that Project No: HWD10211 185<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape is in preliminary design phase and is included in their FY2014 Commitment Plan
  - Scope incorporates streetscape improvements on 185<sup>th</sup> Street from Audubon Avenue to Amsterdam Avenue
- Reported to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct are complaints of vandalized vehicles on the upper Riverside Drive between W 163<sup>rd</sup> – 165<sup>th</sup> Street
- NYCDOH, Senator Adriano Espaillat's office, CM Jackson's office and CM Rodriguez's office are working to conduct educational seminars on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in different locations within the district
- ConEd informed DM that they are ready for the summer electricity demand in the district
- DM is working with NYCDOT and ConEd to establish jurisdiction on a plated hole on Broadway and W. 171<sup>st</sup> Street

#### **Elected Officials' Reports**

##### **State Senator - Adriano Espaillat**

- Just returned from Albany
- Stop and Frisk implemented by the Police Dept. last year led to over 600 stops primarily young men and women of color were not charged with any criminal activity, yet a database was developed with confidential information about many of them.
- Recently a court ruled to grant class action status in litigation currently in NYC against this practice by the Police Dept. and would like the CB come out with a resolution (Chair stated we have)
- We need good relations with the Police dept. to cooperate with them in regard to public safety
- Senate is actively engaged in this effort
- Father's Day March on June 17<sup>th</sup> on 110<sup>th</sup> Street & Lenox Avenue
- There are two versions of the Dream Act
  - Dream Fund – grant contributors receive a tax credit
  - Dream Act – students have access to scholarships, and financial aid programs
  - There is not a large number of documented students who are asking for help, about 5000 when previously 8000

##### **Borough President Representative – Ingrid Sotelo**

- Fe Florimon was thanked for attending the Borough Presidents Report
- The Manhattan Borough President applauded the Manhattan Borough Board for their vote to unanimously support the DREAM Act, a long-awaited reform to provide opportunity and fairness to immigrant youth in our city and state.
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration, May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6pm, located at 202 Century Street

##### **Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez Representative – Yokarina Duarte**

- CM Rodriguez is committed to work with tenants
- 128 Sherman Avenue in horrible condition could not enter, had to push from the outside

- HPD found 330 violations, 31 Class C violations

Assembly Member Herman D. Farrell, Jr. – Frank Hess

- Refer to the minutes

Pastor Jack Bomar – Minister - United Palace Cathedral

- Greeted CB12 that it was a privilege and honor to host us and he prays that we are comfortable and welcome to United Palace

George Fernandez, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair is running the Public Speakers' Session

**Public Speakers' Session**

Gerard Dominach – Papisitos & LaCeniza

- #14 Papisitos outdoor seating are moving boundaries further out than allowed
- #11 LaCeniza is serving alcohol and no food. Police Dept. was called on three separate occasions, and closed down for one week as they weren't licensed and didn't have a fire compression system
- Inspector Buzzetti monitored situation
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Mary Anderson – Pothole @ 171<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway

- Thanked District Manager for addressing pothole situation on 170<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway.
- It's getting worse because a blockade has made bus to go around
- Disable not able to climb to get on bus
- Now one must go to either 168<sup>th</sup> or 173<sup>rd</sup> bus stop
- Urge council to get on this matter

Leah Holzel – 1825 Riverside Drive

- Retailer closed store at 253 Dyckman after street scene shifted from retail row to increasing party scene on the block
- Shoulder to shoulder sidewalk cafes are perpetuating anti-social behavior and an environment that is incompatible with the quality residential community
- Domestic lives are disrupted by loitering, density of traffic, blaring stereos, motorcycles and illegal dirt bikes
- The streets belong to people and the people need to take back Dyckman Street

Joan Warner – Motorcycle Gangs

- Motorcycle drag racing on North & South bound streets is terrorizing the neighborhood, operating from April to October, sunset to 5:00am, night after night except when it rains.
- Joan was reprimanded by 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Meeting for calling them gangs, but they dress in special colors, engage in illegal activities, operate in huge noisy groups of 15, they terrorize civilians and they break the law in dozens of ways.
- We need to escalate the issue

Amy Obonoga & Rahal Shah – Department of Design & Construction

- We are architectural students working on the High Bridge Pool & Recreation Center in collaboration with the Parks Dept.
- Have Splash House with pool in rear of building built last summer
- There is changes area, spaces and locker room on the pool deck
- This year we are opening space for public events, yoga, dance etc.
- We are enclosing space at rear of pool deck

Yolanda Anderson – New York Foundling – Foster Care

- Recruiter for NY Foundling
- Looking for foster parents
- Has flyers if interested in being a foster parent

Julia Attaway – Hudson Heights Owners Coalition

- Candidates' Forum of 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District at Castle Village Community Room from 7pm-9pm on May 25<sup>th</sup> League of Woman's Voters are moderators

#### Constentino Kostos – Vandals on Haven Avenue

- Want to report gangster crime on Haven Avenue at 173<sup>rd</sup> Street & 176<sup>th</sup> Street @ J Hood Wright Park regarding vandalizing cars
- His car has been vandalized ten times
- Last time was three weeks ago his side window was broken and he called Police at the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- Police said we can do nothing, call 911
- He's outraged as park is source of problem for neighborhood
- All the time dogs are barking; he loves dogs, but this is unacceptable

#### Ana Marchena – Duarte triangle

- She would like to petition to rename Duarte Triangle to Toni Condonia Triangle who worked arduously for this community
- Also, her neighborhood has been experiencing demoralizing noise levels from bars and family restaurants and it's getting out of hand
- Would like Board to facilitate proactively
- Glad to see separation of Economic Business Development of business
- Can we brainstorm and come up with ideas?

#### Craig Borchard – J Hood Wright Dog Run

- Dog run at J Hood Wright Park had been closed, but opened up larger with much more noise
- Main issue is amount of noise out of the park
- Noise early in morning till midnight
- Harlan has helped
- This information has been recorded on You Tube
- It has been stressful and not able to sleep

#### Agustina Guzman – 3920 Broadway

- She and neighbors are having a problem with La Parilla Restaurant at 3920 Broadway
- Has had a problem since 2005
- She and her husband purchased apartment adjacent to the restaurant
- Since December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 when restaurant opened, she and her husband have not been able to sleep and her husband is very sick
- She and her husband have not been able to sleep as music from a DJ plays from the restaurant so loud that their bed and night table shakes until 4:00am in the morning. Restaurant makes lots of promises
- She has sent messages to help resolve this problem
- She is not against restaurant, only the loud music

#### Vianela Rives – New York Public Library

- We have program for adults
- Prevent summer slide for kids by having them read this summer [www.summertime.org](http://www.summertime.org)

#### Raybblin – Reform Stop & Frisk Law

- Father's Day March in your Sunday Best @ 110<sup>th</sup> Street & Lenox Avenue
- March will end at Bloomberg's house
- There will be a bus for seniors, home attendants and people with disabilities

#### Edith Prentiss –

- First taxi for disability persons hitting the streets tomorrow
- Edith wants balloons, has permits for one purposeful taxi on the streets after 15 years

#### Carmen Acosta

- Every Saturday in June High Bridge Water Tower Terrace has host of activities available
  - Dancercise, aerobics, self- defense and pool
  - Parks open on June 28<sup>th</sup>
  - June 24<sup>th</sup> Health Fair @ 180<sup>th</sup> street between Broadway & Wadsworth
  - July & August Play Streets open 170<sup>th</sup> Street & Ft. Washington (Tues)
    - 180<sup>th</sup> Street & Pinehurst (Wed)
    - CB has list of play streets

Chair North noted that we had 16 people who joined us with information of what is going on across the community; some are complaints; some are announcements. She wants our DM to follow up with DOT, NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup>, EPA, Parks, SLA Enforcement, NYPD Gangs Crime Unit, to see what is going on at Dyckman.

**Quorum** at 8:40pm and the agenda was adopted and minutes accepted

### Committee Reports

#### Housing & Human Services – George Fernandez, Chair

- Intro 477 pending legislature in City Council
- Various categories of regulated apartments
- Rent hike proposed for one year is 4%, and two years 6.75%
- Public hearings June 13<sup>th</sup> @ Hostos Community College & June 18<sup>th</sup> @ Cooper Union
- RGB final June 21<sup>st</sup> @ Cooper Union
- Tenants given rights when signing a lease, suggest challenge rent increases
- Accessibility to people in housing with people with disability
- Intro 477 Forum in June with Local housing CBOs and local community activist
- Home owners, Condos & Co-ops update on J51 Tax Abatement 7091 extend another four years, pending in legislature
- Resolution: Creation and preservation of affordable and accessible housing units within Community District 12 Manhattan
- VOTE: (F) 37 (O) 0 (A) 0

#### Parks & Cultural Affairs –Harlan Pruden, Chair

- Refer to our minutes
- Had an introduction from Dawson Smith NYCMTB.com
- Renovation for Ft. Washington Park Playground @ 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, soliciting bids
- Construction in June @ Wright Playground @ 156<sup>th</sup> Street
- 572 trees approved for planting in CB area
- La Marina closing hours announced, Sunday – Thursday 11pm, Friday-Saturday 12:30pm, no concerts will be allowed, amplified music by Parks Dept. permit, amplified music programs must end at 10:00pm, maximum seat numbers are 500
- Resolution: edits 2<sup>nd</sup> last line, for a space to be air conditioned (air) is missing, 2<sup>nd</sup> whereas this location (should be “this center”), the play center that High Bridge serves the community of Washington Heights and is one of the public recreational centers within this community, 4<sup>th</sup> whereas, the center remains in use during non-center months but operates in \_\_\_\_? design for limited summer use. Next whereas “the 1<sup>st</sup> line” is to be the enclosed center”, the last whereas “a small p”. From the Parsons School of Design Presentation.
- VOTE: (F) 37 (O) 0 (A) 0 (NV) 1

#### Land Use – Wayne Benjamin, Chair

- Refer to the minutes
- Resolution #1: regarding revisions to the waterfront revitalization program proposed by the Dept. of City Planning under a 197A Plan and is an existing program updated in 2002
- 11 major changes, recognized ecological complexes and Marine priority cells most important
- VOTE: (F) 37 (O) 0 (A) 0
- Resolution #2: regarding offering no objection to Columbia University Medical Center’s request for a revocable consent from the Dept. of Transportation
- Columbia University Medical Center has put in a request for a revocable consent to facilitate the construction and installation of research lab computers connect to existing Russ Berrie Pavilion and a new building at 51 Audubon Avenue @ 167<sup>th</sup> & 168<sup>th</sup> Street
- 2<sup>nd</sup> whereas “implemented to protect pedestrian & vehicular safety, all
- Steve Simon: in terms of this resolution, dealing with the fiber optic cable, what is significant about this is the fact that they are moving offices from 601 W. 168<sup>th</sup> Street (a residential building) to 51 Audubon Avenue. Housing and others should now get the landlord to return those apartments to residential status.
- VOTE: (F) 36 (O) 0 (A) 0 (NV) 1

#### Economic Development – Ariel Ferreira, Asst. Chair

- Refer to minutes
- No quorum at meeting, so voted 30 minutes before General Meeting
- There was an addition Yummy Thai will be #11B instead of 12

- Not to recommend #3, #10, #16
- VOTE: **1:** (F) 35 (O) 2 (A) 0 **2:** (F) 35 (O) 2 (A) 0 **3:** (F) 35 (O) 2 (A) **4:** (F) 32 (O) 3 (A) 1
- **5:** (F) 36 (O) 1 (A) 0 **6:** (F) 35 (O) 2 **7:** (F) 35 (O) 1 (A) 1 **8:** (F) 36 (O) 1 (A) 0 **9:** (F) 35 (O) 2 (A) 0
- **10:** (F) 34 (O) 3 (A) 0 **11a:** (F) 16 (O) 19 (A) 2 **11b:** (F) 33 (O) 4 (A) 0 **12:** (F) 30 (O) 3 (A) 4
- **13:** (F) 35 (O) 1 (A) 1 **14:** (F) 35 (O) 1 (A) 1

Traffic & Transportation – Mitchell Glenn

- Proposed bike lane presentation by Brad Conover
- DOT presentation on Safe Streets for Seniors
- Proposed speed bumps on Overlook Terrace between 184<sup>th</sup> & 186<sup>th</sup>
- June 4<sup>th</sup> Street guidelines for co-naming

Youth & Education - Fe Florimon, Chair

- Chair introduced Rachel H. Spurrier, Project Manager for the World Science Festival
- Program initiative was to outreach the community with the hope that teachers & students get involved in this important program
- Frank House, School Principal for the Community Health Academy of the Heights came to present a resolution that seeks to promote healthy-food initiative
- Saturday meeting went well, next Saturday meeting is June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the subject will be Juvenile Delinquency

Public Safety – Angelo Ortiz, Assistant Chair

- Refer to the minutes
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct highlights include robberies up 14%, felony assaults are down 21%, grand larceny is up 18%
- May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Health & Environment - Steve Simon, Chair

- Refer to the minutes
- Con Ed M29 transmission line project is completed and is operational
- CUMC developed an energy master plan and set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2025
- NYPH had a breakfast for new CEO Steve Corwin to introduce him to community leaders

Isabella Report – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications

- Federal & state agencies are doing audits checking on use of Medicaid \$
- New enrollees in long-term care are being moved to managed care after 120 days effective July
- Together on Diabetes is being launched on May 15

Happy Mother’s Day to Dominican Mothers

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm  
Submitted by Alyce Smith