

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting December 15, 2011
Isbella Geriatric Center
515 Audubon Avenue**

PRESENT

Richard Allman	Nicole Alexandra Foster	Edith Prentiss
James J. Amodeo	Mitchell Glenn	Harlen Pruden
Anita Barberis	Leandro Hidalgo	Zead Ramadan
James Berlin	Melanie Hidalgo	Robert Reynolds
Isaiah Bing	Ernest David Kach	Angela Sanchez
Rolando Cespedes	Yosef Kalinsky	Steve Simon
George Cruz	Elizabeth M. Lehmann	Alyce Smith
Mireya Cruz-Diaz	Richard R. Lewis	Raybblln Vargas
Manny De Los Santos	Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter	
Aldemar De Jesus Diaz	Maria Luna	
Michael Diaz	Helen Morik	
George Fernandez	Angelo Ortiz	
Ariel Ferreira	Cheryl Pahaham	
Fe Florimon	Pamela Palanque-North	

EXCUSED

ABSENT

Frank Alvarez
Wayne Benjamin
Leonardo Blackman
Cynthia Carrion
William T. Devlin
George Espinal
Julissa A Gomez
Rafael Lugo
Carole Mulligan
Edgard Nau
Jose Polanco
Tamara Rivera
Gabriella Rosa
Gloria Vanterpool

Pamela Palanque-North, Chair convened the meeting at 7:00 PM, no quorum

Chair's Report

- United States Postal Service will relocate from Washington Bridge Station moving to 516-518 West 181 Street. CB12 recommendations to the postal service will be organized by Wayne Benjamin, Chair, Land Use and George Fernandez, 1st Vice Chair.
- CB12 office has been in a building owned by Columbia University and has been asked to move. Chair North has been in meeting with Columbia and DCAS a city agency who handles relocation and pay the rent for community boards across the city. Plans have been drawn and the lease is about to be signed. CB12 will be moving to the Alianza Building on the sixth floor by end of program year in June. There will be other civic and cultural organizations in the building. Floor plans are available to view.
- There was a holiday party for the district service cabinet that is organized by Ebenezer along with service providers and past service commanders who bring issues before the Board that requires action.
- Obie Bing on behalf of CB12 attended Council Member Rodriguez's Street Vendors Task Force Meeting along with the District Manager and The BID.
 - This was an educational forum for the vendors such as how they can become licensed
 - They were able to voice their issues and complaints
- George Fernandez, 1st Vice Chair attended 34th Precinct Council Meeting for CB12
 - Community disconnect with the precinct
 - Residents being discouraged not to submit reports
 - Police response time to breaking and entry reports by residents into buildings can take over an hour visit by police
 - Residents feel police not responding to their needs
- Ebenezer along with others attended the 33rd Police Council Annual Awards Ceremony at the Morris Jumel Mansion for work well done by the officers who work in that area
- CB12 want to thank our community partner New York Presbyterian and Columbia Medical Center for their support.
- Borough President Scott Stringer hold board meeting every month with chairs of each community board in Manhattan and they move on resolutions that are proposed by the borough president and two resolutions will be coming through next month
 - Questioning NYPD on how they operate the stop and frisk program currently
 - Robert Reynolds will bring this to Public Safety Committee
 - Manhattan pay phone upgrades; wi-fi, smart phones, use credit cards
 - Send to Transportation Committee
- Cloisters Holiday Party for community leaders at Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art on December 19th from 6 -- 8pm
- Remind the Public of CB12 Committee Meetings begin the week of January 3rd
- Chair North would like to thank the Board Members and the public that works with us that from November 2010 -- November 2011 we have been able to craft, present, debate and ratify 172 resolutions
- Thank Nominating Committee and Chair Fe Florimon for the work they have been doing for several months
- Thank Betty for being a gracious hostess and Isabella for providing the refreshments
- Thank the public for coming out to our meetings
- Thanked Dragon Lounge on West 164th Street for donating the food tonight
- Wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season

District Manager's Report, Ebenezer Smith

- Would like to thank Isabella and Betty for hosting CB12
- Would like to thank New York Presbyterian for hosting the party for the city agencies
- Council Member Rodriguez convened with 150 district vendors and told them they need to comply with rules and regulations
 - That vendors limit themselves to one table
 - They must clean up
 - Avoid unfair competition with merchants because street vendors are cheaper and merchants must pay rent, electricity and wages
 - No cooking oil in basins
 - Complex problem and vendors were receptive
- Discussion on Vendors ensued
- Office closed on Monday, December 26 for holiday
- January & February have been approved for meeting by Columbia University
- Mayor's budget cuts become effective December 31st and CB12 must reduce money for personal services so Frances Escano will be leaving us
- I want to thank Frances for the short period of time that she has been here, and the fact that she was young, we learn from her many things, she's patient and she knows how to handle community board business
- Happy Holidays to everyone here, and looking forward to seeing everyone next year

Chair North said about Frances that losing her is a loss of talent and ability. She presented her with flowers from the full board and thanked her for the incredible work that she has done, the ease of working with her, her competence and she will be dearly missed.

Quorum @ 7:43pm

Motion to adopt Agenda and Minutes was accepted

Elected Officials' Reports

Borough President Representative – Ingrid Sotulo

- Borough President is doing Community Board outreach meetings since September
 - Willing to go out to organizations to make presentations about the community board
 - Can sign up re-applicants tonight
- BP has allocated funding for tree guards for block associations and organizations
- BP has issued press release about Walmart 's plan to come into Manhattan, making it not a boon for small business owners
 - BP has not taken a stand for or against
- Baby Elliott has been born and his wife is doing well and BP is stepping back for a while
- A gift has been suggested
- Happy Holidays and she will continue to be our community liaison

Assemblyman Guillermo Linares

- Governor summon state legislative to restructure tax system
 - Increase taxes for the millionaires
 - Spreading the money to address health, education and social service
 - Tax relief to the middle class, huge victory for the 99%
- Successful hearing December 9th on New York Dream Act sponsored by the Assembly, 150 young people attended
 - Dream Act give students who graduate from high school access to financial assistance
 - We hope to pass this into law in current session
- Livery legislation under consideration by Governor
 - He has 10 days to address by next Wednesday
 - There are issues he is trying to address such as handicap disability
- Wishing you once again Happy Holidays

Assemblyman Denny Farrell

- He has recommended that 157th Street, Edward Morgan Place and Riverside Drive be a one way street instead of 2 ways.
- He's going to ask for another hearing to speak to everyone and get it done
- Thank you for the hard work that you do
- Happy, Happy Holiday

Public Speakers Session turned over to 1st Vice Chair, George Fernandez III

Public Speakers' Session

Tenants/Workers Right Laundry Workers (LWCU) - Ms. Castillo

- Lives at 2 Thayer and belong to organization that is laundry centered and they are worried about the structure situation and security
- Asking Councilmember Rodriguez to come to the building so that he can see what is going on
- They are recently organized and want to become involved with community efforts

Mike Fitelson – Northern Manhattan as Muse

- Photo exhibit of 17 local artists on January 5th @ Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

Citizens Committee for New York City - Arif Ullah

- Support grass roots community groups in low income neighborhoods
- Small Grants program called New Yorkers for Better Neighborhood
 - Grants from \$500 - \$3000
 - Application deadline January 31st
 - 212.822.9580

CUNY in the Heights - Meghan Moon-Wilk

- CUNY in the Heights Program is moving to 1530 Broadway @ 212th Street
- Requesting mayoral override

Camp Excel - Dr. Gary Altheim

- Started grass roots program for teenagers that no one else would work with in the Armory
- Take teenagers to sleep away camp
- Need help asking our elected officials for financial assistance

Hashi sushi Fusion – Ramiro Sosa, Manager

- Asking for removal of application of sidewalk café at their restaurant Hashi Sushi Fusion
 - There were complaints that he wants to resolve before putting in application

Alcohol Outlet - Angelo Ortiz

- Alcohol outlets in Washington Heights neighborhood
- Preliminary data by zip code and on premise
- Distribution by precinct
- Can be part of community assessment

157th Street & Riverside Drive - Marcus Schodorf

- Thinks this area could be narrowed for smaller crossing as it is an odd angle for pedestrians
- He has ideas on how to resolve some of these street problems

Word Up/PTP - Veronica Liu & Ben Ehrlich

- Word Up is a community bookstore open in June at Broadway and 176th Street
- It is volunteer run and they have books in English, Spanish and Russian
- They hold frequent workshop events and space has been donated by the landlord
- Starting in December, they must pay rent
- They are organizing as a CSB (Community Supported Bookshop)
 - Which is modeled after CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)
 - At the beginning of the season, they pay a share to the local farmer who will have money for his operating expenses to grow his food
 - CSB shares will be made available this Saturday with upfront seasonal payment
 - A share will be \$20
 - Rent party this Saturday at 4157 Broadway @ 175th Street, 347.688.4456, wordupbooks.com

Community Service Society – NYC Coalition for a Smoke Free City - Ashley Voroba

- Legislation last year for smoke free parks, beaches and pedestrians plazas
- This year legislation with tobacco controlling our youth
- Targeting tobacco retailers and 75% tobacco advertisements located near schools
- Reaching out for some good policy on this issue

TRAC (Transit Riders Action Committee) – Cheryl Pahaham

- Want to mobilize uptown residents on mass transit issues
- Committee meets 2nd Saturday of each month at 152nd Street & Amsterdam Avenue
- Now planning how to improve subway service and plan how to decongest bus service on 125th Street
- If interested, see Cheryl

Commander Barry Buzzetti – 34th Precinct

- Continue to work to reduce crime and increase resident quality of life
- Last 3 months, crime up 7% compared to last year at 24%, actually down 20% compared to last year
- Deploy police wherever crime maybe rising
- Cell phone crime is a concern, pay attention to your surroundings, hold onto your phone
- Happy Holidays to everyone

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report - Elizabeth Ritter

- In November there was a small issue of vacating the room before we had completed all business
 - Pursuant to our bylaws, the Executive Committee met and discussed the items pending business, voted on many resolutions, now votes need to be ratified by full Board
 - Easiest way is to have all resolutions voted on and have a single resolution to ratify all of the votes taken by the Executive Committee only if no objections
 - If objections, pull out those objected to and vote on them individually by roll call vote, then vote on remaining ones that have no objections together.
 - 17 Resolutions voted on from the Economic Committee (Liz read all 17)
 - Motion to ratify all the actions taken by Executive Committee on the 17 Economic Development Committees resolutions and the New Business resolution from the floor calling on Mayor Bloomberg and City Council to enact the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act". Moved by Richard, seconded by James VOTE: (F) 34 (O) 0 (A) 0
 - Resolution calling for legislative reforms of Police Policies and Practices, Investigations into Recent Police Actions was voted by Executive Committee (F) 8 (O) 0 (A) 1
 - Discussion as to timing of sending this resolution downtown
 - Board should show support
 - Need time to consider this
 - Ask to endorse Intro 72 with no full review
 - Should not ratify this at this time
 - Motion to refer this resolution regarding the Police procedures and investigations of Police actions should be referred to the Public Safety Committee for discussion of their January 4th Meeting and that the body of the resolution and information pertaining to Intro 72 be circulated to the entire Board immediately so that they can be prepared for discussion at committee and that the recipients of the November 29th letter respect to the resolution be notified that the matter be referred to committee for further discussion. VOTE: (F) 19 (O) 14 (A) 1
 - This motion will be discussed at the next Public Safety Meeting
 - Chair has asked those who voted against this motion to attend the Public Safety Meeting so that their ideas and views in the resolution

The Nominating Committee, Fe Florimon, Chair, Obie Bing, George Cruz, Harlan Pruden

- Procedures:
 - Allow each candidate to speak 2 minutes
 - Audience can ask each candidate 2 questions
 - Candidate has 1 minute to respond to each question
 - Once candidates have spoken, we will distribute the ballots
 - You must sign sheet indicating you received ballot, then sign ballot

- The committee will then gather all ballots and obtain the results
- Floor opened for Assistant Secretary position
 - Richard Lewis name put in (he has not been on Board a year) (position closed)
- Ballot Results:
 - Pamela Palanque-North, Chair 32 votes
 - George Fernandez, 1st Vice Chair 33 votes
 - Raybbilis Vargas, 2nd Vice Chair 33 votes
 - Alyce Smith, Secretary 32 votes
 - Edith Prentis 33 votes
 - One illegal vote couldn't identify signature name
- Chair stressed importance of attending meeting if interested in running for future positions

Traffic & Transportation – Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Chair

- Refer to the minutes
- Tabling 157th Street resolution because committee members were not able to offer their opinion, will wait another month
- Bus idling near and around armory building will be discussed next month
- Resolution to have DOT study the feasibility of creating 3 metered parking spaces in front of AWS @ 1662 St. Nicholas Avenue, north of the bus stop. VOTE: (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0
- Putting a hold on resolution to make West 157th Street one way westbound, west of Edward Morgan Place
- Resolution to support the Port Authority Bus Station at GWB at 179th Street to allow all buses scattered in several places to consolidate on the top floor for ease of ingress and egress better. VOTE: (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0
- During construction period for 18 months, there is disruption to surrounding streets and no provision for traffic control
- Appeal to PA to provide traffic control agents (theirs, NYPD or other) to be placed around construction zone for smooth flow of traffic

Economic Development – Nicole Foster, Chair

- #3 -Bijaru Coffee Shop Restaurant, to recommend; #5 -Ceci Restaurant Inc., no show; #6 -Dallas BBQ, all storage to be removed; #8 - Vacca Lounge, no show; #9 - El Caribe Restaurant, has purchased ramp; #10 -Yummy Thai, ramp too steep, new ramp purchased
 - VOTE: 1 - 6 (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0 7 (F) 26 (O) 4 (A) 0 8-10 (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0

Land Use – Anita Barberis

- Resolution supporting the relocation of the CUNY in the Heights and the Mayoral Waiver of Zoning required to Facilitate the Relocation
 - VOTE (F) 29 (O) 0 (A) 0

Health & Environment - Steve Simon

- Resolution urging the renewal of funding for five school-based mental health clinics operated by New York Presbyterian Hospital
 - \$249,000 grant from Clinics Plus Program for schools PS 28 and 115 in Washington Heights and PS 153, 123 and 133 in Harlem has been terminated by the New York State Office of Mental Health
 - Asking CB9 & CB10 to support this effort. VOTE: (F) 30 (O) 0 (A) 0

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm

Submitted by Alyce Smith