

Youth and Education Committee

Monday, January 9, 2012

Committee Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Alyce Smith, Maria Luna, Gabriela Rosa, Raybblin Vargas, Manny De Los Santos

Committee Member Excused: Angelo Ortiz

Committee Members Absent: Leonardo Blackman, William T. Devlin

CB12 Members: Pamela North, Chair CB12, Steve Simon, Chair H&EC

CB12 Public Members: Al Kurland, Roberto Dela Rosa, Carolina Guichardo

Meeting started at 7:10pm

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and discussed the evening's agenda.

- ❖ Chair Florimon introduced Carolina Guichardo who came before the Y&E Committee to share her concern for the students' health (including her son) of PS 173.
 - According to Ms. Guichardo, the City College has conducted a test on the City's water supply, which included the community of Washington Heights, and has found exposed contaminants. The contaminants found within the water supply were diagnosed with an alarming rate of bacteria and unhealthy agents, which is suspected to be present at PS 173. To protect the students' health, Ms. Guichardo asked the Members of the Community Board to support the idea of installing a filter in the water fountains of PS 173. She also stated that the school's Principal has not addressed this issue publicly because she wants to prevent any sort of panic. On her last comment, Ms. Guichardo suggested that a video containing this information was available on Youtube.
 - The Committee agreed to bring Ms. Guichardo's statement to the attention of District 6 and /or DOE, which was also suggested by Steve Simon, Chair of Health & Environment Committee, who asked to be informed of any further outcome (s) pertaining to this matter.

- ❖ A remark was made to the Board's Chair Pamela Palanque-North who joined the Committee in support of the meeting's agenda, and to welcome the expected participation of District 6's Superintendent Elsa Nunez. Unfortunately, Ms. Nunez did not show up and did not send a Representative on her behalf. The Committee was concerned about Superintendent's lack of commitment, and agreed to follow up with the expected guest.

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- The Y&E Committee congratulated Raybblin Vargas on her new position as 2nd Vice Chair of CB12.
- Ms. Vargas stated that due to her new her position and overwhelmed job schedule and other commitments, she is forced to give up the position of Assistant Chair with the Youth & Education Committee.

- ❖ Under the new business section, Chair Florimon suggested two new events for the consideration of the Y&E Committee.
 - Topics suggested were: Healthcare inequality, and Entertainment Contest activities (dance and singing contest).

 - The Committee did not approve the Entertainment Contest event and the Chair discarded the idea while other events remain pending.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:10

Minutes taken by: Alyce Smith

YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 6, 2012

Location: 701 West 168th Street Room 312 A-B New York, NY 10032

Committee Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Alyce Smith, Maria Luna, Gabriela Rosa, Manny De Los Santos, Angelo Ortiz

Committee Member Excused: Raybblin Vargas,

Committee Members Absent: Leonardo Blackman, William T. Devlin

CB12 Public Members: Al Kurland

Guest: Christian Guerrero Director of School Culture at Inwood Academy for Leadership Chapter School.

Meeting started at 7:15pm

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and discussed the evening's agenda.

- ❖ Chair Florimon introduced Mr. Christian Guerrero, who came to the meeting on behalf of the Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School, and provided an educational update of the school he represents.

- Mr. Guerrero grew up in the community of Washington Heights, and during his childhood went to the local community school. Later, his family moved to the suburbs in Connecticut where he finished his formal education and obtained a degree in sociology. In 2011, Mr. Guerrero came back to his old community to share his educational experience by joined Inwood Academy in the capacity of Director School of Culture.

- Inwood Academy for Leadership is a Charter School on its second year of operation. The school's administrators and staff are determined not only to be part of the community, but also to provide their best educational tools to the community. The school serves over 200 students in the 5th and 6th grades under the leadership of Principal Christina Reyes.

- The school offers a variety of programs ranging from after school programs, music, youth development, and other programs that allow students to learn constantly. To improve the reading level, and tackle the deficiency among some students, the school

has taken a new initiative in which students are asked to read at least one hour per day. The reading hour is divided in two parts; one half hour reading must be conducted in school, and the other half hour at home, encouraged and supervised by the parents. The dual effort it seems to be working so far according to Mr. Guerrero. He also added that the school is trying to hire best qualified teachers to make sure students receive the proper educational preparation. At the Inwood Academy, teachers are mandated to participate in three training programs to learn how to interact with students and any academic reinforcement the teacher may need. Teachers are paid well, and also receive incentive.

- The Presenter also discussed some of the challenges charter schools are facing, and the contemporary academic problems among students. He stated that one of the problems the community is facing is the high rate of students lacking academic preparation to go to college. English learning students, in particular, are part of this high percent rate. Out of 61% of students who pass the Regents exam and graduated, only 29% planned to go to College Mr. Guerrero said. This situation has called his attention, and has been a motivating factor (for him) to come back to the community, and share his academic expertise with the community.
 - Unlike public schools, Mr. Guerrero said, some of the problems newly established charter schools are facing today is to establish credit. It is hard for a new charter school to navigate financially with no credit record. Because of this situation, lots of charter schools are forced to share space with other schools in order to keep abreast financially. Also, the income per student they received is about \$3,017 less than the traditional system, and altogether posts a real challenge into many charter schools.
- ❖ In the face of the discussion members of the public express their diverse opinions. Some found it interesting that teachers at charter schools get higher salary than teachers at public schools.
- According to Carmen Acosta, member of the public, teachers in charter schools are earning a higher salary than teachers in public schools because of the lack of Union benefits. Other members stated they were in favor of the traditional school system and added that the system needs to be reformed, instead of closing the schools.
 - Member Ortiz expressed concern on the lack of parental involvement in their children's education, and also stated that there should be a system in place that tracks schools' success and replicate this pattern for other schools.

Adjourned at: 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 3rd and 5th.

Youth and Education Committee

Monday, March 5, 2012

Committee Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Manny De Los Santos, Maria Luna, Angelo Ortiz, Gabriela Rosa, Alyce Smith,

Committee Member Excused: None

Committee Members Absent: Raybblin Vargas

CB12 Members: None

Community Members: Roberto Dela Rosa, Jacob Morris, Graciela Florimon, Phil Zablocki

Meeting started at 7:20pm

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

❖ **Mr. Angelo Ortiz – “UNIDOS Community Data Preliminary Summary”**

➤ Chair Florimon introduced Mr. Angelo Ortiz, Unit Director and Coordinator for UNIDOS Coalition, who presented a preliminary summary or an update of the initiative of “Underage Drinking” an ongoing survey initiated- by UNIDOS Coalition. Some of the adjoining topics provided in the presentation included an “Alcohol Outlets” report as of February 2012; “Underage Drinking Survey Snapshot,” and their preliminary conclusions. Mr. Ortiz started his presentation by distributing fliers containing the information intended to be discussed.

➤ **Alcohol Outlets (as of 2/2012)**

- According to Mr. Ortiz, UNIDOS, in 2006 an underage drinking problem was detected in the community. As a result of this problem, UNIDOS took an active role to address the underage drinking problem by tracking data from several zip codes, while requesting government’s assistance and/or financial intervention.
- In pro this initiative, the Coalition received two federal grants to dwell into the underage drinking proposal. Both grants originated from the same federal source to provide and support a drug free community, and a strategic prevention framework. To carry on with this initiative UNIDOS started a few months ago a survey campaign designed to collect data on environmental scan, underage drinking, and advertising data. This operation is still an ongoing process, and it’s expected that once all data get collected, the community’s stakeholders, and other players will come together to examine the data, set priorities, and then build a community capacity that will implement the plan, which highly depends on what the data will tell.

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- The first topic of his presentation was on “*Alcohol Outlets*” as of February 2012. During this phase Mr. Ortiz reported on the existing largest concentrations of active on-premise licenses in the jurisdiction of CB12M, which has targeted different zip codes. For example, the committee learned that at both 10033 and 10034 zip codes exists the largest concentrations of **active on-premise licenses** (32% and 34%), and **active on-premise liquor licenses** (34% and 33%). The distinction between these two licenses is that: *on premise licenses* include restaurant, and liquor club, and *liquor licenses* are specific licenses for nighttime establishments to sell anything including liquor. All wholesale license outlets and also pending wholesale licenses are located in the 10034 zip code. Three of them are (3) established license outlets, and two are (2) pending license outlets within the same zip code location.

- The Committee also learned that 2/3 of all on premise licenses, 74% of all pending on premise licenses are at the 34th precinct, which led to the question whether or not the precinct has resources to keep up with this expansion. A close answer to this question was that the police are not responding; the only response is to quality of life. It was also stated that warehouse expansion in 10034 zones deserves close attention from the community.

➤ **Underage Drinking Survey Snapshot**

- So far 270 youths and adults between the ages of 21 to 40 responded to the investigation. More than 50% of the respondents either completed High School or have achieved lower education. It was also found that 71% of this population believes that young people start alcohol consumption from the age of 11 to 18, while 73% also believe that to obtain alcohol in this community is relatively easy for young people; and a higher percent (86) acknowledged that underage drinking is a problem in the community.
- In his conclusion, Mr. Ortiz encouraged participants to feel free to take initiative by joining UNIDOS’s community effort to address the underage drinking problem in the community.

❖ **Mr. Jacob Morris – “Upheaval at the New York Public Library.”**

- Chair Florimon introduced Mr. Jacob Morris who asked to be allowed to present an article titled: “Upheaval at the New York Public Library.” The article is about the possible closure of two downtown branches of the New York Public Library system, and a new, costly construction-“The centerpiece of the CLP”. In virtue of this situation, Mr. Morris wanted to share this information with the hope that the CB and City Council Representatives adopt the passing of a resolution as they have jurisdiction over the city budget.

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- Although Mr. Morris was not officially in the Agenda of the meeting, Chair Florimon allowed Mr. Morris the opportunity to speak for 10 minutes to convey his message. Because of the short time left to conclude the meeting and many of the participants were not familiar with the article, Chair Florimon asked Mr. Morris to provide the participants with a brief and concise summary of the topic. However, he rejected the suggestion and did not allow the Chair to finish her point. In response of his reluctance manner, the Chair told Mr. Morris that she just wanted to be helpful by providing a short and concise suggestion that will work for him and the rest of the participants as well. However, Mr. Morris proceeded his way with his presentation.

➤ **Jacob Morris: Explanation of the Subject**

- In the beginning of his presentation Mr. Morris asked participants to turn Page 2 of the article because he wanted people to see the bolded paragraph that contained information about the initial point he wanted to address. The Central Library Plan (CLP) was “mind boggling” a term used by Mr. Morris referring to the sale of **250-350** million dollars for the sale operation of two major branches, the Research for Science, and Industries, and the Mid-Manhatta. Both are located on 5th Avenue, an entire building on 40th street, and the lone building on 34th street.
- Within the same argument, Mr. Morris added that the Board of Directors voted in favor of this plan (sales plan) two weeks ago and there will be 150 million dollars in taxpayer’s money that will appear in the budget. He also stated that a 40 million dollar plan for upper Manhattan was not going to open and that all the money was going towards ripping the guts out of the 42nd Street Research Library; and then restated that “the famous one of the greatest research libraries in the whole world was going to get it’s heart ripped out of it.”
- He believes that both branches are in need of money and they are not getting any money under this plan. He also said that the proposed plan is huge and will have profound implications, and will impact Northern Manhattan due to the cancellation of the 40 million dollar plan. For example, he stated that under the new plan 2 million of their books will be stored outside of New York City posing an inconvenience for those in the area of research, who come to the city to access millions of rare books on 42nd Street –the main branch people will not be able to access those books. On the proposed changes, those interested in using these books will have to wait.

➤ **Jacob Morris’ request:**

As a concerned citizen and advocate referring to himself, Mr. Morris asked that:

- CB and City Council Representatives demand passing a resolution as they have jurisdiction over the city’s budget.
- A public hearing, asking why no money at all is being allocated to the branches.

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- To craft a resolution (during the meeting) to be presented to the full Board for a vote demanding city council hearing on the 150 million dollars as delineated in this article.
- In response to Mr. Morris' request Chair Florimon stated that she was not sure that his request will be granted at that meeting. She added the Committee is not about an "I" statement, but a "We" statement and for the same reason additional discussions among Committee Members were necessary before any decision may be considered in regards to his request. Chair Florimon immediately preceded by asking Members of the Committee to state whether they were in favor or not in favor of Mr. Morris' request. The Committee's response was by a unanimous consent. The Committee felt that additional update information on the subject was needed before any resolution was considered.
- Questions and answers were part of the dialogue between the committee, general public and the presenter. However, not all of the questions asked and suggestions made to the presenter by members of the committee were in agreement with him (Mr. Morris), which led to disagreements, constant interruptions, and arguments. Ms. Florimon tried to exercise control of the meeting, but interruptions persisted. Chair thanked Mr. Morris and moved the discussion to the next phase.

❖ New Business Announcement

- Ms. Florimon reported that the Y&E Committee's meeting on Saturday, March 3rd was great and thought the attendance was successful (40+ participants). The attendance of that meeting was passed around among Members of the Committee. Students from John Jay College, MS 319, Greorio Luperon H.S, Teachers, one school Principal, and CB9's Member were some the participants in the event.
 - Chair also reported on the next possible event on April 7th, but the space is still pending. Chair suggested that further planning discussion including guest speakers, venue, and logistics were necessary and encouraged Members' participation.
- ❖ Chair Florimon thanked everyone for taking the time to come to the meeting and encouraged their participation in future meetings, the first Monday and first Saturday of each month and if they have any questions to call the Board.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:56pm

Please note an audio recording of this meeting can be accessed through the Board's office.

Thank You!

Youth and Education Committee Monday, April 2, 2012

Location: 701 West 168th Street Room 312 A

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Manny De Los Santos, Maria Luna, Angelo Ortiz, Gabriela Rosa, Alyce Smith, Rayblin Vargas

Committee Members Excused: None
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Committee Members Absent:

Guest: Ms. Lorena Jimenez-Castro, Government Affairs Liaison for The Children's Aid Society
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Community Members: Al Kurland, Roberto Dela Rosa, Phil Zablocki
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Meeting started at 7:20pm

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked those present to introduce themselves starting with members of the committee.

❖ **Ms. Lorena Jimenez** was introduced by Chair Florimon as the Government Affairs Liaison for The Children's Aid Society. Ms. Jimenez came to the meeting to present a resolution on behalf of "Campaign for Children" with the hope to obtain the Committee's support.

- According to Mrs. Jimenez the Mayor's threat to budget cuts will put 47,000 children at risk of losing important services referring to child care and after-school programs. This is the fifth straight year of budget cut with no indication of near improvement. There are only 19 Out of School Time (OST) programs and 8 child care programs in the jurisdiction of CB12M, which is still not sufficient to serve the large population of early childhood, elementary and intermediate schools students with yearly programming. With this budget cut proposal out of these 19 OST programs, 13 are facing the unnecessary risk of disappearing. These programs employ a significant number of individuals (over 250) mostly young adults who are college students.

- Presenter urged elected officials to support these programs and also asked the Youth and Education Committee to recognize the advocacy of "Campaign for Children" initiative, and presented a resolution that calls for the prevention of budget cut against child care and after school programs. Ms. Jiménez argued that these are vital programs for the community, in particular, for low income families who are most vulnerable in this matter. She believes that these programs can help students and parents in many ways including:
 - Help students to do better in school

- Increase the possibility of students graduation
 - Reduce violence and drug-use
 - Reduce teen pregnancy
 - Allow working parents to keep their jobs
- Presenter also spoke about her personal experience as a student at Salome Urefña School where she benefited from the OST program. She added that thanks to this opportunity, today (six years later), she has a job with Children Aid Society (CAS). While listen attentively some Members of the Committee questioned the initiative.
- Ms. Maria Luna asked: Where the 47,000 number came from? Presenter reply that in 2009 OST served 85,000 kinds, (which was the highest peak) and the current report shows that about half of 47,000 children were served. She added that CAS knows that over 200 programs citywide will be closed, but do not know which neighborhood will be impacted the most until the list of awardees comes. However, some of the participants stated that out of the actual 13 programs, there is a possibility that only five programs may survive the cut.
- Member Luna also asked if this proposed resolution has been proposed by other Community Boards; what is the possibility of CB12M crafting its own resolution addressing the needs and negative outcome, and how many programs will be cut our community? She added that this situation may represent a crisis, which may not necessarily
- Community member Mr. Al Kurland stated that the proposed resolution was a citywide effort, meaning that to craft a new resolution may not be possible. Ms. Jimenez did not have the exact number of programs providers in the community, neither how many potentially will be closed. But offered to email the information on the following day.
- Member of the committee and he public including Ms. Vargas, Mr. Ortiz, and Mr. Kurland suggested that three additional (WHEREASES paragraph) be incorporated in the proposed resolution acknowledging the fact that these programs are potential job creators for the community.
- Chair Florimon called members to vote on the proposed resolution, which was anonymous passed.
- ❖ **Under the New Business segment**, Chair introduced Mr. Joe Rogers, Co- Chair of the Youth and Education Library at CB9M. Mr. Rogers came to encourage participants to attend CB9M's Expo to be held at Riverbank location from 9:00a.m to 1:00p.m. This event was first launched on April 2012 with several purposes including promoting and developing partnership opportunities and mutual collaboration among Community Boards; providing summer job and internship opportunities for young people; learning

about different services available at other CBs, from which youth can benefit as well. Mr. Rogers stated that this was effort he hopes will bear its fruits for the community well-being. He also invited participants to part in a series of educational films facilitated at the Church of the Hill on West 159 Street and Amsterdam. One of the films will be about the topic of parents and community encouragement organizing around education. Mr. Rogers also made himself available by providing his contact information to those interested in attending in any of these events.

- Chair reported that Y&EC's Saturday April 7th event has been canceled due to religious observation. She also announced that on May 5th the Committee will held HS dropout event at Isabella Geriatric Center.

❖ **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm by Chair Fe Florimon. The next meeting will be at 7:00p.m. On May 7th, 2012 at 711 West 168 Street (Haven Ave entrance), New York NY 10032.

Youth and Education Committee Monday, May 7, 2012

Location: 711 West 168th Street New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Manny De Los Santos; Maria Luna; Gabriela Rosa; Rayblin Vargas

Committee Members Excused: Angelo Ortiz; Alyce Smith

Committee Members Absent:

Guest: Ms. Rachel H. Spurrier, Project Manager for the World Science Festival; Mark House,

Community Members: Al Kurlan; Roberto Dela Rosa; Debbie Cardona; Joe Rogers; Ramon Toribio; Phil Zablocki

Meeting started at 7:15pm

Chair Florimon welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked those present to introduce themselves starting with members of the committee.

- ❖ Chair Florimon introduced **Ms. Rachel H. Spurrier**, Project Manager for the World Science Festival. Ms. Spurrier came to the meeting to introduce "*Icarus at the Edge of Time*" a new educational program for the community. To acquaint participants with the initiative, the presenter distributed some literatures containing an overview summary of the new program.
- The program was described as a multi-media performance about a little boy who travels to the edge of a black hole. The program will also be performed with a full orchestra, film and narrator, and will be held at the United Palace in Washington Heights on May 30th at 7pm.
- Ms. Spurrier stated that part of the program initiative was to outreach the community with the hope that teachers and students get involved in this important program. She encouraged the committee to share the program with community partners, especially organizations in the area of education like NYC Middle school and High School science teachers and their classes. She added that two weeks prior to the event the World Science Festival will be offering a special master class for Teachers. The class is intended to help teachers and their students to be prepared to engage for the performance experience. She also invited members of the committee to attend the event and the general public.
- ❖ Chair Florimon also introduced **Mr. Mark House**, School Principal for the Community Health Academy of the Heights (CHAH). Mr. House came to present a resolution that seeks to promote healthy-food initiative for the community. The project initiative is a collaborative effort between the Community Health Academy of the Heights (CHAH) and the Community League of the Heights (CLOTH), which is under the leadership of the Executive Director Yvonne Stennett.
- The initiative was titled: "Resolution in support of the 'Healthy Food, Healthy Community' School –Food Program starting at Community Health Academy of the Heights in September

2013.” According to Mr. House this resolution was recently (mid- April) passed by the Youth, Education & Libraries Committee meeting at the CB9M and hope the Y&EC of the CB12M also supports the resolution.

- The initiative seeks to develop a model that will incorporate food services into the educational and community life of the school by adopting the following strategies:
 - “Giving students an understanding of where their food comes from and how it arrives at the table
 - Giving students access to less-processed, fresher foods prepared onsite in the school’s kitchen, and
 - Giving students and community members the ability to use the kitchen for educational purposes after school hours,”
- The CHAH’s program is also projecting to allow their model to be replicated by other schools in the near vicinity – Washington Heights and West Harlem. In support of this project, Chair Florimon stated this initiative was relevant to the Health and Environment Committee (H&EC) and that recommendation of this initiative was made to that committee. On Thursday June 7th Mr. House will be presenting the “Healthy Food, Healthy Community” resolution in the H&EC’s meeting.
- Following Mr. House’s presentation the Chair called for voting procedures on the resolution. Committee Members (CM) were invited to vote first, then Public Members (PM) and last Members of the Community (MC). The Committee unanimously passed the “Healthy Food, Healthy Community” resolution in the following manner.

	In Favor	Against	Abstaining
CM	6	0	0
PM	2	0	0
MC	6	0	0

- ❖ Under New Business.
 - Chair provided a report of the recent outcome on Y&EC’s Saturday meeting.
 - She stated the meeting was composed of two panels. The first panel was composed of professionals and leaders in the field of education and the second panel was composed of students from John Jay College. The first panel successfully discussed the presented topic of “Achieving the ‘American Dream’ One Child at a Time Overcoming High School Drop Out.” For further elaboration the Chair asked Mr. Al Kurland, who presented at the meeting, to provide his view about the meeting. Mr. Kurland restated that the meeting was indeed a success and spoke highly of the overall Committee’s initiative.
- ❖ Chair thanked everyone again and encourage their continue participation.
- ❖ **Meeting ended at 9:17pm**

Youth and Education Committee

Monday, June 4, 2012

Location: 711 West 168th Street (Back Room) New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair, Maria Luna; Alyce Smith; Rayblin Vargas
Committee Members Absent: Manny De Los Santos; Angelo Ortiz
Committee Members Excused: Gabriela Rosa
CB12 Members: Christopher Smith, Dulce Bueno –New Members
Guest: Mr. Jacob Morris
Community Member: Roberto De la Rosa

Called to order at 7:15pm

Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked those present to introduce themselves starting with members of the committee.

- ❖ **Mr. Jacob Morris** – “Upheaval at the New York Public Library.”_ *Evaluation of the Implied Capital Budget Priorities / Central vs. Branch*
- Mr. Jacob Morris was introduced by the Chair and presented the continuation of the article titled: “Upheaval at the New York Public Library.” The presenter discussed some of the changes facing the New York Public Library, in particular, the mid-town branches. He proposed the committee to adopt a resolution in support of the postponement of the Public Library Central Plan (CLP)-pending a full evaluation in an open hearing.
- Presenter stated that in three weeks the City Council will be voting on this issue and unlike other states, like South Carolina, the Public Library System in New York City has never conducted any economic impact and suggested that the City Council should get involved in this matter.
- The reconstruction cost of the CLP and lack of Public Hearing on this matter are some of the major concerns in the community. The projected cost of the CLP reconstruction would be \$350 million and \$150 million would be taxpayer monies drawn from the City Budget. The City Council of New York should encourage the initiative of public hearings that will allow communities full participation and it should also speak with transparency about the CPL’s process.
- Chair asked all participants including members of the committee for their feedback on the subject. Committee Member (CM) **Rayblin Vargas** supported the prior comments and added that businesses in particular may also benefit from the NYPL in many ways. For example, during business plan, a business may need demographic information and search for other free and important databases that only can be found in the mid-town public libraries and these are the biggest branches with the best available resources.
- Christopher Smith, a new member, stated that more than an economic impact, a functional analysis is what needs to be considered for the CLP. **Dulce Bueno**, also a new member, agreed that a public hearing should be conducted to bring more transparency to the process and discourage the idea of closed-door meetings. **Roberto De La Rosa**, community resident and activist, stated that even though the community is not losing any library branches, the need to keep them open and provide for their financial needs is important. He also said that the community needs to make sure that the branches properly fix and/or implement what they (library branch) promise to do once the financial resources are provided.

- The voting procedure for the proposed resolution was not possible at this time because of the lack of quorum. Out of seven committee members, only four were present and one of them (**Marial Luna**) cannot vote on this issue due to conflict of interest. The Chair suggested that this matter be reconsidered and presented to the Executive Committee on the following week (June 12th) to get their input before any further execution. **Chair Florimon** also stated that she will try to call for an emergency meeting to vote on this resolution, but cannot guarantee the execution before the general meeting. Mr. Morris accepted the Chair's decision and expressed his gratitude to the Committee for allowing and considering his presentation. As he was leaving the meeting room, the Chair proceeded with next item on the agenda.
- ❖ Chair brought a new matter for discussion and consideration of the committee at the request of **Ms. Tara Notrica**, who was recommended by board member **Edith Prentiss**.
- The new matter brought for discussion was about the NYS bill A4760/S595, which has been sitting on the NYS Assembly since 2008 without success. According to the documents submitted to the committee and explained by the Chair, the bill previously mentioned seeks to allow school districts the discretion to provide transportation to able bodied children of parents with disabilities who do not otherwise qualify. These documents also indicated that many letters and other form of requests have been sent to/by public officials including members of Congress, legislators, and leaders from diverse organizations all in support of this bill. After an ample discussion the committee decided to support the cause of the bill and all committee members present voted in favor with the following results.

	In Favor	Against	Abstaining
CM	4	0	0
PM	1	0	0
BM	1	0	1 (could not vote)

- ❖ Under New Business.
- Chair provided a report of the recent outcome on Y&EC's Saturday meeting.
- She stated the meeting involving student panels consisted of eleven students all from different universities and one student from High School. A video was also provided showing different segments of the meeting from the beginning of Dec 2011 to June 2012 including the guests who participated. Chair also stated that a written summary of the meeting will be provided.
- ❖ Chair thanked everyone again and encourage their continue participation.
- ❖ **Meeting ended at 9:15pm**