

**Community Board 12, Manhattan  
General Meeting**

**Isabella Geriatric Center  
515 Audubon Avenue  
January 22, 2019 - 6:30 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Richard Allman; Francisco Alvarez; Mary Anderson; Glennis Aquino; James Berlin; Tanya Bonner; Eleazar Bueno; Daryl Cochrane; Robin Cruz; Waldys Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Katherine Diaz; Domingo Estevez; Gabriela Estrella; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Bianca Guerrero; Fern Hertzberg; Danielle Jettoo; Elizabeth Lehmann; Richard R. Lewis; Matthew Levy; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Maria Luna; Nicholas Martinez; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Ayisha Ogilvie; Mary O’Shaughnessy; Bruce Robertson; Edgar Roman; Steve Simon; Christopher Ventura; Curtis Young

**Board Members Absent:** Yosef Kalinsky; Osi Kaminer; Francisco Lopez; Noquel Matos;

**Board Members Absent - Excused:** Wayne Benjamin; Naysha Diaz; Jay Mazur; Karen Taylor;

**Staff:** Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia; Ely Silvestre

**Call To Order:** Chair Richard Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm. He welcomes everyone. Quorum is attained. Agenda is adopted. Last month’s minutes adopted.

**Chairman’s Report:** Richard Lewis’ report covered the following topics:

- The Chair proposes to work on the following initiatives:
  - Full ADA/Mobility Compliance at the 168th Subway Station.
  - Further business development at the 168th Street A/C Mezzanine, modeled after the Columbus Circle subway station.
  - Increased community engagement with our community board.
  - Reorganizing the Office to better serve the community.
- He discussed events that he participated in over the last month, including a discussion of the potential danger to various city services and the MTA if the federal government shutdown continues.
- Participants at Committee meetings will be asked to fill out surveys at the end of each meeting.

**District Manager’s Report:** Ebenezer Smith’s report covered the following topics:

- La Marina – The DM has been in contact with the SLA regarding a planned disciplinary hearing for La Marina.
- HPD Playground cleanup at 543 West 156 Street. The DM is keeping an eye on this issue.
- Success Academy Ft. Washington Ave street congestion at drop off and pick up times. The DM has surveyed this location a number of times over the last few weeks to gain a better understanding of the situation that residents are complaining about.
- Street Co-naming’s for former CB12 members Obie Bing and Pam North, who passed away in 2018. Work is being done to schedule these 2 events in the next month or so.
- The initiative to begin live streaming meetings in the large meeting room is moving forward slowly because of the slow pace of equipment installation.

**Public Speakers Session:**

**Liz Ritter** – She notes the upcoming Hebrew Tabernacle Mitzvah Day, a day of community service.

**Julia Symborski** – Allen Psychiatric Unit Closing. Updates:

- NY Presbyterian planned to close the unit in June 2018. They have pushed back the date to this coming June.

- There are currently 26 beds in use.
- She discusses the campaign to preserve these beds, and encourages everyone to get involved.

**Anthony Ciampa** – President, NY State Nurses Association. NY Presbyterian contract negotiations are underway – he makes the point that nurses are taking on way too many patients. The nurses and the Union are fighting for safe patient ratios and to keep the Allen Pavilion open for care.

**Paul Hintersteiner** – M3, M100, and BX7 Bus service does not stop at 168 Street while the 1 train station reconstruction continues. This must be changed so that people can get to the hospital and the emergency room.

**Albert Aquino** – The Armory Foundation. He gives us updates on the Armory children’s programs, and lets people know how to get involved in this programming.

**Jada Lewis** – Growth and Development Services (GDS) eviction (Resolution G). She is advocating for the continued existence of GDS and its programs. There are only 10 days left to fight for GDS’ life.

**Steve Fermin** – GDS eviction. He also advocates for GDS and its programs. GDS provides a space for the community. Please reinstate the GDS license to use the Armory.

**Ethan Jefferson** – GDS eviction. He provides further advocacy for the continuation of GDS programs.

**Lenishemarie Lopez** – GDS eviction. An alumna and community liaison for GDS, she discusses the high quality of GDS programs, and asks everyone to support GDS.

**Phil Zablocki** - GDS eviction. A strong supporter of GDS, he states that the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) has not offered a reason for the eviction of GDS, and did not appear at the most recent CB12 Housing Committee meeting to which they were invited.

**Philip Santora** – Director of Community Relations for New York Road Runners. Discusses and publicizes the annual Washington Heights 5k race planned for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He details the many logistics needing to be attended to in order to pull the race off professionally.

**Sandi Galawanji** – GDS eviction. Defined herself as a neighborhood parent. She states that GDS is a wonderful program, especially for children at risk. Please stop the eviction. It makes no sense.

**Deborah Cardona** - GDS eviction. A long-time resident of the area, she loves the GDS programs that takes care of the kids that no one else takes care of. Please protect GDS.

**Gary Altheim** - GDS eviction. Dr. Altheim is the founder of GDS. He wanted to show a video, but did not have the opportunity due to the length of video. (Part of the video was later shown during the discussion of the resolution).The video is available at [excel.gds.com](http://excel.gds.com). After 16 years of great programming, DHS has provided no explanation for this eviction, nor for the brief 30 day notice prior to being evicted. He then tells the assembled that the Armory Foundation has tried to evict GDS 3 times. Dr. Altheim expressed emotion in discussing the eviction. He summed up by asking that the license be restored.

**Josue Perez** – GDS eviction. He extolled the many virtues of GDS programming, and emphasized how the programs have impacted so many people’s lives. He maintains that the community cannot afford to lose GDS and its programming.

**Kevin Acevedo** – GDS eviction. He is a board member of GDS. He speaks about Dr. Altheim’s excellent qualities. 92% of GDS participants have graduated High School, far higher than the average at our local high schools.

**Coach Dave Crenshaw** – Coach reaches out to the young people who spoke tonight about GDS and tells them they have to continue the fight to preserve GDS. He mentions the high quality of the programs that GDS runs. He works with GDS because they make sure that our neighborhood is not left out.

**Charlie Gomez** – Anne Loftus planned basketball court. He supports the plan for a basketball court at Anne Loftus playground. He maintains that basketball enriches kids' lives.

**Sandra Harris** – Columbia University Medical Center. She lists future events and discusses CUMC grant opportunities for small neighborhood community groups with worthy projects.

**Sara Fisher** – Representing Friends of Inwood Hill Park and the Washington Heights Food Council. She lists future events. She notes that 604 trees were mulched at Day 1 of Mulchfest. There was also 1 fake tree that was recycled. Not bad!

---

**Government Officials:**

**Rosie Mendez, Community Liaison to the Borough President**

- The Borough President wrote a letter to DHS asking to give GDS more time in their current space in the Armory. 30 days is not enough time to successfully move the programming that GDS provides to an alternate location.
- She reminds everyone to get community board applications filled out and delivered to the Borough President's office, whether online or by mail.
- The BP's office is interested in recruiting new community board members.
- BP Capital Grant applications are due from non-profit groups.
- The BP's office is working on improving transportation alternatives for people who rely on the 168 Street 1 train station, which was closed in January for 12 months of rehabilitation.

**Chris Nickell – State Senator Robert Jackson's office.**

- After having taken office this month, the State Senator's offices are being set up now.
- He supports more time for GDS to sort out its future before being evicted from the Armory.
- The Senator is a strong supporter of the voting reforms passed in the Senate, as well as the GENDA legislation. He is very proud of the many other progressive bills being discussed and acted on in Albany.
- You can reach Chris Nickell at [Chris@senatorjackson.com](mailto:Chris@senatorjackson.com)

**Laurie Tobias Cohen, Community Liaison in Congressman Adriano Espaillat's office**

- She provided a brief review of the Congressman's current legislative efforts.

**Orlando Orales, Office of NYS Assembly member Carmen de la Rosa**

- He provided an overview of the progressive legislation passed in the Assembly since the start of the session, with an emphasis on the voting rights improvements.

**Manuel Belliard, Councilman Mark Levine**

- He talked about an emergency food pantry run out of the Councilman's office, and asked for volunteers.

**Comptroller Scott Stringer**

- The Comptroller begins his remarks by commending the street co-naming's for former CB12 long-time members Pamela Palanque North and Obie Bing.
- The Comptroller has released a white paper outlining a new and effective affordable housing creation plan. He states that there is a lack of affordable housing in the 5 boroughs. One of the reasons for this deficit is that current affordable housing plans are not creating truly affordable housing. Looking to the past for models, truly

affordable housing can be built in New York City. It's time to build 185,000 units for 580,000 truly at risk residents. Create a housing fund. To pay for it, he suggests an increase in the Real Property Transfer Tax from 4% to 8% for sales over certain amounts. With the new Democratic control of the State Senate this initiative can really happen.

- The Comptroller tells us that City finances are in good shape. "We have lots of money". Now is the time to solve intractable city problems, like affordable housing.
- The Comptroller takes questions.
- Sally Fisher asks about what can be done about preserving mental health beds uptown. The Comptroller will have his staff follow up with Ms. Fisher.
- He mentions that over 400,000 units renting below \$1000 per month have been lost in the last 14 years in NYC.
- Steve Simon mentions the 5 1 train subway stations to undergo elevator replacements over the next 5 years. He asks whether there is another way that will not inconvenience people for such a long period of time.
- **Maria De La Cruz**, local liaison for the Comptroller's office, talks about the Comptroller's internship program for college students.

.....

**Special Presentation** – Opioid Overdose Prevention training - Kellie Bryant, assistant professor and executive director of the Helene Fuld Health Trust Simulation Center at Columbia University School of Nursing speaks:

- Why is the crisis happening now? One important reason is that pharmaceutical companies have maintained that opioid pain killers are not addictive.
- Washington Heights has a high rate of opioid overdose – 22 per 100,000 residents. This is only half the rate of the worst neighborhoods in NYC, but still much too high.
- She addressed how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose and how to respond if involved with a patient, friend, or family member who has overdosed. Proper use of naloxone (Narcan), which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and prevent it from becoming fatal, was also addressed.
- All present were offered an opioid overdose emergency kit which included two doses of naloxone, instructions on how to use the medication, and a certificate of training completion card.
- "Our goal is to provide naloxone training and distribute naloxone to as many people as possible with the hopes that one of these kits will help save a life," said Bryant.
- According to Bryant, naloxone is a medication used to reverse overdoses caused by heroin, prescription pain medications (such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine), and other opioids.
- Bryant said to always call 911 when you see someone overdosing.
- In New York State, pharmacies hand out Narcan kits without a prescription, and, often, at no charge. If they do charge a fee, a refund of up to \$40 will be provided by the State.
- A question and answer period ensues.
- Paperwork is filled out by many of the present to enable receiving a Narcan kit.

.....

**Committee Reports: - refer to minutes unless otherwise noted**

**Youth and Education** –Fe Florimon did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead she recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Land Use** – All present were referred to the committee minutes for details.

**Parks & Cultural Affairs** –Chair Liz Ritter did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead she recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Traffic & Transportation**, Chair Debbie Nabavian did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead she recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Public Safety:** Chair Richard Lewis did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead he recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Health & Environment:** Chair Steve Simon briefly discussed the work of the Committee this past month, and recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for further details.

**Concerns of the Aging:** Chair Mary Anderson did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead she recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Business Development:** Chair Eleazar Bueno did not discuss the work of the Committee this past month. Instead he recommended that we refer to the committee minutes for details.

**Housing & Human Services:** –Chair Ayisha Ogilvie discussed the following in review of the work of the Committee this past month:

- Refer to the committee minutes for details.

~~~~~

**Resolution Reports:**

**Resolution A** - Resolution regarding the Closures at Five Subway Stations in Washington Heights in Connection with Elevator Replacements Projects.

Traffic & Transportation: Debbie Nabavian, Chair, begins the discussion:

- The resolution looks to mitigate the pain of 5 years of elevator repairs by convening a committee to review alternatives.

**Resolution B** - Resolution in support of sustainable Financing of MTA Transit Plan.

Traffic & Transportation: Debbie Nabavian, Chair, begins the discussion:

- The MTA’s Fast Forward plan to renovate the subways will cost \$35-39 Billion over 10 years.
- Sources of these funds have not yet been defined.
- Part of the plan will include Congestion Pricing below 60 street.
- There is concern about the disproportionate impact of congestion pricing on poorer residents. This was disputed by others.
- The Resolution maintains that past borrowing for capital projects has led to many fare increases. A fully paid for plan will put less pressure for future fare increases.
- A motion was brought up to table this resolution. There was a vote. 14 Yes. 20 No. 3 non-votes for conflict, 2 Abstentions. The resolution will be voted on.

**Resolution C** - Resolution supporting the Schematic Renovation Plan for Fort Tryon Park’s Anne Loftus Playground.

Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee– Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, begins the discussion:

- Anne Loftus was District Manager of Community Board 12.
- Daryl Cochrane would like to amend the resolution to include a special needs playground instead of the basketball court. Steve Simon suggests that this amendment be withdrawn because the Msgr Kett playground on 204 Street and 10 Avenue will be renovated with a budget of \$14 million, and the special needs playground could be added there. There is discussion on both sides of this issue from a good number of board members. There was a vote to add an amendment to the resolution to make a priority of adding a special needs playground in the neighborhood, perhaps at Msgr Kett. 27 Yes. 9 No. 1 non-vote. 1 abstention.
- Danielle Jettoo suggested that the hours of the location be extended to offer access to the renovated space like a park and not a playground. Ms. Ritter accepts this as a friendly amendment.

**Resolution D** - Resolution in support of the plan for Con Edison’s Sherman Creek Service Center.

Land Use Committee– Wayne Benjamin, Chair, begins the discussion:

- Part of a commitment by Con Ed to consolidate operations.
- Will ultimately free up space for housing when all of the consolidation steps are complete.

**Resolution E** - Resolution in support of the WH Corner Project and calling on the MTA to install Sharps containers in Subway station bathrooms.

Health and Environment Committee– Steve Simon, Chair, begins the discussion:

- The Corner project needs a permanent location, and would like to add sharps containers to subway bathrooms, which will be staffed by the Corner Project.

**Resolution F** - Resolution in recommendation for Ellen Fine, Business Owner of Historic Newsstand at W. 168th Street and Broadway, for 70 Years of Service to The Washington Heights Community.

Business Development Committee– Eleazar Bueno, Chair, begins the discussion:

- Tonya Bonner provides historic perspective on these kiosks.

**Resolution G** – Resolution in support of issuing a stay of eviction of Growth and Development Services Community Based organization occupying space at the Fort Washington Armory.

Housing & Human Services Committee– Ayisha Oglivie, Chair, begins the discussion:

- A video is shown during which GDS is lauded.

**Licensing Committee Resolutions**

Chair Isidro Medina opened the discussion. Highlights of the discussion follow:

- Refer to the minutes.
- All renewals. No new licenses.

**Voting on the Resolutions:**

| <u>Item #</u> | <u>Resolutions</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <u>Voting:<br/>Y-N-Abst-<br/>Absent-NV</u> | <u>Result</u>          |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A             | Resolution regarding the Closures at Five Subway Stations in Washington Heights in Connection with Elevator Replacements Projects.                                                                                                                                    | 34-2-3-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| B             | Resolution in support of sustainable Financing of MTA Transit Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 17-14-5-0-3                                | <b>Failed</b>          |
| C             | Resolution supporting the Schematic Renovation Plan for Fort Tryon Park’s Anne Loftus Playground                                                                                                                                                                      | 36-1-1-0-1                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| D             | Resolution in support of the plan for Con Edison’s Sherman Creek Service Center.                                                                                                                                                                                      | 38-0-1-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| E             | Resolution in support of the WH Corner Project and calling on the MTA to install Sharps containers in Subway station bathrooms.                                                                                                                                       | 37-0-2-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| F             | Resolution in recommendation for Ellen Fine, Business Owner of Historic Newsstand at W. 168th Street and Broadway, for 70 Years of Service to The Washington Heights Community.                                                                                       | 38-0-0-0-1                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| G             | Resolution in support of issuing a stay of eviction of Growth and Development Services Community Based organization occupying space at the Fort Washington Armory.                                                                                                    | 37-0-2-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| 1             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Punto de Sabor Inc. – 1464 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W. 183 <sup>rd</sup> & 184 <sup>th</sup> Streets)                                                                            | 37-1-1-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| 2             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: La Nueva Potencia Corp. dba Zoe Restaurant & Bar Lounge – 1559 St. Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 188 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                     | 37-1-1-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| 3             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Empire Szechuan Noodle House Inc. – 4041- 49 Broadway (at the corner of W. 170 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                                                  | 37-1-1-0-0                                 | <b>Passed</b>          |
| 4             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Corporate Change of its License to: Restaurante La Libertad Corp dba El Patio Mexicano Restaurant – 3764 Broadway (btw w. 156 <sup>th</sup> & W. 157 <sup>th</sup> Streets)<br><b>Change of Principal &amp; DBA – Withdrawn</b> |                                            | <b>With-<br/>drawn</b> |
| 5             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Class Change of its License to:                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                            | <b>With-<br/>drawn</b> |

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |            |               |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
|   | Restaurante La Libertad Corp dba El Patio Mexicano Restaurant – 3764 Broadway (btw w. 156th & W. 157th Streets)<br><b>Changing Class from Restaurant Wine to On-Premises Liquor License - Withdrawn</b> |            |               |
| 6 | Resolution of No Objection to the NYC TLC Location Change of Livery Car Base License to: R.C Audubon Car Service Inc. – 2224 Amsterdam Avenue (btw 170 <sup>th</sup> St. & 171 <sup>st</sup> )          | 38-0-1-0-0 | <b>Passed</b> |

***Motion to Adjourn- passed and seconded at 10:35 pm.***

**Respectfully submitted:** Mitchell Glenn, Secretary  
Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann, Assistant Secretary  
January 22, 2019