

Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting
May 26, 2020 / Online via Zoom

Board Members Present: Marielle Ali, Richard Allman, Mary Anderson, Glennis Aquino, Wayne Benjamin, Jim Berlin, Tanya Bonner, Eleazar Bueno, Daryl Cochrane, Nobles Crawford, Robin Cruz, Waldys Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Katherine Diaz, Domingo Estevez, Gabriela Estrella, Ashley Fernandez, Sally Fisher, Fe Florimón, Barbara Frazier, Mariela Graham, Danielle Jettoo, Leopoldo Jimenez, Yosef Kaminsky, Osi Kaminer, Betty Lehmann, Francisco Lopez, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Ariel Miranda, Debby Nabavian, Jonathan Nunez Frometa, Ayisha Oglivie, Rosy Perez, Paradise Phoenix, Christina Richiez, Bruce Robertson, Edda Santiago, Steve Simon, Omar Tejada, Angel Vasquez, Curtis Young. **Present, but left prior to roll call vote:** Naysha Diaz, Maria Luna, Cindy Matos, Chris Ventura. **Absent:** Francisco Alvarez, Juan Guzman, Mariam James. **Staff Present:** Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia.

6:36pm Call to Order: The Zoom call began at 6:30pm; the meeting was called to order with quorum. The Chair introduced new members, and thanked everyone for their attendance: “This is the purest form of democracy. We participate in a civil manner, though sometimes it can get a little rowdy. We appreciate what you bring to the table, and thank you on behalf of old and new members, and thank you for your service.”

6:41pm Agenda & Minutes: Eli made a motion (second by Curtis) to adopt the agenda; passed without objection. No minutes; will defer to June.

6:42pm Chair’s Report, Eleazar Bueno

- Office assistance w/community feeding efforts.
- Katherine listed some “rules of engagement,” in particular Roberts Rules; introduced Parliamentarian Jim Berlin, who explained further: one speaker at a time; we go by agenda; folks can speak for two minutes, including public session, which we are bringing back after having had difficulty accommodating that in the Zoom format; responses of one minute. We have a lengthy agenda and we ask people to be thoughtful with their time. Katherine explained that comments will be run by “stacks”; explained “raise hand” feature on Zoom; if you can’t find it, wave on screen which we will be monitoring as well. Also folks who wish to speak again will be deferred until all who want to speak to a particular issue have had the opportunity to do so. Liz Ritter offered some clarification as to how Zoom’s chat feature works.

6:48pm District Manager’s Report, Ebenezer Smith:

- Proud to report that during the month of May all of the committees met virtually, with full support of the leadership (Chair, Eleazar Bueno & 1st Vice Chair Katherine Diaz,) and IT Task Force Chair Jonathan Nuñez Frometa, as well as the staff, Paola Garcia & Shinelle Paniagua, and all of the Committee Chairs.
- I have been working to get more and better tools for the staff in order to continue these meetings going forward. It looks like we will be working virtually for a while. At first we were not prepared, but we are getting more so. We are also getting new hardware to help those who do not have adequate computers.
- Been working w/ many city agencies. I have participated in phone conversations w/ Congressman Espaillat and NYP & CU to expand mental health services in the district. And the Northern Manhattan Behavioral Board to make sure that mental healthcare is affordable for everyone. Mental healthcare isn’t available like primary care medical doctors, and in these days of COVID-19, every one of us is suffering some kind of mental stress, some more than other. We need to make sure that services are available to all who need it.
- Welcome to all of the new Board Members. This week you will receive an email w/ a few dates to have a welcome virtual meeting and also a training/orientation. Please respond at your earliest convenience.
- Finally to the Committee Chairs, please review the June calendar and make sure the date/time for your Committee meeting is correct and the agenda items are correct. I need any corrections by tomorrow as I plan to send it out on Thursday.

6:54pm **Public Session:** (20 names; I will give a 30-second warning; please respect the time.) We don't discuss, we can only ask clarifying question of fact (what is your phone number; please repeat your name, that sort of thing) or to offer a Point of Information (e.g., "the business in question is on the corner of xxxth St.")

- **Katherine O'Sullivan, Moving Forward Unidos:** Listened into the Licensing Committee meeting with misgivings and trepidation. I would like all CB members to oppose items 6/7/8 (Kasa Criolla, Jue Lan Kitchen, and Pregame Dyckman). We don't feel that these applicants presented well. It's not clear who owns what, what leases changed hands, what ownership changed hands, etc. Also would like to know when residents will have any say in sidewalk cafés on Dyckman St., which was raised in the last Executive Committee.
- **Natasha Arroyo:** asking vote NO to Kasa Criolla/Monarch Group (item #6). They said they're trying to do better by the community, however they did not post their 30-day notice, as required by law. We have pix from last Wednesday, and no OPL request was posted. In the past Mr. Medina has insisted the applicant come back when this was not done properly; why not this time when a place has so many issues. Second: LC agenda didn't go up until the day before. How is the community supposed to know? And third: the applicant is asking for a license when it's not clear who the actual applicant is. We had no notice, and no opportunity to participate. Curtis Young: is there a reason that we didn't receive the Licensing Committee minutes & resos? Eli: I have them, and it was sent 4 hours ago, at 1:22pm. Many members stated they didn't receive them, and asked that they be resent.
- **Shira Dubin:** also urging "no" on Kasa Criolla. There was no public notice. I didn't learn of the Committee meeting until after it happened. I also learned that there was a private party on New Year's Eve that the Police had to break up. In addition, it was highly inappropriate for the applicant's representative, Arelias Taveras, to have had a private conversation with the 34th Pct. when the Chair left the meeting. And the phone number listed for her is the number for Arka & Oyster Bar, which were managed by Junior Lantigua, the former owner. I don't know who owns Kasa Criolla and have no reason to believe that it's anyone other than Junior. There is violence and sexual harassment happening outside of the establishment. I don't trust that they are capable of operating with a liquor license.
- **Christina T.** <lastname unclear>: I live a block from Kasa Criolla, and I urge you to vote no. It is part of the WaHI group. Why is this a problem? Shira mentioned it. Their license was suspended by SLA 382 311 issues in a single year alone including assaults, larcenies, robberies, etc., and 18 arrests. There are 17 open matters, including 24 charges. They've shows blatant disregard for CB12M stipulations. The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior; the definition of insanity is doing same thing and expecting a different result. Please: get a different result by doing something different: vote NO.
- **Sandra Luckow:** like previous speakers, I am asking you to vote NO on item 6. It's the same organization as the previous licensee. They lost their license because they broke the law and completely ignored the NYPD and the community. For whatever incomprehensible reason the Licensing Committee approved the application. Kasa Criolla continued to have double parking even on the crosswalk, even the next day, despite the Committee having that as a stipulation. The Licensing Committee ignored protocol; there is something rotten in the state of that Committee. Also, workers aren't wearing PPE or following social distancing guidelines.
- **Stanton Nash:** Stated his growing concern regarding the Licensing Committee. The Monarch Group applicant didn't post a 30-Day Notice and this violation was pointed out by the Precinct and community members; this was ignored by the representative and Manager, and the Licensing Committee Chair. Also they had January event with liquor and no license. That's illegal. They continue to foster a relationship with the previous owner whose SLA license was revoked.
- **Angel Garcia, for Kasa Criolla:** Spoke in support of Kasa Criolla. I am aware of the concerns some of the community members have brought up in regards to the previous business. I am

concerned about bringing up my business. We put up a sign a couple of weeks ago. And just yesterday there was a car parked in front of our business not related to us, and there were 15 311 calls related to that double-parked car. First, I am not related in any way to or do anything similar with operations in the past. I had a conversation with Junior about how the business would be run. I am looking to bring in an environment that is safe and it has nothing to do with the business I am trying to run. I am looking for an opportunity to work with the community and show that we belong here.

- **Steven Love:** I live across the street from Kasa Criolla and also am a real estate broker. The building is one story, zoned C-2 with a commercial overlay. It is listed in a use group that allows restaurants and can play music, but does not allow cover charge night clubs. And that's what this establishment is going to be. They are going to advertise across the tri-state area, and charge \$40-50- to get in, and have DJs and live acts, and people are going to get drunks and sniff cocaine in the bathrooms and then they will spew out in the streets. This is a very poor decision if the Board approves this license. It is not permitted to have a nightclub in a residential neighborhood, as was the previous establishment in that location.
- **Yael Leopold:** Asking the Board to consider having the biz Kasa Criolla (item #6) prove their trustworthiness. They keep getting shut down and they keep getting reopened under "new" ownership. The trust is repeatedly broken. Prior to the previous restaurant's closing my kids were awakened every Thursday/Friday/Saturday midnight-5am. I have witnessed knives, gunfights, public drinking, under-aged drinking, cars throwing bottles, screaming, drag racing, etc., I have gone and seen women getting slapped around and their men laughing about it, and have seen Junior himself in these situations. Give them a year with no liquor license and no DJ. It's also suspicious that the Board magically did not get the minutes of the meeting.
- **Maggie Clarke:** Late at night, starting at 10pm and going until 3am or later we are getting a lot of drag racing, loud music, etc., it's really bad. We were spared this during the quarantine. The Precinct is doing nothing to stop it. Also, I object to public area being given to private business to operate their restaurants in the street. Third thing: I'm with the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) and we got the MBP to put together a press release to Mayor & the Governor to suggest that we have daily testing at sewage treatment plants for COVID as an early-warning system.
- **Martin Collins, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance** The Uptown ArtStroll is online! Join NoMAA & artist 5/28 Gary Grant, sponsored by the Juan Pablo Duarte Foundation for our first #StayHomeOpenStudios, weekly Thursday evening virtual exhibitions followed by Zoom artist chats to provide a forum for artists to share their work & engage in meaningful conversations. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nomaas-stayhomeopenstudios-with-wilhelmina-grant-tickets-102857054218?ref=eios>. See www.artstroll.com for more information! Tonight deadline for #InwoodStrong contest. Some other contest deadline 5/31. Lastly, newsletter came out this evening; many events. 200+ people. Join us!
- **Anthony Ferreria:** former business owner in WH. Member of Hillsong Church (hosted in United Palace). People are trying to turn over a new leaf. Being able to feed 40k food from my church, and now Kasa Criolla is also delivering food to hospitals and nursing homes. You guys are speaking about not granting a license and it will help them provide great customer service. If we don't give biz liquor licenses then they will not be able to survive. If we don't allow biz to give chances to your family members, give these operators a chance as well.
- **David Friend, Fort Tryon East Neighborhood Association:** Also encourage you to oppose Kasa Criolla (item #6). My organization represents residents just north of this business and anyone who knows this area knows that this has been an issue for years. It spills out into the north to Inwood and to the south into Washington Heights with drag racing and other impacts. It is clear that there are connections with the previous owners who were completely out of line while they were operating their business. The way it was handled by the Committee is a huge red flag. I also would like to talk about the drag racing and out-of-control motorcycle situation that has gotten worse during the Quarantine, especially on Dyckman St., Nagle Ave., & Ft. George Hill.

- **Keith Planet:** live on Hillside Ave. I am a neighborhood advocate that has gotten improvements in Ft. Tryon Park, the 34th Pct., the 10040 PO, etc. I am curious why Kasa Criolla is operating as a business if they aren't yet licensed. Angel has admitted to partnering with Junior, whose businesses have been shut down by the NYPD and the SLA. They make promises which are broken once open, and it's hard to shut a place down once it's open. Recited again the litany of issues already noted by previous speakers. I oppose this application and hope you will, too.

7:39pm Committee reports

Housing & Human Services Committee, Ariel Miranda, Chair: Presented two resolutions, one of which was passed through the Executive Committee as the matter arose after the Committee's May meeting. The first was a resolution urging the NYC Rent Guidelines Board to grant no rent increases for rent-regulated apartments for one- or two-year leases commencing October 1, 2020. RGB is meeting later in June. There have been many scheduling issues due to pandemic. Given that we weren't sure when new RGB guidelines would be posted, we wanted to make sure that we have a reso ready, hence doing it this month not waiting until next month. This reso is a continuation of much of the language from last year's reso, and builds with information from RGB itself, the Federal Reserve Bank, and other local agencies and institutions. Bottom line: no rent increases given the economic downturn in our community.

Discussion: Domingo Estevez offered some opinions on the Public testimony regarding another matter; Tanya Bonner and Liz Ritter objected stating the comments were out-of-order. Maria Luna: wondering about term limits for increases or no increases for leases. Some year 7.5% and the next year 7.5% which makes 15% for two years, which is huge, and hardly "controlled" A(Ariel): they tend to be focused on the utilities, even though they are large. This reso is in reference to the RGB. Maria: when would this start? Just the apartments up for review in October, but not retroactive? We need to focus on the people who cannot afford the rent increases. A: Ariel: we passed a reso at our previous meeting asking for rent relief, but this reso is focused specifically on the apartments coming up for review now.

7:47pm Resolution in support of establishing an Emergency Safety Net Fund for Refugees, Undocumented Individuals, and Detainees who may be released in our community without notice. Erroneous. That's for our June agenda. Remove from agenda; we are not voting on it this evening. Ayisha Oglivie: That reso is a year old, and should have been sent when it was passed in 2019. It's not on the Board website. It is missing as well as other items which should be up on our website. I asked the Assemblywoman, and that reso could have been useful during discussion on this matter in the NYS Legislature. A lot of work went into this reso at the time, a year ago.

Nobles took over.

7:50pm Public Safety Committee, Curtis Young, Chair: Gave updates on public safety issues, including an uptick in domestic violence complaints, as well as robberies, burglaries, and felonious assault; many break-ins due to businesses being closed. Many complaints from the 34th Pct.; unfortunately no one from the 34 has attended the Committee meetings, though participation from the 33 has been excellent. Also had a presentation last month from Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. (NMIC) regarding their programming; this is the basis of the resolution we are presenting this evening, in support of the continuation of Domestic Violence and other emergency program funding in the City's FY '21 Budget. There were clarifying questions from several Board members which did not result in substantive changes to the resolution. Wayne Benjamin wanted to make sure that the reso includes other organizations in addition to NMIC that might be affected by these cuts. Daryl Cochrane had a question regarding 34th Pct. participation, and clarification regarding the NYPD's policy on participation in Zoom meetings.

Curtis replied that the DM should reach out to the Precinct and other uniformed services to ensure that they all are represented at our Committee meetings. Ayisha asked about the arrest of a local activist, a middle-aged African-American woman who was arrested for tagging a blank wall, and if there were any updates on her deplorable treatment. Curtis: this is another reason why we need to have the Precincts represented at our meetings. We also have a reso on the floor under new business regarding policing, particularly as it relates to parks because there is a lot of overlap; I have been working with the Chair of Parks & Cultural Affairs on this as well. Danielle Jettoo asked a clarifying questions about data/311 reporting and NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT).

Maria Luna: The Department of the Aging (DFTA) is also losing funding; DV is also a huge problem for the elderly, and the reduction of funding for these organizations for the elderly – Riverstone, Seniors Helping Seniors, Star, etc. – is having a huge negative impact as well.

A(Curtis): yes, I expanded the definition in the reso, and can review that language to ensure it reflects this issue. Curtis: I expanded definition and can add as Wyane requested. Q (Barbara): I just wanted to add that in every precinct there's an Operation Safe Horizon" where those experiencing domestic violence can walk into any precinct and speak with an advocate, a civilian. They can develop a safety plan, assess their situation, and work on an ongoing basis to develop safety for the person.

8:04pm Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair Presented a resolution in support of the NYC Parks Department's proposed renovation of Inwood Hill Park's Ballfields #1, #2, & #4, which is now one much larger project rather than the smaller project of just Ballfield #1 the renovation plan for which the Board passed a supporting resolution last year. Reso was delayed getting to Committee so there are many "friendly" amendments as to form, not substance, particularly with regard to recycling, some specifics about the batting cages, bilingual signage, and also importantly to not weaponized enforcement in the course of policing our community's parks. Noted that at our next meeting we will be focusing on cultural scene in the time of COVID, and that the Committee will be meeting over the summer. Also noted that under new business she & Public Safety Chair are asking the Board to issue a statement in opposition to the weaponization of policing in a racist way e.g., what happened in Central Park yesterday with a white woman calling 911 on a Black man who was doing nothing wrong. Domingo: language should include not just police, but also "311, PEP, and other public agencies" weaponization note added language. Nobles: this Committee meeting could have been very polarizing issue, but with very strong leadership we had a very focused conversation and we got a lot of good work done with a robust community conversation. Curtis: Liz referenced a proposal that Parks & PS are proposing; noted that at the Executive Committee meeting the MBPO announced they are planning to host a town hall on policing in communities of color. We are trying to tackle this issue as well and will be co-hosts.

8:13pm Traffic & Transportation Committee, Debby Nabavian, Chair deferred to Committee member Bruce Roberston who presented a resolution regarding NYC DOT's proposed traffic calming and pedestrian safety enhancements on Riverside Drive between W. 155th & W. 158th Streets. This is not an "all-or-nothing. There was pushback on making the street one-way/southbound. There haven't been any fatalities, though there have been a number of accidents. This also addresses slowing down the turn that people make "at speed" at W. 155th St., which is a problem, as well as the 6-legged intersection at W. 158th St., which should make the area a lot safer. Maria Luna provided a clarification which we accepted as friendly that the aspect of the plan that relates to the middle drive is still an open issue and we will continue to work on this with DoT. Q: Wayne: In addition to Maria I also live in that area. In the 5th Whereas, regarding the addition of concrete medians at W. 157th St. at what intersection. Also when turning from Broadway onto Edward Morgan there are issues with the timing of the lights which encourage drivers to speed

to make the next light. Steve Simon was hit in that intersection years ago by a mail truck. A (Bruce): these would be added at the intersection of Riverside Drive, the Upper & Middle Drives, and a wider median at W. 158th St. Debby: this plan doesn't deal specifically with Broadway. Q (Steve): Wayne, I was hit by a stolen rental car, not a mail truck. My understanding is they'll be adding an island in the middle to facilitate the crossing of Riverside Drive, and also put in a median, maybe with some trees by W. 157/158 in front of the Grinnell. Bruce: they'd also make the parking adjacent to the median, not the sidewalk. Steve: How many parking spaces will be eliminated? A (Bruce): I'll get back to you on that. Q (Tanya): I have a questions about what we're going to be doing with the MTA when we open back up, and there is greater use of the trains & buses. Because this may come up while we are on summer break. How will we make sure that there is the opportunity for community feedback. I took a survey that the MTA sent out, and I'm curious how the MTA will use that data. How will we ensure that there is social distancing and not too much crowding, when we get back to regular commuting. A (Debby): these all are important considerations. We will have the MTA at the June meeting to deal with what you outlined. We know that ridership already is increasing from its low during the quarantine. Q (Liz Ritter): Regarding the reso, I would like to make specific our concerns about the Riverside Drive being made one-way; instead of vaguely saying that it's pending discussion, we should state specifically that there are concerns and objections. A: Debby: some community members support it, albeit with misgivings. So that's why it's an open issue. But it's not accurate to say that everyone is opposed. Q (Maria): you have to understand the concerns, particularly for the elderly. More to the point, you will make the upper drive more congested. And then the traffic can't go south on RSD from the upper drive at W. 165th St. Debby accepted clarifying language as friendly.

8:31pm Licensing Committee, Isidro Medina, Chair: Welcomed new members; encouraged them to join Licensing. We deal with many matters that are important and that are very questionable. Thanks But that's democracy. Thanks to Jonathan Nuñez Frometa for IT work to enable meetings, and to Rosy Perez for minutes. Also asks office to please submit all documents to Committee by Friday prior to meeting so that we can do our work. There were 13 licenses submitted to the Committee for consideration, three of which were withdrawn. I put in a lot of effort chairing this committee. We are all committed to this community. I go out checking if establishments have put up public notice, but I was not going out during a pandemic. That's why I didn't check, though I respect and appreciate being advised if this was not done. This particular LC meeting we gave the audience a really clear opportunity to attend, to the point that it was the most attended meeting we've ever had, which is due to the technology. But that still doesn't speak to the people who don't have access to the internet and weren't able to attend. But we have to have a time limit to ensure all have the opportunity to speak, particularly if there are many items on the agenda. There was one application that generated a lot of discussion; based on what they submitted and the reduction of hours to midnight, I think this will not be a nightclub so we voted to approve it. If they don't do what they say they will do we have the opportunity to shut them down. And I want to be cautious with the language we use: we are not a cocaine-sniffing community, and do not label this community as such; we are a respectful community, not a drug-driven community.

Q&A Sally: I listened to the meeting. I heard something very different. I heard that the former owner, Junior, is still the owner \until a \$1mm note is paid off to him. I heard from the Precinct: "allowing this biz to go forward is a disaster waiting to happen." There are very serious concerns. We need to listen to the community and the 34th Pct. A: we work w both precincts; the fact that they don't agree doesn't mean that we can't have a differing opinion. Re the affiliation, that was answered at the committee meeting. I raised the issue of double-parking, and said that it can't happen. Taking into account the hours that they have and that most of the issues are completely attached to the previous ownership, and have to have an independent

opinion from the Precinct. Sally: it's the same owner. Osi Kaminer: It's best to listen to the tape when doing the minutes, and Rosy missed some of the details from Item #4. It's hard to get all the details unless you listen to the tape. I didn't listen to the entire tape, but regarding Item #6, the current owner specifically said that the old owner is the consultant to the new business so clearly they are running the business together. I also don't really understand: I thought you cannot have hookah without an SLA permit? I encourage no on 6/7/8. A (Isidro): Thank you for your input on the minutes; I have always appreciated the work you have done. As far as Item #6, the merchant clearly answered the question and said they aren't related. It is not for us to decide. Re the hookah: there will be no hookah without a license. Also, there is a correction raised up by Bruce: on p.4, it should be Monarch Group, not Tubby Hook. Q (Tanya): concerns and criticisms aren't necessarily disparaging an entire community and we need to listen to that. I didn't hear that when people were bringing their testimony. Why are we moving forward with this when we are not clear with some of the major details, including the affiliations, and the concerns of the NYPD. We still have questions; I don't feel comfortable moving forward. A: Jim Berlin, as Parliamentarian: Isidro is correct to add time limit when there are a large number of speakers. And I agree with Tanya. They say what they say, and we need to listen to that and not restrict that. Our public session is the purest form of free speech and we should protect that. Q (Liz) The community got 1 minute which is truncated and I understand why and that's appropriate, but the manager and representative each got a minute or two, which is unfair. Tanya's wise comments notwithstanding, I don't have any issue with proceeding with the items about which we have questions; we should just vote "no". I attended the Licensing meeting and it took an hour and 5 minutes for Item 6 alone, which is highly irregular. Additionally, regarding Item 7, the applicant testified that noise wouldn't be an issue because "no one lives nearby," a characterization to which the thousands of residents of the adjacent NYCHA building would, I am sure object. They are not nobody, and I don't want to welcome into our community operators who characterize NYCHA residents as "no one" when they cannot afford an establishment but are expected to put up with the noise, and any other negative impacts. These are statements of my opinion, not questions, and I am not looking for a response. Q: Steve I have questions on 6 & 7 and questions we shouldn't take him at face value when he says there's no connection. We should include it as a resolved for the SLA to determine. Isidro accepted this as friendly. Steve: I am extremely concerned that they had an event in January and there was dancing and alcohol etc., and it is illegal and it has to do not with past management but present, and should be disqualifying. We should oppose. On item #7, we should clarify that they have quarterly meetings with the community and have given out masks that this refers to Chelsea, not to Inwood. Accepted as friendly. Steve: I understand that the police are opposed to this due to saturation concerns. I accept the NYPD's position and I believe we should be opposed to it as well. This is also not an establishment that will cater to or serve our community. Also, did they submit proof that they have a contract with a parking lot for valet parking. A: they brought down the hours. So the stipulation wasn't required. Chair: we're going to cut this off at 9pm. Q (Domingo): I live right next to Kasa Criolla it. I think it's important to note that rhetoric is important, and should not be weaponized. My biggest concern after reviewing the minutes was on item #7 was about how they transformed communities. I think it's condescending to talk about cleaning out our community, and how they plan to transform our neighborhood. Also, when the police raise concerns, we should not pick and choose when we are pro or con, when there are similarities. Also gave contact info to neighbors for organizing. I would love to be part of your meetings. Q (Waldys Cruz): I am new to the Licensing Committee. From the outside looking in there is a lot of misperception of what happened. We try to hear all positions and try to be fair. I don't see it being a club from what they testified. Same with Jue Lan; they are starting they are not going to be a club, just a restaurant. They will be closing at 1am, so that is more of a restaurant, not a nightclub. Q (Rosy): I apologize if I missed anything in the minutes. I watched the meeting several times on YouTube; if I missed anything, I'm human. Re Item #6, we addressed all the items in the meeting, and I'm willing to give him a chance. Q (Mariela

Graham): I'm a new member; it's great to hear all of these opinions. I think there are so many great establishments already here. And there could be more that wouldn't raise so many concerns among people who live nearby. It leads me to think that if we say no, one member of the community proposed that they have a year before they get a license, and what would that trial period look like? Q (Danielle): The Licensing Committee vote was 4 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. Are the Committee members willing to speak to why they voted no or obtained? A: Ashley: I voted "no" because of the response from the community, and because I felt the applicant's questionnaire wasn't filled out to a level of detail that other questionnaires were completed. Also, I've lived in WH my entire life and am familiar with the area, and understand some of the concerns. I am in agreement that we should compromise and meet them in the middle if they can earn trust under new management. But when we use coded language, it is dangerous and undermines what we are trying to accomplish as a community. Q (Barbara): on #7 they said that they would have spaces in a garage and then people would walk to their business, and there is not a 200-space parking in that area; that's not believable. Also it would only be "dancing for special events"? That strains my imagination. Also regarding the application on Dyckman Street in the old Castro, I have concerns about the kitchen: we don't want to certify a plan that doesn't cover the kitchen and then have a gas line blowing up. Eli: the old Pathmark has 200 spaces. Barbara: but people are already renting those spaces. Spaces exist but they are not available.

9:09pm **The Chair welcomed NYS Senator Robert Jackson**, who said he didn't want to speak, he was just going to observe and listen.

9:10pm **Report from the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Natalie Espino:**

- The MBP hosted town hall today on food insecurity and the pandemic.
- Congratulated all of our new appointees; thank you for your willingness to serve and we look forward to working with you.
- Thank you to Curtis for bringing up the Public Safety issue. The MBPO is looking to put together a Town Hall on social distancing, and policing that in communities of color.
- Look on our site for updates COVID testing sites as well as links to the NYS online map tool.
- MBPO this month delivered over 50k facemasks to orgs around the borough, including to organizations in this community, e.g., Isabella, Moriah, Uplift NYC.
- Cosponsored an event with Congressman Nadler on contact tracing and issues of privacy.
- Thank you to all who participated in last Friday's Part III Uptown Arts call in collaboration with Harlem Arts Alliance and NoMAA & someone else
- Distributed thousands of food boxes to NYCHA residents throughout the borough, including to the Dyckman Houses; shout-out to CB12 Chair Eleazar Bueno.
- Basics of oral history projects and archiving, hosted by Manhattan Borough Historian Rob Snyder, Tues June 16th, 2pm-4pm.
- Writing to the Governor requesting that he leave the Executive Order in place regarding suspension of in-person requirement for the Open Meetings Law. Many Community Boards have experienced benefits of being able to meet via Zoom as it has enhanced accessibility, even as we continue to work through some of the obstacles of the technology. I thank you also for reintroducing public session.
- CENSUS, CENSUS, CENSUS! Congrats and applause to CD12: we lead the borough!! Citing 14th C Italy and the Decameron: if you've fled the plague, please fill out census based on your usual residence, in CD12M! my2020census.gov.
- Gave contact info. Thank you to all who reached out to our office about participating in this meeting, and for showing up.

Q&A Q (Ayisha): re gov Exec Order, concern I have in the courts, there seems to be a difference in how it's being applied. In housing courts they're proceeding with evictions where both sides

have an attorney. The tenant could be at a disadvantage. And in criminal court, even though there are virtual hearings, judges are putting forth orders that the prosecution that the court doesn't have to observe people's Sixth Amendment rights. For example if you are arrested in a case of mistaken identity, you don't have the opportunity to be heard timely. A: the letter we are putting together relate specifically to Community Boards, in terms of better engagement. We have not taken a position on in-person court appearances or anything like that. That is an important conversation to have in Committee. We will share draft of letter when we have it, but our letter relates only to the Executive Order as it relates to Community Boards.

- 9:18pm Report from Office of Assemblymember Al Taylor Wendy Olivo:** The Assemblymember has returned to Albany as of last night. As Ariel noted the Rent Guidelines Board will be meeting sooner than later. A/M Taylor has signed onto something to a letter to the RGB to freeze rent increases and consider a rollback. We are working on more testing sites. Tomorrow we will be distributing food donated by Coogan's and cooked by ARC Fort Washington, and distributed by a team of vols. Shout-out to Maria Luna, Liz Ritter, and the 33rd Precinct. We continue to assist people filling out Census questionnaires. We also continue to work with constituents on Unemployment Insurance, which is being resolved more quickly. Also concerns about inaccessibility to people who aren't online. Can we have a dial-in? Liz: our meeting announcements include dial-in options and the Office has been helping community members with that. Steve: thanks for visiting Ft. Washington Park; keep posting photos, they're very nice.
- 9:24pm Laurie Cong.** Manages to be just as busy if not busier. Working to ensure that citizens of the Dominican Republic who live here are able to vote in DR Presidential elections. Also working to promote virtual naturalization ceremonies so that this important process can continue. Working with Gov. Cuomo to avoid catastrophe in our prisons, and also more support for nursing homes, both in terms of PPE as well as mental health supports. Working with Yong Woo, the developer of the Radio Tower & Hotel project on Amsterdam Ave. & W. 181st St. to bring together with stakeholders from the business and medical communities to clarify the direction the plans are going in so that community members who would like to rent space there, or get jobs, will have the chance to do so. Working with AARP to look at racial disparities of the impacts of COVID-19. Also working with the NYS Congressional delegation regarding the lack of Latino representation on a redistricting committee. He also is working on food distribution at various NYCHA facilities in the district and other locations. Also very, very busy helping constituents with challenges in Unemployment Insurance, small business/PPP loans, individual stimulus checks, etc.
- 9:29pm Phillip Ellison from NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' office.** Welcomed new Board members; shout-out to Board leadership. The Public Advocate is a check on the Mayor. We try to hold the Mayor's office accountable. The PA was the first to say that we need to shut down the city, that there is a disparity. We also have a constituency office, working with people on problems you may be having with government agencies. We also propose legislation to the City Council: we don't pass legislation, but Jumaane has done more of that than his predecessors, both of whom were great with that. I am a tool for you. The PA has been pushing back on the Summer Youth Employment Program, which should be restructured. We've been talking to the Mayor regarding small businesses; we have a recovery plan. We're thinking about capping rents, public health, contact tracing, etc. Contact info: 646-952-1321 / pellison@advocate.nyc.gov. If you have constituent issues, you can call 212-669-7250; you also can text 833-933-1692 if you have questions about COVID. Tanya welcomed him to the meeting and thanked him for attending; Liz asked him to convey thanks to the Public Advocate for his excellent broadcasts.
- 9:37pm Kiani Diaz, NYC Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez (10th CD):** SOMOS is doing COVID testing and antibody screening 5/28-6/1 at most of the large churches uptown (Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Jude's, St. Elizabeth's) as well as the offices of Dr. Rosario on Hamilton Place.) The

Councilmember has been working to pass Small Business Job Security Act. Small biz have been really hard hit, especially beauty salons and barbers. PPP doesn't apply because they mostly don't have payroll, they rent their chairs to individual contractors. So he modified it to add a provision that will only apply to supermarkets, and beauty salons, barber shops, independent pharmacies, and general medical practices to join a pilot program for lease protection, with eligibility for longer lease terms if the business provides discounts or reduced cost services to seniors and low-income families.

9:40pm Mark Levine, NYC Councilmember, 7th CD: NYC Contact tracing program starts next week. It's going to be the biggest thing we've had to deal with since the we got the stay-at-home order. It will allow us to reopen safely by ensuring that people who are contagious are no longer out in public. When you get tested, if you are positive you'll be contacted by a contact tracer to talk through anyone you've been in contact with, i.e., 6' or less for 10 min or more. This is a lot for people to deal with, in this era of fear and mistrust of government. We need to make sure that people feel comfortable with sharing this. It's difficult to make sure that people stay home for 14 days; the City will provide food, prescriptions, dog walking, laundry, etc. We need you, as community leaders and influencers, to help build trust in this process, just as you've done with the Census. It's about protecting our families and our neighborhood and our City. There will be a big round of hiring, and we are looking to hire locally.

9:45pm Mariel de la Cruz for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer Thanks to the CB staff who are working hard. The Comptroller asked for documents from City officials received ahead of the stay-at-home order. Our officer has launched a campaign to return to employees more than \$2.5mm withheld from unscrupulous employers. We have launched a comprehensive COVID-19 resource center; it's currently accessible in English, Spanish, & Mandarin but will be introduced in other languages. Continuing our business resource seminars. Also released a comprehensive analysis outlining disparities in health, housing, air quality and other metrics that disproportionately affect communities of color. We call on the City to repurpose vacant hotels and provide PPE to home health aides. Also people who are cleaning our subway system are doing important work and aren't being paid appropriately. Lastly, enforcement of social distancing has been inequitable, with most of the summonses and arrests being in communities of color even though complaints are coming from all around the City. Finally, we are working with the Public Advocate's office on food insecurity. Gave contact info.

9:50pm Sen. Jackson: in Albany, discussing various bills in Committees and hopefully voting on them tomorrow. Most of the issues we are dealing with related to COVID-19. Earlier you were discussing about undocumented workers who are not entitled to the stimulus payment., Carmen De La Rosa & Jessica Ramos have a bill out to raise revenue for people who are in need in New York City. It's going to take all of us working together. Our Office has a biweekly electronic newsletter; contact our office to subscribe. Also has a mutual aid group to connect neighbors to each other to help each other through this difficult time.

9:56pm Eli conveyed regards from Deputy MBP, who is watching meeting and gave props to the Board Members for their dedication.

9:58pm Before the roll call, in consideration of the time Liz & Curtis suggested that the item of New Business be presented and discussed so that we only had to do one roll call. The Parliamentarian agreed with this suggestions. Liz & Curtis presented the resolution about a statement on over-policing and the weaponization of law enforcement against people of color. Curtis offered the background and context; Liz shared the document via "share screen" feature, offering both a resolution and a statement for the Board's consideration. Although it is unusual to put forward an item of new business after a very long meeting, this issue is quite timely, and part of our job

is to come together and speak to the great moral issues confronting our community; I cannot stand by idly and do nothing. Barbara raised a question about a Licensing matter that was withdrawn, so she withdrew her question. Steve had an issue with mention of parks and would like to remove that. Liz clarified this mention relates to incidents in parks, not to the Parks Department. Domingo: this isn't new; add "put the spotlight on." Liz: accepted as friendly. Tanya: use "exacerbated;" also reference anti-blackness as this is a primary factor in many of these recent incidents mentioned. Liz: both accepted as friendly. Nobles Crawford: Thanks to Liz & Curtis for writing this. I don't see a call to the root of the rot. Should include language on misdemeanor or other penalty for a false report. Also there is a lot of over-policing in parks, but the arrests (for example for social distancing and mask-wearing) are higher in the minority parks, not in Central Park and on the Upper East & Upper West Sides. Accepted as friendly. Danielle: we might want to include some kind of demographics and statistics, and also add George Floyd's name; accepted as friendly. Also supports leaving in the mention of Parks; this is not a change as this language was not removed. Daryl: Noted that NYC HRC and other such agencies have all received an increase in COVID-related policing complaints in communities of color; accepted as friendly as an additional "Whereas". Francisco Lopez: I support this resolution; my comment relates to another matter. Ayisha: we are seeing a re-emergence of the problems with stop-and-frisk. Particularly with people who haven't done anything wrong at all. It disproportionately affects communities of color. A: we will be adding language citing the statute for citing a false report, and will include Ayisha's comment. Jim Berlin: add "and all other law enforcement" in first Resolved clause; accepted as friendly.

10:16pm Roll Call: Chair apologized for the length of the meeting, noting that this lengthy item should not have been introduced. Curtis stated that we have the right to add items of New Business; Ayisha seconded this.

Item #	Resolution	Vote Tally: Y/N/Abs/NV	Result
A	Executive Committee for the Housing & Human Service Committee: urging NYC Rent Guidelines Board to grant no rent increases for rent regulated apartments for one- or two-year leases commencing 10/1/2020	42-0-1-0	PASSED
B	Housing & Human Service Committee: in support of establishing an emergency safety net fund for refugees, undocumented individuals, and detainees	Withdrawn during meeting	n/a
C	Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: supporting NYC Parks Department's proposed renovation of Inwood Hill Park Ballfields #1, #2, & #4	41-0-1-1	PASSED
D	Public Safety Committee: in support of the continuation of domestic violence and other emergency program funding in NYC FY '21 budget	42-0-1-0	PASSED
E	Traffic & Transportation Committee: regarding NYC DOT traffic calming and pedestrian safety enhancements on Riverside Drive btw. W. 155 th /158 th Streets	40-0-3-0	PASSED
F	New Business item from the floor: Statement & Resolution on Racial Disparity in & Racist Weaponization of Law Enforcement	37-0-4-2	PASSED
1	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA Renewal of On-Premises Liquor License for Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 Saint Nicholas Ave. (corner W. 188 th St.)	41-1-1-0	PASSED
2	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA Renewal of On-Premises Liquor License for The Metropolitan Museum of Art / Cloisters – 99 Margret Corbin Drive (in Fort Tryon Park)	41-1-1-0	PASSED
3	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA Renewal of Restaurant Wine License for J & F Salon NY INC – 595 W. 207 th St. (btw Broadway & Vermilyea Ave.)	41-1-1-0	PASSED
4	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA Change in Method of Operation for Barrel 79 LLC dba Barrel 79 – 79 Audubon Ave. (corner of W. 169 th St.)	38-4-1-0	PASSED

5	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for Inwood Uptown Group LLC – 4790 Broadway (btw Dyckman & Academy Sts.)	Withdrawn prior to meeting	n/a
6	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for Monarch Group Inc. dba Kasa Criolla – 4486-4488 Broadway (btw W. 193 rd St. & Fairview Ave.)	8-28-7-0	FAILED
7	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for Jue Lan Kitchen LLC dba Jue Lan Kitchen – 400 W. 202 nd St. (corner of 9 th Ave.)	10-26-7-0	FAILED
8	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for 104 Dyckman Corp. dba Pregame Dyckman – 104 Dyckman St. (corner of Nagle)	22-13-8-0	PASSED
9	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC – 4240 Broadway (corner of W. 180 th St.)	Withdrawn prior to meeting	n/a
10	Licensing Committee: No Objection to SLA New On-Premises Liquor License for Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC – 3781 Broadway (corner of W. 157 th St.)	Withdrawn prior to meeting	n/a

10:40pm **Francisco Lopez**, who had been overlooked earlier in the conversation was given the opportunity to speak: I appreciate everyone who contributes, and it's fine that we don't all agree. But I noted that people who were objecting to Kasa Criolla said we needed to listen to what the NYPD said. In a previous meeting when we spoke about the bike lanes on Dyckman, the NYPD raised concerns but we still passed the reso. We should be consistent in when we decide we must to listen to the NYPD and when we don't. We voted in favor of the bike lanes even though NYPD/FDNY opposed it. Lastly, think that we should give people liquor licenses. Pop & Pour was really struggling with just a beer & wine; now they're doing OK with a full liquor license. As far as private events, I do events. I always get a license if I'm serving alcohol, but I'm told that I don't need one for an event if I am serving (but not selling) alcohol. So we should be consistent about what we require from licensees, too.

Eli spoke about fairness, noting that we didn't require Buddha Beer Bar or Locksmith (which are adjacent to or across from Kasa Criolla) to get parking spaces, so we should just be consistent.

10:43pm **Health & Human Services Committee, Steve Simon, Chair:** several points re COVID 19. Per the NYC Department of Health, there have been to date 21,314 deaths. 824 in CD12, largest in 10032 (247); 190,623 positive cases based on tests (44986 in CD12, largest in '32: 1450.) Largest rate is 10040. We don't have highest cases or deaths, but we have considerable number. City has established a testing center at Highbridge Rec Center (Amsterdam & W. 173rd St.) 7days 9am-7pm. Anyone who has been exposed, or thinks they have been exposed, or works in a congregated setting can get tested. No appointment. No charge; bring ID & insurance. You also can get testing, including antibody testing, at 21 Old Bway (126th St.; you may need an appointment there.) NY-Presbyterian reports that their overall cases have dropped down half that from 25000. They have discharged more than 8k patients. I don't have total treated at 168/Allen. Baker Field site has been or is in process of decommission. CPMC MC is creating a new mental health initiative in response to COVID; we will be hearing a presentation on that at our next meeting. There will be two sessions, one in English (6/2) and Spanish (6/5). Regarding the situation at Isabella Geriatric Center, we closely questioned Betty at our meeting, established that Isabella reported all of the deaths that happened at the NH and at the hospital. I am trying to get the State Health Department reports to establish that everything done at Isabella was done properly.

10:49pm: **Youth & Education Committee, Fe Florimón, Chair:** The WHIN Charter School presented at our last meeting. At the next Committee meeting we will have an informative meeting where we will present the stories of many students and parents in our community.

10:50pm: Business Development Committee, Domingo Estevez, Chair: waiting for more guidance on how to conduct virtual meetings, being that we didn't have all the proper guidance, so we did a series of virtual events. April 7th we hosted a discussion on resources for small businesses, with 20 sponsors and about 100 businesses attending. Something in May 5th we had a legal services forum with about 37 businesses participating. June 2nd we will reconvene our Committee meeting. We have identified several biz owners who will be sharing their perspectives and experiences during COVID-19: Cirillo Moronata from 809; Amaury from a salon; Oscar Napa from Locksmith, and other invitees pending.

10:53pm: Land Use Committee, Wayne Benjamin, Chair: Refer to minutes. Had representatives from the MBPO regarding many zoning issues; critical among them was the Inwood rezoning. I was to reiterate that there was a lot of discussion about the Task Force and who was or wasn't to be included. Putting that aside, there is a Letter of Commitment to the community, a 38-page document detailing a range of commitments and investments in CD12 and we must hold EDC and the Mayor's Office accountable. This is not just a Land Use matter; it affects the business of all committees and I urge all Chairs to review this document and get updates from EDC on the items related to the business of their committee: e.g., open spaces, culture, parks, housing, schools, transportation, infrastructure, workforce education, etc. We should be reviewing all of these things in the respective committees. Reiterated request that the office re-send that document to all Board members and especially the Committee Chairs. Fe mentioned the WHIN Charter School; they will be coming back to Land Use in June because the underlying zoning for the building they would like to use is C-8, as opposed to R-7/2 or R-8.

10:56pm: Committee on Concerns for the Aging, Mary Anderson, Chair: from recording. Having problems with obtaining food for the elderly. Shout-out to Maria Luna who, with Al Taylor and other volunteers, is working to distribute food to seniors in the community. Mary's internet dropped out. If anyone knows seniors who need meals, they can reach out to Fern Hertzberg at 212-781-5700 for delivery of meals. Other item of discussion is the long lines at PO, groceries, Rx, etc. It's hard for seniors and the disabled to navigate; they can't be waiting on line for things for 45 minutes or an hour. We need to have some consideration for the seniors and disabled: special hours, but not necessarily early in the morning as seniors need something later in the day.

While we were waiting for Mary to log back on to the call, Steve asked a clarifying question about the Inwood rezoning, reminding the Chair that he had said he would reach out to EDC. The Chair confirmed that he called Charlie Samboy at EDC, who would get back to the Chair. Steve said that all the Chairs should be reaching out to EDC on their own. Liz clarified that the Committee can and should have these conversations *within their committees*, and funnel their questions to the Chair to communicate to EDC.

11:03pm There being no further business, a **motion to adjourn** was made by Domingo, seconded by Nobles. There was no objection.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary