

Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting
January 26, 2021 / Online via Zoom

Board Members Present: Marielle Ali, Richard Allman, Mary Anderson, Glennis Aquino-Gil, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Tanya Bonner, Eleazar Bueno, Daryl Cochrane, Nobles Crawford, Robin Cruz (left early), Waldys Cruz (left early), Gerard Dengel (left early), Katherine Diaz, Domingo Estevez, Gabriela Estrella, Ashley Fernandez, Sally Fisher, Fe Florimón, Barbara Frazier, Mariela Graham, Danielle Jettoo (left early), Leopoldo Jimenez, Yosef Kaminsky, Osi Kaminer, Betty Lehmann, Francisco Lopez, Elizabeth Lorriss Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Ariel Miranda, Debby Nabavian (left early), Jonathan Nunez Frometa, Ayisha Oglivie, Rosy Perez, Bruce Robertson, Edda Santiago, Steve Simon, Omar Tejada, Angel Vasquez, Christopher Ventura, Curtis Young.

Board members Excused: None

Board members Absent: Francisco Alvarez, Naysha Diaz, Juan Guzman, Mariam James, Cindy Matos, Paradise Phoenix, Christina Richiez,

Staff Present: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia, Shinelle Paniagua

Elected Officials Present: Gale Brower (MBP), Natalie Espino (MBPO), Chris Nickell (NYS Senator RJ Office), Laurie Tabias-Cohen (US Congressman Adriano Espillat Office), Mariel De La Cruz (NYC Comptroller Office), Erika Rodriguez (NYS AM Alfred Taylor Office), Orlando Ovalles (AM Carmen De La Rosa Office), Manuel Belliard (CM ML Office) Tomas Grita (CM Rodriguez office)

Public Present: Tony Lopez, Elise Quizpilema

6:32pm **Call to Order:** Chair Bueno called the meeting to order. The Zoom meeting began at 6:32pm; the meeting was called to order with quorum.

6:33pm **Agenda & Minutes:** the Agenda was adopted. E. Bueno move to adopt the December GM Minutes as submitted, G. Dengel moved, E. Lehmann 2nd, all in favor.

6:34pm **Chair's Report, Eleazar Bueno:**

I would like to see that we all members of the community get vaccinated without delay. This should be our priority as CB12 members to make sure the community is aware of the vaccination sites and availability for our community. We should also look into government officials' help in publicizing the availability of vaccines.

6:36pm **Ebenezer Smith, District Manager:**

OBM request a plan to reduce our budget for the physical years 2021 by \$3,068, and 2022 by \$8,153. Without touching the personal service fund OMB approved the plan.

The office received several email about 3-1-1 complaints are called before receiving a visit by the Precincts. Especially complaints about commercial vehicles parking in the neighborhood, It was forward to the respective Precincts

To all CB12 members a reminder that you need to complete your renewal application before February 1st, to be considered.

Questions from CB members:

W. Benjamin: board members that are up for renewal may not be aware of that since something happened with email notifications. Please check with Rosie or Natalie so you don't miss the deadlines.

I. Medina: commercial vehicles parking in residential area is an on-going problem. It is affecting small businesses and was reported to the Precincts but nothing was done to mitigate the problem. Is there anything CB12 can do to address the issue?

Answer from Chair Bueno: this issue should be address by collaboration with a few committees. I urge Committee chairs to work together to address this issue and push government officials to higher standard.

6:39pm **Public Session**

The 1st Vice Chair K. Diaz, clarified that speakers have two minutes each, and the Chair will keep time. Please use the raise hand to speak and you will be mute speak, if you have tech issues, we will go back to you at the end of the public session. If I couldn't get back to you and you are back, just raise your hand. I will share my screen with a digital timer.

Tony Lopez: I'm a resident and former member of CB12. There are small and medium size companies that are illegally parking their commercial vehicles in residential streets illegally. They do so to save money on parking however, between 9pm to 5am commercial vehicles are not allow to park on residential streets. This is happening through the neighborhood but more so north of 190th street and Amsterdam Ave. This is not only a parking issue but also health issue and public safety issues when residents driving for 1-2 hours to look for parking the additional

exhaust coming out of the tailpipe is public health issue. 3-1-1 report lead to nowhere, the Precinct is not addressing the issue and not issuing tickets.

CB questions: G. Dengel: there is inconsistency approach for what's happening on sidewalks vendors are using as part of how they conduct business. B. Frazier: did you address this issue with the 34th Precinct, specifically Captain Thomas Palmer? Lopez: I have not discussed it with him. A. Oglivie: can we have overall district review of how people are impacted by parking and maybe bring back the residential parking.

6:45pm **Government Officials Report**

Laurie Tobias-Cohen (Congressman AE rep): Paycheck Protection Program information session took place today. It is also available on the Congressman FB. Congressman is promoting Transportation Alternative Enhancement Act; increase funding for pedestrian infrastructure, safe place to walk & bike. Shout out to Debby Nabavian who drafted five young people to apply to military academy. Q. from D. Cochrane: how is the Congressman and staff during the insurrection? A. they were removed to the tunnels under the Capital and held there for a few hours.

Manuel Belliard (CM Mark Levine office): we had a mobile testing site in our district office last Tuesday, more than 90 people got tested that day. We are working with tracing office and will send any further info to the District Manager. We will have another testing event on February 8th. The monthly food pantry will take place this Thursday id you know anyone that is suffering food insecurity.

Erika Rodriguez (AM Alfred Taylor office): a couple of bills have passed: COVID19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Act passed in December. The other bill that just passed: COVID19 Emergency Protection Act for small businesses that will put a moratorium on eviction of small businesses smaller than 50 employees until May 2021. The AM was part of a presser last Friday along with CM Levine, MBP Brewer, State Senator R. Jackson and other in regards to 857 Riverside Drive. The request is from the DOB to refrain from issuing any demolition permit for this site. Next month we will have the Black Heritage celebration on February 19th, Dominican heritage celebration on February 16. More information will be available soon. Q. L. Ritter: what's the AM position of 853 bill the Senate passed to reduce by 70% the number of petition signature required to get on a ballot? A. will get back to you.

Tomas Gartia (CM Rodriguez office): CM is working with advocate writers' alliance and other to insure the MTA doesn't increase fair. We are holding a CBO for the school budget. We are working with other gov officials to insure that the City release vaccination info by zip code or ethnicity and make sure the City prioritizing communities hardest hit by the virus. CM is also calling for the restoration of the 24 hours subway system.

Chris Nickell (NYS Senator Jackson office): a few weeks ago the Senator passed an amendment that add 15 words to NYS constitution that guarantee clean air, water, and healthful environment. The Senator will be holding a legislative briefing about the education budget tomorrow. We are conducting 22,000 calls to senior in the district. We also working on the hardship declaration form for people that are unable to pay rent and had two clinics already. We also work together to respond to the 20 families who have been kicked out of their homes due to the fire.

Questions: N. Crawford: ask about the education budget. Answer: we are working to increase the education budget and expend programing. W. Benjamin: can you elaborate what the problem are with the education budget language: Answer: there are differences in wording in the education budget, saying that there is \$3B funding that is coming from the Federal Gov but this is not a true increase since the money will not be there next year, this is a one time increase. S. Simon: do tenets have February 1st deadline to declare hardship? Answer: no, it is May 1st.

Mariel De La Cruz (Comptroller Scott Stringer Office): we have a paid internship for these who would like to work in government for active college students. We will have Black heritage celebration on February 17 more info will go to CB12 office. There were a lot of issues with vaccines distribution especially in areas with high rate of infection. Including releasing demographic information in real time.

Orlando Ovalles (AM Carmen De La Rosa office): AM is working with AM Ramos and other about excluded workers from any financial safety net. The plan is to tax the ultra rich to finance the program. AM also working on elder parole program for people that are 55 years old or older especially if they have served 15 years or more. The AM will visit correctional facility upstate this week. Today, the legislator passed a comprehensive bill to tackle unemployment benefit. There will be a virtual event with CM Levine about vaccination roll-out.

Committee reports (resolution items)

7:36pm **Land Use Committee, Wayne Benjamin, Chair:** We have two resolution items; 1. DCP zoning text amendment related to costal resiliency. The Committee supports the effort to strengthening the temporary regulations that were put in place after hurricane Sandy. A lot of it is the coordination between zoning and building code since DOB enforced zoning regulation and sometime there are discrepancies between the zoning and costal flooding resiliency.

There are flood risks that are not related to flooding area but related to precipitation and a lot of education need to be part of the rollout and there are incentives that the City should put in place to encourage building owners to take actions necessary to make their building more resilient. This resolution needs to go out very quickly. 2. This resolution is call on LPC to insure greater equity diversity and inclusion in its designations. Last month we passed a resolution supporting a Request for Evaluation for 857 Riverside Drive Harris Newman House, which tied to two ardent abolitionists. LPS rejected the proposal ignoring NYC preservation law. This would be the first historic district to be designated for a person of color, Doris Brooks. And, for a WWI African American veteran who fought and died for this country but received a medal of honor in France, not by the USA for his bravery. The resolution is calling for LPC to engage with CB12 community and look at this historic designation. We ask them to insure that the history, culture, culture and contributions and legacy of people of color are recognized acknowledged and preserved.

7:44pm **Public Safety Committee, Curtis Young, Chair:** FDNY rep attended the meeting after the big fire on Post Ave. Also attended other gov officials. There will be fire education workshop on February 17 in light of the recent fire. A resolution asking for Technical Parol Violation forgiveness passed by the Committee. D. Jettoo presented the resolution: the goal of this resolution is for keeping people on parole out of jail for minor technical parole violation. 281 people in our district are on parole; the cost of one-year incarceration is about \$60,000 per person. For our district \$203 million that can be invested in the community education and programs to keep people out of jail. S. Simon: do people get re-incarcerated if thy just committed technical parole violations? Answer: parole officers have discretion over this, technically, yes.

7:51pm **Parks and Cultural Affairs, Liz Ritter, Chair:** a resolution to support the reconstruction of the Dyckman soccer field at the south end of Inwood Hill Park north of Dyckman Street, plumbing to run fountain, and fencing (8ft high). The resolution calls on the elected officials to fund bathrooms at the location since none exist.

7:56pm **Licensing Committee, Isidro Medina, Chair:** we had 13 resolutions this month, two objections, one application was withdrawn prior to the meeting. There was one application for a new beer & wine which was the only application for a new license this month. Two objections: one applicant was not present, the other application was denied due to too many complaints. Agenda #11 was withdrawn.

Questions: S. Simon: in some cases you requested stipulations, were they fulfilled? I. Medina: yes. S. Simon: #12, at the 7th *Whereas* you indicated that a sound limiter was installed however, in the next *Whereas*, you ask for a proof of purchase, isn't it enough that it was installed? I. Medina: it should be corrected that the sound limiter receipts need to be sent to the office. S. Simon: #10: are they expanding by 74 more people now that we require to social distance? I. Medina: the request was to move the bar from the right side to the left. This is a typo and need to be corrected. B. Fraizer: about #10 there should be required to have sound limiter, not just suggested. E. Santiago: #6 it will be helpful to know what 's their current closing hours now that they ask to change the exiting one. I. Medina: they are closing at 12 midnight.

8:06pm **Youth & Education Committee, Fe Florimon, Chair:** the Committee support building a soccer field in PS187. On January 12th, we had a senior programs and policy manager rep from the Mayor's Advance NYC. This is part of an initiative to build 50 soccer fields in NYC public schools. \$3M was donated for this initiative and they are asking for a letter of support. We ask that students from other school can use this program. There was no quorum at the last Y&E meeting and this resolution is presented to the Board under New Business.

Committee Reports (non-resolution items)

8:13pm **Concern of the Aging Committee, Mary Anderson, Chair:** AM Carmen De La Rosa presented two bills that she's sponsoring that affect the seniors. One for stiffer penalties for crimes committees against seniors, the other encourages release eligible seniors for parole. Programs are put in place to reintegrate seniors leaving the jail system into the community. At our meeting we talked about seniors and mental health issues due to isolation since the COVID19 epidemic kept senior centers closed. We had a presentation about wellness checks and vaccine availability for seniors.

8:16pm **Traffic And Transportation Committee, Debby Nabavian, Chair:** the draft station map for CityBike northern part of CB12 was presented for public comments. Some of the station is not getting restocked so no bikes available as much as it should be. The 2nd presentation was from the Kids for Wheels environmental justice initiative by students group. They have short and long-term initiatives and they will come back in February. Questions: A. Ogilvie: are the stations going to be on the sidewalks vs will take parking spots away? D. Nabavian: there must be minimum clearance on the sidewalk for pedestrian. There will be low percentage of low road-bed , probably 40% . D. Estevez: we need to talk about the Green New Deal and carrier path. I. Medina: the westbound traffic is going to be affected by the schools and they should be invited to speak about this issue. F. Florimon: it's great initiative to allow members to take the committee chair roll. That will allow members to be more engaging in the committee work.

8:25pm Business Development Committee, Domingo Estevez, Chair: We focus on building bridges, providing small businesses with resources. We will update the website with resources such as BIDs, government offices, and other so all the information is in one place so owners can get accurate information related to their business. In the Committee we start rotation of members to fill out the Chair position and run a meeting. F. Lopez will run the meeting next month: the meeting will focus on legalization of cannabis sell in NYS. State and local Government official will come to our next meeting to speak about this initiative. Jason Star, the former assistant to the NYS Governor A. Cuomo will moderate this session. Questions: D. Cochrane: what can we do to have restaurant from our community in Restaurant Week? D. Estevez: this issue will be address under New Business. N. Crawford: Would you mind that I will connect you with the woman from Cloth offline? D. Estevez: Yes. C. Young: Will you do research about the implication of legalization of marijuana around communities of colors around the country? D. Estevez: that will be a preliminary conversation about this issue.

8:34pm Youth & Education Committee, Fe Florimon, Chair: It's absolutely great that committee members run meetings that will prepare them to one day chair a committee. We invited the NYC Youth Leadership Council to speak and CUNY at the February 8th meeting.

8:36pm Housing & Human Services Committee, Ariel Miranda, Chair: We had a discussion about DHS responsibility to the community, utilizing of public services specifically mental health services for our youth. We have conversation with Community Options Inc. nonprofit health organization serving our community for about 6 years. Specifically service our community along side Riverside Park. We had a conversation with Miguel from the Bowery Residents Committee, an organization that oversees the shelter that had been designated for 3666 10th Ave. There will be a 3 listening sessions although there wasn't much information shared with us until now. At the next meeting we will have VP f Intergovernmental relations of NYCHA. Questions: N. Crawford: have you had any future plans now that the Democrats control the budget? A. Miranda: right now there is no plan or much information provided.

8:42pm Health & Environment Committee, Steve Simon, Chair: the COVID19 positivity rate in all of CB12 zip codes increased significantly. Based on January 23rd, zip code 40 is the 31st worst zip code in the City out of 177 with positivity rate of 10.57% represents 159 cases. Zip code 34 went down from 11% to 8.92% with 136 cases. Zip code 33 was at 8.67% with 134 cases, and zip code 32 with 219 cases. Last week we had 698 cases compared to the previous week where there were 729 positive cases in the district. The citywide average positivity rate is about 9%. There are 3 clinical trials at the NYP right now and 100 people in the Johnson & Johnson trial and 300 people enrolled in the AstraZeneca trial. Both companies completed phase 3 and submitted to the FDA for approval. The 3rd trial by Sanafy between 2nd and 3rd phase. The Armory open and so far 10,000 got vaccinated. The Corner Project is looking for permanent site and they are in lease negotiation. There are plans to have a presentation by DEP about drainage sites in our district as stipulated by the Inwood Rezoning at the February meeting. Questions: I. Medina: any correlation between the high rate of infection vs the high rate of testing? S. Simon: more testing, more infections you will find. There are a lot of factors that can explain this. We should not discourage people from getting tested and on a regular basis. I'm asking for more testing sites in our community. M. Ali: do you have data about the kind of variance? S. Steve: I'm going to request the information from the DOH. A. Ogilvie: do we have any data about how is asymptomatic manifesting in our community? S. Simon: we can ask DOH next month. That is also a problem with people that get COVID, recover, and have long term effect from the disease. E. Santiago: what about mobile vaccination sites? S. Simon: I asked the DOH about a month ago to get a mobile unit and I was promised to get into at the next meeting.

Government Officials report cont'd

8:54pm Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President: We will have a taskforce meeting on February 3rd and you are welcome to join us and ask questions. It is very hard to get appointments and there is more than one website. The problem is that many of the people that use the City vaccination sites are not NYC residents. About 28% of them are from LI and other places. There are mobile units that are out there and can be used in our neighborhood. We had a big press conference about 857 Riverside Drive. The landlord is on the list of 13 worst landlords. April 1st is the dead line for the Governor to hear from NYC Mayor about police reform. In terms of the Restaurant Week it is not clear why none of the restaurants is from CB12 district. Inwood taskforce: we are working on that and to implement all the items the report produced. We have our own affordable housing taskforce. February 22nd is the new deadline to submit CB12 renewal applications. Questions: N. Crawford: do you know of any plans on how it is going to be distributing to pharmacies? MBP: we do not know how is the distribution will go, the City and State have different plans but we will try to find out. N. Crawford: how are you involved with the police contracts when they come up, are you involved in these negotiations? MBP: no, that is 100% the Mayor.

Public Season cont'd

9:04pm Elise Quizpilema: I want to raise my concern about drug use on 181 street subway station. Last week I saw someone shooting up heroin right there and on the exorbitant amount of needles on the tracks. I start contacting various organizations including the Corner Project, MTA, 34th Precinct about cleaning the needles. Everybody feel so removed about hoe to clean the needles off the tracks. Is there a way to clean up the tracks, does the CB12 have a way to deal with the problem? D. Cochrane: where do you see the needles, on 184th or 181 side? E. Quizpilema: mostly on 184th side. L. Ritter: Can you attend the H&E, T&T & PS meetings to deal with the aspects of this dual issue. S. Simon: Could we ask the District Manager to ask the MTA what they can do to clean up the tracks and deal with people who are shooting up within the station? E. Bueno: will do.

9:08pm **Roll Call**

Item #	Resolutions	Vote Tally: Y/N/Abs/NV	Result
#A	Land Use Committee: Resolution Commenting on The Department of City Planning's Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency Text Amendment	43-0-0-0	PASSED
#B	Land Use Committee: Resolution calling upon the Landmarks Preservation Commission to ensure Greater Equity, Diversity, and inclusion in its Designation of Buildings, Structures, and Historic Districts	43-0-0-0	PASSED
#C	Public Safety Committee: Resolution In Support of the #LessIsMore Initiative (Advancing Solutions to the Problem of Re-incarceration for Technical Violations of Parole)	41-0-2-0	PASSED
#D	Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Resolution Supporting the Proposed Reconstruction of the Dyckman Soccer Field	42-0-0-1	PASSED
#1	Licensing Committee: Resolution of Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: El Jefe Eatery Group Inc. dba El Jefe – 186 Dyckman Street (btw Sherman Avenue & Broadway)	42-0-1-0	PASSED
#2	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Euro El Tina Restaurant Lounge & Billiards Corp. – 500 W 207 Street (btw Post & Nagle Avenues)	40-2-1-0	PASSED
#3	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Terravita Corp. – 4193 Broadway (btw W 177 & W 178 Streets)	40-2-1-0	PASSED
#4	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Kismat Indian Restaurant Inc. – 603 Fort Washington Avenue (at the corner of W 187 Street)	40-2-0-1	PASSED
#5	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to: EMS Gourmet Corp. dba Capri Restaurant – 1342 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W 177 Street)	41-1-1-0	PASSED
#6	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Method of Operation Change of its License to: Mexican Bistro Corp. – 3803 10 Avenue (btw W 203 & W 204 Streets) <i>To change closing hours on Fridays & Sundays to 3 am and Wednesdays to 2 am & Add DJ, karaoke & live music</i>	32-8-3-0	PASSED
#7	Licensing Committee: Resolution of Objection to the SLA Method of Operation Change of its License to: Pinchos Grill Inc. – 105A Dyckman Street (at the corner of Nagle Avenue) <i>To change closing hours on Fridays & Sundays to 3 am and Wednesdays to 2 am & Add DJ, karaoke & live music</i>	41-1-1-0	PASSED
#8	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Class Change of its License to: IL Post Trattoria Rustica Corp. dba Café Tabu – 227 Dyckman Street (btw Seaman Avenue & Broadway) <i>From Restaurant Wine to On-Premise Liquor License</i>	35-6-2-0	PASSED
#9	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Alteration of its License to: IL Posto Trattoria Rustica Corp. dba Café Tabu – 227 Dyckman Street (btw Seaman Avenue & Broadway) <i>Endorsement to change the business address</i>	40-2-1-0	PASSED
#10	Licensing Committee: Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Alteration of its	38-2-3-0	PASSED

	<u>License to: Eskina 214 Corp. dba Café Tabaco y Ron – 501 W 214 Street (at the corner of W 214 Street) <i>Move bar from left to right</i></u>		
#11	Licensing Committee: <u>Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Alteration of its License to: El Jefe Eatery Group Inc. dba El Jefe — 186 Dyckman Street (btw Sherman Avenue & Broadway) Addition of another space to fit 74 persons</u> Withdrew before the meeting	WITHDRWAN	WITHDRWAN
#12	Licensing Committee: <u>Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Eating Place Beer License to: La Catrina Restaurant Mexican Deli Corp. – 2083 Amsterdam Avenue (at the corner of W 163Street)</u>	41-1-1-0	PASSED

43 members were in attendance when resolutions were voted on

New Business

9:19pm J. Formeta: I would like propose a friendly amendment that the Mayor’s office extend the soccer fields program to other schools in our district.

D. Estevez: every soccer pitch that is happening in the district a lot of it happening on the west of Broadway. So it’s best to take one school from the east for every one on the west to balance both sides of Broadway.

M. Luna: we should have testing time on the program as we have no jurisdiction over access to the fields.

S. Simon: DPR recently built a soccer field at the Audubon Playground connected to PS128 and the Castle Bridge School east of Broadway.

9:29pm **Youth & Education Committee, Fe Florimon, Chair:**

#Y&E	Youth & Education Committee: Resolution of support of soccer fields in PS187	37-0-0-1*	PASSED
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*38 members were in attendance when resolution Y&E was called for a vote

9:36pm T. Bonner: restaurant owners have to sign up top the event. That could be an outreach issues. Maybe we can do better job and I would suggest the Business Committee to call the organizers and ask them what could be done to make the next one better.

I. Medina: the lack of participation of businesses in the Restaurant Week is neglect by design. We had many Restaurant Weeks in the past and many restaurants participated. To say that they cannot afford it is incorrect. This was done purposely and we should all be outrage by that. We will move forward and blame who need to be blamed.

T. Bonner: this is what businesses told me that they cannot afford it.

L. Ritter: I guess NY and Co forgot that there is another north of Harlem and I doubt that that was intentional. As consumers we have small responsibility and advise owners that this event exist.

D. Estevez: there is an issue within the board about outreach and this left out of this event was by design.

A. Ogilvie: I have seen this over the years, northern Manhattan being consistently left out.

9:46pm **Motion to adjourn:** moved by D. Cochrane, 2nd by D. Estevez.

Respectfully submitted: Osi Kaminer, Secretary