

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2004 (Columbia University, Hammer Building)

Members Present:

Jackie Rowe Adams	Martin Collins	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Nelson Rojas
Mason Almeida	Mireya Cruz	Maria Luna	Pablo Santos
Jacqueline Aristy	Luis Facundo	Jay D. Mazur	Cleofis C. Sarete
Anita Barberis	Peter Ferrara	Renato Mena	Steve Simon
Wayne Benjamin	Leslie Foster	Helen Morik	Milagros Vicente
James Berlin	Beatrice Hall	Zead Ramadan	Sandra Wachspress
Aidee Camacho	Mark Levine	Barbara Smith Ramos	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Kotie Cannon	Jose Lopez	Julio Rodriguez	Homer Young-Kennedy, III

Members Excused:

Dora Maria Abreu	Julio Peguero (abs)
Rafael Beaumont	Rose M. Santo
Emilia G. Cardona	Socrates Solano (abs)
Sybil R. Dodson	Dago Suarez
Joyce F. Holland	Bienvenido Toribio
Glenda Swanson Massa	Gloria Vanterpool
Pamela Palanque North	

(7:25pm) Welcome and opening remarks: Zead Ramadan, Chair. Welcomed new Board member Pablo Santos. Noted that three other new Board members, Dora Maria Abreu, Jackie Rowe Adams and Fern Hertzberg, were unable to attend due to late notification of appointment. (Ms. Rowe Adams arrived later.)

(7:27pm) Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Homer Young Kennedy III to adopt agenda; seconded by Martin Collins. Traffic & Transportation Committee Chair Aidee Camacho offered an amendment, adding a street co-naming resolution. There was no objection to adoption of the agenda as amended.

(7:28pm) Approval of Minutes of 3/24/04 General Meeting: Motion by Homer Young Kennedy III; seconded by Peter Ferrara; no objection.

(7:29pm) Chair's Report: Zead Ramadan

- Sherman Creek report on March 31st of January 25th planning charette. This is the second largest development in Manhattan, copies of report available at CB12, Audubon Partnership for Economic Development and www.shermancreek.com. Good turnout at last night's (4/26) meeting; additional meetings to be scheduled.
- Saturday evening's Latin music concert series at Anne Loftus Playground. 5-7 weeks; 6pm – 9pm. These will be free concerts.
- Update on Livery Cab meeting with TLC, DOT, and NYPD, hosted by CB12. Promotes driver and passenger safety; program will start in the fall.
- Three-day emergency preparedness symposium starting tomorrow in Albany. Seven CERT Members including 6 CB12 Members (Rafael Beaumont, Joyce Holland, Pamela Palanque North, Rose Santo, Dago Suarez, Bienvenido Toribio and Inwood resident Gary Hotko) are en route to Albany for this conference, which is funded by the US Department of Homeland Security.
- Gave update on Audubon IV ULURP, which was approved this morning unanimously and unconditionally by the City Council Land Use Committee, despite his testimony at the hearing.

(7:35pm) District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

- Gave update on action taken based on complaints by public members at last month's General Meeting, including homelessness at 181st Street A-train station; damaged sidewalk and step-street; and sanitation issues.
 - Gave additional details on TLC bilingual safety international outreach efforts.
 - Both precincts reported 70% increase in burglaries (due primarily to access via air-conditioning units), and increases in livery cab robberies.
 - Announced upcoming events, including Washington Heights BID job fair this week.
- Several comments regarding city services were made by board members and noted by Ms. Feliciano.

(7:40pm) Nominating Committee: Zead Ramadan introduced Beatrice Hall, Nominating Committee chair, and noted that Peter Ferrara, Aidee Camacho, Emilia Cardona, and Julio Rodriguez have expressed interest in being on the committee. Mr. Ramadan asked if there were other volunteers for the committee; as there were none, the committee was set at 5 members. Ms. Hall described the process, including setting of criteria for consideration (minimum tenure of one year, and reasonable attendance record). All suitable candidates will be canvassed for interest in a position, and a slate thus prepared and presented at the May meeting, at which point nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

(7:50pm) Public Session:

Robert Leujeune, Bronx Resident (and Columbia University alumnus): Floodlights at Columbia University's Baker Field are aimed directly into the living rooms of hundreds of Inwood, Riverdale and Marble Hill residents. Often times the lights remain on well after a field event has concluded. It is arrogance and a waste of Columbia University's money. Suggested that the Board write a letter to Columbia University and call to follow up.

Joseph Sanchez, High Bridge Project, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation: Coordinator of the project to reopen the High Bridge in the future and increase community involvement in Highbridge Park. Explained goals to increase public awareness of the historical & recreational value of the High Bridge. Zead Ramadan invited Mr. Sanchez to the next Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

Lynn Opinante, Inwood Branch Public Library: Thanked the community for its support. Detailed new NYPL programs.

Leslie Foster, Isabella Geriatric Center: McFadden Scholarship awards dinner 5/11/04. Praised young honorees; encouraged CB12 members to attend.

Tom Baffolano, Armory, National Track & Field Hall of Fame: Announced open house this Sunday, May 2nd, 2-6pm. Working with Region 10 and District 6 on health and nutrition educational programs; can also accommodate school field trips.

Mark Levine, One-Economy: Described technology training for youth currently available to local youth. Training opportunities include not only technical training (digital connectors) but also skills and job-development. Info available at www.beehivenyc.org.

Jim Kushner, Community Resident: Gave history of civilian patrol and its founder, Joe English. Spoke in support of resolution to co-name NE corner of West 212th Street & Broadway after him.

William O'Connor: Spoke in support of co-naming NE corner of West 215th & Broadway for Police Officer Donald McIntyre.

Jen McIntyre, Widow of PO Donald McIntyre: Spoke about her husband and in support of street co-naming. Her comments were deeply moving.

Homer Young Kennedy III, Inwood Coalition: Announced combined Parks Department joint programs, the Shad Festival and Native American Festival this Sunday, 5/2, 11am – 6pm, in Inwood Hill Park. Many activities for children.

Jackie Parrot, Inwood Neighbors Association: Spoke in support of proposed Greenmarket site in Inwood.

(8:25pm) Traffic & Transportation Committee Resolutions re Street co-namings of NE corner of W 212th Street & Broadway as “Joe English Way” and NE corner of W 215th Street & Broadway as “Donald McIntyre Way: Steve Simon raised a point of order, requesting that the rules be suspended to amend the agenda so the two resolutions could proceed directly to a vote. There was no objection. After reading the two resolutions with friendly amendments, both passed unanimously (31 votes) to a standing ovation. Mr. Ramadan noted that, “CB12 is proud to honor great men of our community.”

(8:35pm) Elected Officials' Reports:

Councilman Miguel Martinez: Congratulations to the families of both men just honored.

- ◆ Described serious situation regarding gang violence in Inwood, most recently a beating of a Little Leaguer in Inwood Hill Park this past week. Announced a meeting in his office of school principals, 34th Precinct, CB12, Inwood Little League and other community leaders.
- ◆ Re: Mayor's preliminary budget, the Council believes that the Mayor erred in failing to ask NYS and Federal Government for more funding. Also noted that several budget items, such as youth employment summer funding, were not restored.
- ◆ City Council Land Use Committee unanimously approved Columbia University's Audubon IV ULURP. Stated that Council cannot attach conditions to ULURP resolutions, but conditions can be placed by Borough Board. Reported that he obtained commitment from Columbia to allocate \$200K for Health Sciences careers internship scholarship program.
- ◆ Announced upcoming Town Hall meeting, tentatively set for 5/13 at 7:00pm at Isabella.
- ◆ Met with DOT and toured the area with specific regard to reconstructing (as opposed to merely repaving) streets and will be asking CB12's Traffic & Transportation Committee for support on such a project.
- ◆ Brief discussion on various specifics of budget proposals and clarification on negotiations with Columbia University regarding Health Sciences training and education fund. It was clarified that the additional \$200K is a one-time, lump-sum payment, not a payment in lieu of sales taxes (PILOT) that would otherwise have been paid to the city had Audubon not been sited on public property. It is the Board's position that additional PILOT funds should be paid by Columbia so that the training program may exist for more than a short-term period. Mr. Martinez distributed a letter dated 4/23 he received from CU outlining its commitments to the community; it was pointed out that the language in this letter is almost identical to two letters from Columbia dated 1/25 rejected by CB12 as not being sufficiently responsive to our requests..

(8:57pm) Roxanne Dodds for Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields:

- ◆ Would like to meet with Zead Ramadan & Miguel Martinez regarding ULURP on Audubon IV in anticipation of Borough Board meeting.
- ◆ Pointed out MBPO report, including recent hearing on video surveillance.
- ◆ Follow-up in opposition to development of stadium on the West Side.
- ◆ Supports minimum wage increase to at least \$7.10/hour.
- ◆ Opposes Mayor's plan to provide frozen meals-on-wheels for seniors
- ◆ Re-appointment process was a little different this year. Noted new members (see above); the Board is currently at 46 board members.
- ◆ MBPO plans a tour of Manhattan neighborhoods on May 20th, following Borough Board meeting.
- ◆ Supported Sunday's (4/25) march on Washington, DC for reproductive health rights, by providing buses to Washington, DC.

(9:05pm) Lilliam Perez for Senator Eric Schneiderman:

- ◆ Reiterated the Senator's support for an increase in minimum wage.
- ◆ Met with Deputy Mayor Walcott and MBPO regarding new site for Gregorio Luperón High School. Unacceptable to place in George Washington Educational Campus, which is itself already overcrowded.
- ◆ Is meeting with City Planning re: Sherman Creek.

(9:09pm) Shameik Barrat for Senator David Paterson: Spoke briefly to introduce herself.

(9:11pm) Rafael Escaño for Comptroller Bill Thompson: Offered congratulations to new members. Gave a brief introduction of what the comptroller does, including audits of state authorities and city contracts. Distributed information and directory. Mr. Ramadan thanked Mr. Escaño for his service on CB12.

(9:18pm) Resolutions & Committee Reports:

Aidee Camacho, Traffic & Transportation: Traffic & Transportation resolution re: ADA Accessibility for 100 key stations. There was a lengthy discussion clarifying the intent of the 1st “Be It Resolved”, as to whether the Board was recommending that all 468 stations be reviewed for full

accessibility, or only 100 key stations. Jim Berlin moved and Anita Barberis seconded changing "of the" to "feasible" so that not all stations are required to be reviewed. There was significant discussion of ADA compliance and its application to MTA stations. Jackie Rowe Adams moved to table; seconded by Luis Facundo. No objection. The resolution regarding reconstruction of Tenth Avenue passed unanimously (31 votes) without discussion. Next meeting 05/03/04: Public Hearing w/ Eco Development, 5/17 @ 6:30pm at Inwood Public Library re: Proposed greenmarket.

(9:38pm) Martin Collins, Economic Development: Resolution re: Support of NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications, Public Pay Telephones Advertising Reform and requesting it include the Washington Heights/Inwood community, not just part of Manhattan below 96th Street. Steve Simon moved that the third "Be it resolved" be removed; Jim Berlin seconded. There was much discussion, which was concluded with a wording clarification by Martin Collins. The resolution passed unanimously (31 votes) as amended.

Next meeting 05/04/04

- ◆ Arts Stroll update: two ADA accessible buses for transportation. Ongoing meetings with local restaurants to include "A Taste of WaHi". Next planning meeting scheduled for 5/11 @ 6pm.
- ◆ TLC – Livery class is same as 3-hour class for yellow cabs.
- ◆ Thanks to Mason Almeida for his efforts re: website and -email at CB12.
- ◆ Staples and Garage construction ongoing. Contacting Barnes & Noble for its interest as possible tenant.
- ◆ Public Hearing w/ Traffic & Transportation, 5/17 @ 6:30pm at Inwood Public Library re: Proposed Greenmarket in Inwood

(9:50pm) Sandra Wachspress, Youth & Education: Resolution re: NYC Department of Education's policy on 3rd Grade retention; opposition to Mayor's current policy regarding high-stakes 3rd grade testing. There was extensive discussion on the intent of the resolution. The resolution's language from the Borough Board was passed as an emergency response to the Mayor's action regarding social promotion and high-stakes testing. Peter Ferrara moved to table the resolution, and send back to committee to fine-tune and strengthen the resolution; Mason Almeida seconded; no objection. Next meeting 05/03/04: Agenda to be determined.

(10:00pm) Mason Almeida, Public Safety – Next meeting 05/05/04:

- ◆ Agenda to be determined.
- ◆ There will be no seminar on June 7th or 8th on Gang Awareness.
- ◆ CERT continues to meet.
- ◆ 34th Precinct involvement re: gang activity in CB12, citing several specific examples.
- ◆ Meeting with FDNY, especially regarding developments on W. 181st Street.
- ◆ CCRB attended last meeting and clarified issues regarding many complaints and how they come through 311.
- ◆ Noted several known drug locations in Inwood raised by a Board member.

Aging – Next meeting 05/11/04: Agenda TBA.

Health & Environment – Next meeting 05/04/04: Agenda TBA.

Housing & Human Services – Next meeting 05/03/04: Presentation by Catholic Charities re: program services to Dyckman Job Center clients.

Parks & Cultural Affairs – Next meeting 05/04/05:

- ◆ Miranda Hambro, Paysea Place Garden Association re: Support from CB12 to get garden recognition as community asset.
- ◆ Sgt. Luis Guertin, Urban Park Rangers re: Summer programs at Inwood Hill Park.
- ◆ Informational Meeting: Re: Next Uptown Arts Stroll – 5/11/04 @ 6:00pm.

By-laws – Next meeting 05/20/04: Continued discussion on proposed by-laws changes. (Meeting off-site.)

Joint meeting of Land Use and Community Planning Task Force – Next meeting 05/05/04

- ◆ Presentation by Diane Jackier, Dir. of Community & Gov't. Affairs, NYC Landmarks Preservation Comm. (to be confirmed)
- ◆ Presentation by Edwin Marshall, Department of City Planning (to be confirmed)
- ◆ Sherman Creek working session
- ◆ Audubon/ Amsterdam Avenue Study

(10:08pm) Good & Welfare: Welcome back to Msgr. Gerald Walsh, returning from long illness; best wishes to Sybil Dodson who had surgery today.

(10:10 pm) Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING – April 1st, 2004

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

H. Young-Kennedy, III, Asst. Chair
Dago Suarez
Renato Mena
Deborah Blow (Staff)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Emilia Cardona, Chair (excused)
Glenda Swanson Massa (excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Julio Rodriguez
Barbara Smith Ramos
Zead Ramadan

GUESTS: Alvaro Huerta, President, P.O. Michael Buczek Little League; Ted Buczek; P.O. Tony Trinidad, 34th Precinct; Gilbert De Jean, Metropolitan Soloists; Adam Gankiewicz, Buczek Little League; Ralph Paniagua, CEO, Ralph Paniagua Inc.; Andres Nieto, NYPH; Jim Wilson, Metropolitan Soloists; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Community Resident; Susan Sipprelle, CU Journalism Student; Dr. Teodoriz, 212 Sherman Ave.

Opening Remarks by Homer Young-Kennedy III, Assistant Chair. [Note: Towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Young-Kennedy left early to go to hospital, for treatment of what turned out to have been a small stroke.]

Because her re-appointment letter had not yet been received, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter signed as a Member of the Public. Ms Cardona also not yet reappointed, hence quorum was achieved with only three members present.

Seaman-Drake Arch tabled from agenda due to non attendance by principals.

Presentation by Gilbert De Jean of the Metropolitan Soloists, who gave a brief history of the organization. Founded in 1984. Most funding comes from CPMC neighborhood fund, the Department of Consumer Affairs, and Local 802 (the musicians' union). Performs free chamber concerts in various public parks and institutions. Costs run approximately \$750 – \$1500 per concert, depending on the program and venue. Currently they need more funding due to loss of DCA support. Last year the organization only had one concert instead of three, due to lack of funding. The Committee will contact Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat and Councilman Robert Jackson regarding state and city DCA support.

Presentation by Ralph Paniagua, CEO, Paniagua Inc. Mr. Paniagua, a promoter of concerts in New York City, proposed a series of 10 concerts in Anne Loftus Playground at Fort Tryon Park. Has a 14-year history of musical programming, including successful events in South Street Seaport, Bryant Park, Central Park, etc. He is looking to do Saturday nights 6:00pm – 9:00pm, from July 3rd to September 4th. Has own team of security, so as to not hinder NYPD. Has good track record for safety. Concessions and advertising would be temporary for the duration of the event. No alcohol or beer/ wine sales, except in VIP reception area which would have beer and wine only. Committed to moderate noise levels, and is working with sound engineers. Promoting family entertainment, not raucous Hip-Hop concerts catering to mega-crowds. Zead Ramadan: NYPD resources will be especially tight during the Republican Convention, so it is especially important not to burden the NYPD. There ensued extensive brainstorming discussion about other ideas for future programs in Washington Heights. Dago Suarez suggested possible use of local acts in programming as a platform. Mr. Paniagua was open to this idea, which they do somewhat in their own venues, though all acts must be vetted -- it's not open mic. Elizabeth Lorris Ritter requested that there be some outreach to residential buildings proximate to the park. Next step is to confer with Parks Committee Chair Emilia Cardona, Deputy Inspector Kehoe of the 34th Precinct, Parks Borough Commissioner William Castro, before issuing any permits.

Presentation by Ted Buczek, who is looking for improvements to the Buczek Little League Fields and is hoping for synthetic turf. Parks Department supports the use of turf, but has limited funding; they estimate the cost at \$650,000. Has tried to reach out to a not-for-profit foundation that improves playfields for high schools facilities, but they rejected the request because the fields for little league. It was suggested that since the high school does use the field, the Buczek Foundation will reapply to "Take the Field", though this foundation already has underwritten improvements to the facilities at GWHS. There was further discussion regarding adding turf in the outfield by DPR: currently DPR is re-sodding infield, but outfield will be problem. As to bathroom facilities there are no port-a-potties, and the bathrooms at the adjacent playground are not open. We need workers keeping the facility open during game time. Dago will contact Commissioner Castro regarding the bathrooms and timetable on infield improvements. CB12 will write a letter to the little league supporting their request to "Take the Field" and other possible outside fund providers. Little league will write letter to Community Board 12 requesting turf installation as capital project.

Due to lateness of the hour, Chair to go through mail tomorrow; meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

**COMMUNITY BOARD #12, MANHATTAN
DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET
APRIL 15, 2004**

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Deborah Blow, Community Associate
Lee Anthony Nieves, Mayor's Office-CAU
Pat McCullough, Councilman Robert Jackson's Off.
Gabriela Rosa, Liaison, Councilman Miguel Martinez
Sander Dulitz, Resident-Rep.Councilman Miguel Martinez
Lilliam Perez, Senator Schneiderman's Off
Jocelinne Minaya, Liaison, Man.District Attorney's Office
Deputy Inspector James Kehoe, NYPD 34th Pct.
Deputy Inspector Jason Wilcox, NYPD 33th Pct.
NYPD PO.Loewry, 33rd Pct.
PO Bolingo, NYPD Transit #3
Chief Anthony Montera, FDNY 13th Batt.
Sgt Benjamin Soto, Sanitation Enforcement

Supv. Frank Neal, Dept of Sanitation
Jenny Torres, Dept of Transportation
Synetta E. Anderson, Supv. GWB Bus Station
Gregory Lowe, HH Bridges & Tunnels
Terry Cullen, HH Bridges & Tunnels
Natasha Harper - DEP
Zamira Setara, Con Edison
Adeena Horowitz, Self Help
Marc Barbiere, DOH/MH
Mariella Camargo, St. Lukes Hospital
Judith Rodriguez, Inwood Library
Mr. Cooper, Washington Heights Branch Library
Etta Graham/Clifton Hill, Project Renewal

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Ms. Feliciano welcomed city agencies, guests and representatives of elected officials.

Ms. Feliciano commented that minutes for March 18, 2004 would be adopted at end of meeting, copies were being reproduced.

Ms. Feliciano called on a motion to adopt the April agenda. Hearing no opposition, agenda was adopted.

Agenda Topics

- **NYPD Transit #3 Officer Berlingo** reported that the W. 163rd St. & W. 181st subway stations on the "C" as in 'Charlie' train and the "A" express trains were reported being in filthy conditions. He commented that homeless outreach teams had been dispatched to those affected areas to monitor conditions with the assistance of the MTA Connections Unit he reported that there had been 9 arrests in district 12 area of homelessness. In the 28 day period 6 official visits from the homeless outreach team have been conducted.

Deputy Inspector Jason Wilcox, NYPD 33rd Pct. Inspector Wilcox reported that on w.168th St., residential building between Amsterdam & St. Nicholas, verticle inspections in that building have been conducted. Active investigation of drug enforcement regarding two apartments is ongoing and a meeting has been set-up with District Attorney's office and building management. The following conditions are to be addressed:

- No security
- Insufficient lighting
- No signage of Trespass Program
- Poorly run building
- No active landlord or building superintendent

The Inspector also reported on rash break in's of livery cabs (high tech surveillance equipment being stolen). There had been 15 breakins in March, are ongoing investigations. It was also reported that last week the 33rd Pct met with livery cab bases to raise awareness of perpetrators. Grand larceny and burglaries on the rise at least 70% are residential occurrences, target location at W. 156th – W. 160th St. lower drive and W., 175th St. and Haven Avenue.

Deputy Inspector James Kehoe, NYPD 34rd Pct Deputy Inspector Kehoe met with board member Martin Collins at Diamante Restaurant on 4/14/04 Deputy Inspector Kehoe suggested, investing in some sound proofing would help the noise factor. He also stated that the establishment would be facing nuisance abatement charges should they not be compliant. Deputy Inspector Kehoe reported on sexual abuse offender, Hispanic 20yrs of age followed two women and fondled them at 565 W. 189th St. & 4841 Bway, composite sketch has been provided. Inspector reported shooting Rancho Jubilee, alleged it was a revenge shooting.

Michael Buczek parade kicks off 4/24/04 At 10:00am , PS 48 commences to W. 181st St., St. Nicholas and ends behind George Washington High School to Michael Buczek Field, Police Commissioner and other city officials will attend. It was also reported that during the holiday season from April 5 – April 13, no incidents reported from the houses of worship.

Inspector acknowledged that burglaries were up and provided group with some instances. Inspector stated some grand larceny conditions around the lower end, clothing stores (Zodiac) was identified as a target location. Victims must be more aware of their surroundings. Inspector reported that grand larceny autos have decreased in the last 28 day period.

Northern Manhattan Parks, Tim Burch reported lights outages at Isham Park is an ongoing problem, restoration being addressed by private contractor (Holland Lighting, located in Staten Island) however, vandalism continues. Enforcement #'s are low, (traffic noise and pollution a nuisance). No officers assigned to the immediate area, officers are dispatched from Central Park. He reported Spring fest at Ft. Tryon Park this weekend near Anne Loftus Playground from 11am – 5pm. The opening day ceremony for Inwood Hill Park 12:30 – 2pm for Little League teams. The Junior League will be painting a mural and sprucing up along the Highbridge Park and on the inside, The Chad Fest in Inwood Hill Park from 11am to 6pm. 100 women will be planting flowers and removing rubbish contributing towards beautifying the area.

Ms. Feliciano asked if there are other alternatives to cover these parks lights that would keep them from being vandalized, response: light fixtures are of an older design, very difficult to mesh a covering.

Ms. Feliciano asked for posters to display in the board office or at the general meeting for the upcoming events.

DOS – Supervisor Frank Neal - Sanitation targeting areas where the numbers are low, but reported streets are 88.2 % cleaner. Increased basket service on W. 207th St. & Dyckman

Manhattan DA's Office – Joselinne Minaya stats reported 3/01/04-03/31/04

- Trespass Arrests 64, 42 sentenced
- Drug Arrests 222, 85 sentenced, 27 jailed
- Marijuana Arrests 280, 62 sentenced
- Robbery Arrests 20
- Grand Larceny 47, 13 sentenced
- Total arrests: 633 (includes both the 33rd and 34th Pcts.)
- Total Evictions & Vacates from 6/10/88 – 3/31/04, were 2,120
- Total #of Bldgs in the Trespass, 528

DOT – Jenny Torres provided DOT's response to Inwood Towers letter. Ms. Torres also reported that on W. 203rd St bet 9th & 10th Avenue traffic will be going one-way (westbound).

FDNY Batt #13 – Chief Montero reported the numbers of fires are relatively normal for this time of the year.

Sanitation Enforcement - Sgt. Benjamin Soto he reported routing times have changed from 11am to 12noon in the lower section of the district scheduled to go into affect in May – changes in other areas will occur in subsequent months. He also reported enforcement continues to issue summonses.

GWB - Synetta Anderson reported preparing for summer campers leaving the bus terminal.

DOH/MH – Marc Barbieri shared health materials.

Councilman Martinez's Office – Sandy Dulitz reported concerns of rat infestation, noise pollution from food cart at W. 207th St. & Sherman Avenue. DOS to inspect.

Councilman Jackson's Office – Pat McCullough will report next month.

DEP – Natassja Harper had nothing to report but will apprise DEP of any concerns.

HH Pkway Bridge & Tunnels – Gregory Lowe & Terry Cullen reported that as of Monday, roadway work will be shifted to opposite side of bridge. In addition, Bridge and Tunnels will monitor homeless conditions at the bridge.

Lilliam Perez – Senator Schneiderman Office provided literature regarding minimum wage and the Rockefeller Drug Laws, issues the Senator is presently addressing in Albany.

Ft. Washington Library – Felix Morales reported registration of ESL classes will be 6:00pm – 6:30, classes held Monday & Wednesday 6:00 – 8:30pm.

Inwood Library –Judith Rodriguez reported ESL classes still have space.

An announcement was made of the May 7th WHICOA Breakfast, for information (212) 781-7200.

Washington Heights Branch – Mr. Cooper reported storytelling 2pm May 1st.

Con Edison – Zamira Setara follow up on Harlem River Drive lights, next month.

Meeting adjourned 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Blow

**Land Use Committee / Community Planning Task Force
Joint Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2004**

Committee / Task Force Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair, Land Use (LU/CP)
Luis Facundo, Chair, Community Planning TF (CP)
Jay Mazur (LU)
Rose Santo (LU)
Martin Collins (LU /CP)
Peter Ferrara (LU)
Sybil R. Dodson (CP)
Steve Simon (CP)

Committee Members Absent

Anita Barberis, Asst Chair., Land Use (LU) excused

Staff Member Present

Miguel A. Reyes, Community Assistant

Guests: Ethel Sheffer, Insight Association-Columbia University, Chris Collins, City Council – Land Use

1. The joint meeting of the Land Use Committee and Community Planning Task Force was called to order at 7:20 pm.
2. Land Use Chair, Wayne Benjamin advised that the Community Planning Task Force will meet jointly with Land Use on an ongoing basis to explore common areas of interest and concern between Land Use and the Planning Task Force and until such time as the Task Force has further defined and developed particular planning projects / undertakings on which it will concentrate its attention.
3. Chris Collins, a staff member for the City Council's Land Use Committee, made a presentation on two pieces of pending legislation currently being discussed by the Council – a Community Facility Zoning Text change and the creation of an appeals process for decisions made by the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA").

i) Concerning the proposed BSA Appeals process, Mr. Collins indicated that at present, with the exception of litigation, a process to appeal decisions made by BSA does not exist. BSA has been criticized for applying its variance criteria unevenly. Also, multiple variances granted in the same geographic area can change the character of the area without there being any formal rezoning or public review associated therewith. The Municipal Arts Society is currently studying BSA variances with a concentration on those provided in Brooklyn and Tribeca where some of the more questioned variances have been approved. The creation of a BSA appeals process, introduced to the Council by Councilmember Avela (check spelling), would provide an improved system of checks and balances by permitting the Council review decisions made by BSA to "determine the sufficiency of the evidence provided to support the BSA findings" and to support or overturn the BSA variance. Under the proposed appeals process a 2/3 majority of the Council would first have to vote to exercise jurisdiction over the subject BSA variance. Mr. Collins noted that even if the Council approves this measure it must then be put on the ballot since it shifts power from the Executive Branch (BSA falls under the Mayor's Office) to the Legislative Branch, i.e. the City Council.

ii) Concerning the Community Facility Zoning Text change, Mr. Collins indicated that the zoning text change impacts three areas – medical offices, off-street parking for houses of worship and rear yard incursions.

a) The medical office change is primarily geared towards low-density residential districts, i.e.: R6 and below and redefines what is included in the "Medical Office" definition under zoning. Facilities currently defined as medical office under zoning would no longer be allowed in R1 or R2 districts. Medical Office Facilities would be redefined to "Ambulatory Medical, Diagnostic and Treatment Facilities." Size limitations would apply in R3 and R4 districts. Mr. Collins noted that CB 12-M is primarily R7 so this provision of the zoning text amendment would have little impact.

b) The parking regulations for houses of worship would be modified so that the number of parking spaces required would be calculated using the maximum occupancy capacity of the space instead of the number of fixed seats (currently a house of worship that uses folding chairs in lieu of pews or other fixed seating has no parking requirements). The parking requirements would vary based on zoning designation; parking requirements in R6, R7-1 and R7-b zoning districts would be eliminated since these areas typically have mass transit services. The proposed text amendment would also allow for sharing of parking facilities to be considered.

c) The range of community facility use that would be permitted to build in the 30-foot rear yard required by zoning would be reduced. Typically, all community facilities are permitted to build structures up to 23 feet in height in the 30-foot rear yard. The text amendment would eliminate any rear yard construction in R1 through R4 districts. In R5 districts and above, schools, day-care centers, colleges, hospitals and houses of worship will continue to be permitted to build in rear yards, but libraries and museums will be prohibited.

Mr. Collins concluded by noting that no action is required of the Land Use Committee or CB 12 – M at this time but that we are free to weigh in as we deem appropriate.

4. Ethel Sheffer, Insight Associates reviewed the proposal (copy attached) that she forwarded to Mr. Benjamin to provide paid professional services, in conjunction with pro-bono services provided by the Department of City Planning and Harlem Community Development Corporation ("Harlem CDC"), to compile and analyze data and other materials necessary to advance the Audubon Avenue / Amsterdam Avenue Study inclusive of facilitating workshops and visioning sessions and implementing more extensive business and area resident surveys. The Land Use Committee generally agreed that retaining consultants was an excellent way to ensure that attention remains focused on the study between Committee meetings and to drive the study process by having deliverables produced and submitted to the Committee on a determined schedule. Ms. Sheffer estimated that the services proposed by Insight Associates would cost in the range of \$7,500 to \$10,000. The Land Use Committee recommended that Mr. Benjamin request that the Executive Committee allocate a minimum of \$5,000 of CB 12's own funds towards consultant fees and to coordinate with the Empowerment Zone and Harlem CDC to pursue matching / additional funds for these and related consultant services.
5. Luis Facundo, Chair, Community Planning Task Force provided summary comments on the initiatives that the Task Force might seek to pursue and areas of concern and interest for both the Task Force and the Land Use Committee. The use of a geographic information system ("GIS") to do our own planning studies and exploration of the Sherman Creek area and Columbia University's patterns of property ownership and plans for expansion was discussed. On the matter of Sherman Creek there was discussion related to mixed-use development options along Dyckman, Broadway and 207th Street that is permissible under current zoning and would be consistent with some of the recommendations coming out of the January 31st Sherman Creek Planning Workshop. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed in more detail at the May 2004 Land Use / Task Force meeting. Finally, Mr. Facundo also expressed interest in the type of dialogue that is currently ongoing in Land Use and looks forward to exploring with Land Use various planning issues and scenarios as well as to the Task Force becoming a standing committee of the Board.
6. The minutes of the March 3, 2004 Land Use Committee were approved as corrected. (Moved: P. Ferrara, Second: R. Santo, Vote: 5 -0- 0).
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

Economic Development Committee
April 1, 2004
Minutes

Members Present

Martin Collins, Chair
Julio Pequero, Asst. Chair
Mason Almeida
Rosa Santo

Members Absent

Socrates Solano

CB12 Members Attending

Dago Suarez
Jacqueline Aristy

Chairman: Zead Ramadan
Community Asst: Miguel Reyes

Guests: Gabrielle Langoltz, Greenmarket, Tom Strumolo, Greenmarket, Jackie Parrot, Inwood Neighbors Association, Eugene Gologursky, Inwood Neighbors Association, Edwin R. Ortiz, Step to Ed's, Jerry O'Rourke, Dyckman Marina, Benjamin Lamarche, Sabrosura Restaurant, Pablo R. Vazquez, Sabrosura Restaurant, Alida Ferreira, Cindy's Restaurant Inc., Esperanza Cruz, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp., Persio Gomez, Seaman Radio Dispatcher, Ellen Count, Community Resident, Zead Ramadan, X Caffe, Nicole Masur, Community Resident.

The meeting started at 6:35 p.m. with opening remarks from the committee chair, Martin Collins.

Seaman Radio Dispatcher applied to the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLS) to renew their For Hire Base License. Mr. Persio Gomez, President, discussed Seaman Car Service's 17 years of service to Washington Heights-Inwood and the metropolitan area. They have more than 300 drivers and a strong community record bolstered by numerous private, corporate, and institutional accounts. The committee recommended the TLC renew Seaman's For Hire Base License.

The X Caffe applied to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to renew their license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café at 3952 Broadway, which consists of 5 tables and 14 seats. Zead Ramadan, President, X Caffe Corp. discussed the business, which has served the community for six years and is open Monday-Saturday. There was no adverse history on file. The committee recommended the DCA renew this license with the stipulations the X Caffe's continue to participate in the Adopt-a-Basket Program, and maintain the cleanliness of the restaurant's front area at all times.

Step to Ed's, located at 1509B St. Nicholas Avenue, has applied to the State Liquor Authority (SLA) for an Eating Place Beer license. Edwin R. Ortiz, owner, making his second appearance before the committee, discussed the business which will sell hot & cold sandwiches, appetizers, and seat approximately 25 people in its basement location of a 5-story residential building. Mr. Ortiz is still waiting for the Department of Buildings to approve the proposed use and the FDNY sign-off. The committee postponed decision on this license until we receive word from DOB and the FDNY.

Cindy's Restaurant (DBA: Caridad Restaurant), located at 261-263 Sherman Avenue, will apply to the SLA for an On-Premises Liquor license. Alida Ferreira, owner, plans to serve Spanish-American food and open daily until 12 midnight. Ms. Ferreira owned and operated the Caridad at West 184th Street & Broadway for the past 15 years. This new restaurant will create four to six new jobs. After further discussion, the committee recommended the SLA grant this On-Premises Liquor license.

Sabrosura Restaurant, located at 4996 Broadway, will apply to the SLA for a Restaurant Wine license. Benjamin Lamarche, owner, and Pablo R. Vazquez attended. Sabrosura will serve Spanish food and pastries, open daily until 12 midnight, and seat up to 24 customers. Eight to ten new jobs will be created. The committee recommended the SLA grant this Restaurant Wine license.

Dyckman Marina Clubhouse Corp., formerly Tubby Hook Café, located at 350 Dyckman Street, will apply to the SLA for an On-Premises Liquor license for its new soundproof restaurant, which will be open year-round and serve seafood & Latin-American cuisine. The owners are Rudi Dominguez and Jerry O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke said the restaurant will be open from 12 noon-12 midnight for food and the bar until 4:00 a.m. It will be available for special occasions during which a minimum of five security officers will be employed. After a thorough discussion with Mr. O'Rourke, the committee recommended the SLA grant this license with stipulations that control of the premises not be given to any outside promoter at any time, effective security personnel and traffic-control plans be in place at all times, identifications are double-checked, and for all special events, drinking-age identification such as a wristband or hand-stamp be given to customers. Dyckman Marina has applied to the Department of Buildings for a Place of Assembly Permit.

Kobe Sushi Inc, 827 West 181st Street, and Mi New Millenium Restaurant, 220 Nagle Avenue, did not attend to discuss their forthcoming applications to the SLA. They will be invited to our May meeting.

The committee and members of the public heard a presentation by Tom Strumolo, Director, Green Market, for a proposed market in Inwood. Several locations were discussed including Isham Street between Cooper Street and Seaman Avenue, and the western-end of West 207th Street adjacent to Seaman Avenue. Members of the Inwood Neighbors Association presented a petition signed by 253 community residents in support of a Green Market. We have scheduled a Public Hearing with the Traffic & Transportation Committee on Monday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Inwood Public Library where the proposed market and locations will be discussed with the community residents and stakeholders.

We reached out to the Department of Business Services and asked them to provide emergency assistance to the proprietors of the JCT Coffee Shop located at 5009 Broadway. Con Edison shutdown the building's gas due to unsafe conditions. In the interim, JCT Coffee Shop has suffered immeasurable losses since it relies heavily on take-out and delivery orders. Their ability to meet orders is hamstrung by the fact they are cooking off a hot-plate. Both the residential and commercial gas lines are being replaced. Crews are working daily to complete the job.

The committee passed a resolution supporting the NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications public pay telephone advertising reform and asked it be extended to Washington Heights-Inwood, which was omitted from the proposed amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Martin Collins.