

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN**

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2000

Members Present

Anita Barberis	Herbert Harwitt	Helen Morik	Steven Rizick
James Berlin	Soledad Hiciano	Víctor Morisete-Romero	Nelson Rójas
Emilia G. Cardona	Joyce F. Holland	Norma Nadien	Maria Sierra
Laurie T. Cohen	Robert C. Liebeskind	Marcos Navarro	Barbara Smith Ramos
A. Fredericka Cuenca	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Dr. Pamela Palanque North	Ricardo Ureña
Walther G. Delgado	Isidoro Martínez	Julio Peguero	Sandra Wachspress
Leslie Foster	Miguel Martínez	Martha Pepín	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
William A. García	Manuel J. Méndez	Zead Ramadan	Elouise Whitehurst
Beatrice Hall	Luis H. Minier	Julissa Reynoso	

Members Absent

Rafael Beaumont	Jack Fogle	George Sánchez
Abby Belkin (excused)	María Luna (excused)	Laura Sterling
Ronald J. Botelho (excused)	William C. Ortega (excused)	Cheryl Tidwell
Sybil R. Dodson (excused)	Bertie Ray, III	Juan Villar

Public Officials, Ex-officio Members and Guests

Council Member Guillermo Linares	Venecia Fernández, for Assemblyman Farrell
Council Member Stanley E. Michels	Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields
District Manager Gregoria Feliciano	

The General Meeting of December 2000 was held at the Mt. Sinai Jewish Center. **Community Board 12 was called to order and began its Regular Session at 7:25 p.m.**

The agenda was approved with an amendment to take up the minutes of November 2000 following the District Manager's report.

Chair's Report – William A. García

Welcomed members, guests and members. Thanked the Mt. Sinai Jewish Center for hosting the meeting. No other items to report.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Highlighted items included in her written report to the board. Updated the board on meetings attended during December and issues raised at the District Service Cabinet meeting. Noted that Cabinet meetings will be held in July and August 2001, and that CB 12 office has logged 120 complaints since July 2000. Board employee Deborah Blow thanked members and staff for their support following the passing of her son. In response to questions, Ms. Feliciano clarified the

repair work to the Broadway Bridge (at W. 220 St.), schedule for resurfacing local streets, meetings of the new task force on sidewalk obstruction and delays in repairing street lamps.

The minutes of November 2000 were approved; with a revision by the Secretary noting that member Elizabeth Lorris Ritter was also recognized and received a bouquet of flowers.

Nominating Committee: Board Elections – Robert C. Liebeskind, Chair

Announced the candidates that will be up for election for a six-month term as the Executive Officers of CB 12, as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	William A. Garcia	<u>Treasurer:</u>	Emilia G. Cardona
<u>1st Vice Chair:</u>	A. Fredericka Cuenca		Barbara Smith Ramos
<u>2nd Vice Chair:</u>	Walther G. Delgado	<u>Secretary:</u>	Marcos Navarro
	Zead Ramadan	<u>Asst. Secretary:</u>	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Candidates for contended positions, Walther Delgado and Zead Ramadan for 2nd Vice Chair and Emilia Cardona for Treasurer, addressed the board on their reasons for seeking election. Robert Libenskind noted that all candidates had been previously advised of this presentation, and explained the process and rules governing the elections. Ballots must be signed to be valid, attendance sheet must be initialed, and votes are available for public inspection. The ballots were collected and the Nominating Committee retired to tally the votes. William A. Garcia resumed chairing the meeting.

Public Session

Marianna DePaola

Community observer. Complained of sidewalk obstructions caused by stores on St. Nicholas, at W. 183 St. and W. 191 St. Noted the lack of mailboxes in upper Audubon Avenue.

Edwin Marshall

Dept. of City Planning, Manhattan Office. Announced that Walter McRae, the Dept.'s Planner for CB 12, retired after 35 years and for an interim period he will be the contact person. He can be reached at 212 720-3560 and is available for questions.

Public Officials Report

Council Member Guillermo Linares

The City Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution asking the federal government to withdraw its plans for a halfway house in the community. The guidelines for the project, insufficient local support and lack of community consultation are continuing concerns. The project is on hold. Also working on the rat infestation problem. Distributed copies of the resolution and invitations for his upcoming holiday party.

Nominating Committee: Results of Board Elections – Robert C. Liebeskind, Chair

Reported that 33 votes had been recorded. One vote was disqualified but subsequently reinstated. The results of the election were as follows:

- William A. García received 33 votes and was elected Chair.
- A. Fredericka Cuenca received 28 votes and was elected 1st Vice Chair.
- Walther G. Delgado received 21 votes and was elected 2nd Vice Chair. Zead Ramadan received 11 votes.
- Emilia G. Cardona received 22 votes and was elected Treasurer. Barbara Smith Ramos received 7 votes.
- Marcos Navarro received 30 votes and was elected Secretary.
- Elizabeth Lorris Ritter received 31 votes and was elected Assistant Secretary.

Mr. García resumed chairing the meeting and thanked the Nominating Committee and the outgoing Executive Officers.

A roll call confirmed that 34 members were present for the following part of the agenda.

Committee Reports

Task Force on NY Presbyterian Hospital – A. Fredericka Cuenca, Chair

Gave background to the hearings and meetings of the task force. Presented resolution and noted the new additions to the text.

Members were given five minutes to review the resolution due to its length, short notice and the proposed revisions. Members discussed several aspects of the resolution. Concerns were reiterated regarding the expansion plan's traffic impact, the community's lack of trust in NY-Presbyterian, the need for monitoring the project's effects, accountability, the resolution's wording, support for health aspects of the project and reservations with the project's traffic and parking mitigation, and the inadequacy of the job and business opportunity goals.

William Garcia noted that given the nature and timing of the notice from the City Planning Dept., the key concerns of the community were covered in the resolution. CB 12 requested a 30-day extension citing the size of the project and religious holiday season, but was denied; although the City's schedule was administrative and discretionary, it is not mandated by the City Charter. A key concern noted was the need for such public amenities within the project as space for a public childcare center. Disagreeing views were expressed regarding the traffic impact and effect on the quality of life of the community, the project's proximity to major roads and arteries, the GW Bridge and other development projects in the vicinity.

Councilman Linares will send a letter asking the hospital to strengthen its commitment to creating opportunities for the community and to a better mitigation plan. Wants to avoid the situation that resulted from the Psychiatric Institute's building project.

A vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions and 1 not voting approved the resolution as presented.

Helen Morik reiterated the Hospital's commitment to work with the community, and Council Members Michels and Linares.

Council Member Stanley E. Michels

Noted the new developments and problems caused by the new trash disposal system. Heavy truck traffic will be one of its impacts. Recycling needs to be re-emphasized.

Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President C. Virginia Fields

Provided a written report and literature regarding the initiatives of the Borough President. Ms. Muñoz announced that she expects to leave her current position, and CB 12 should expect a new representative.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Walther G. Delgado
Secretary