

## General Meeting Minutes December 17, 2002

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Anita Barberis	Venecia Fernandez	Renato Mena
Abby Belkin	William A. Garcia	Kirk Miller
James Berlin	Beatrice Hall	Helen Morik
Emilia G. Cardona	Herbert Harwitt	Norma Nadien
Nelson Castro	Joyce F. Holland	Marcos Navarro
Martin Collins	Jose Lopez	Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Sybil R. Dodson	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Julio Peguero
Rafael Escano	Maria Luna	Ron Peterson
Luis Facundo	Benjamin Mantell	Zead Ramadan

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Jacqueline Aristy
Rafael Beaumont
Mireya Cruz
Fredericka Cuenca
Walther G. Delgado (Excused)
Ivelisse Fairchild (Excused)
Leslie Foster (Excused)
Nelson Gomez
Jerry Marie Saunders

In the absence of a quorum, the District Manager began her report at 7:20 PM.

### DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Gregoria Feliciano

- Quiet zone signs will be going up at Isabella in January (finally!)
- Gave testimony at City Council regarding Operation Dumpster
- Noise violations - NYPD has confiscated many vehicles through Operation Soundtrap
- DEP holding workshops for auto mechanics to help increase compliance regarding storage of hazardous materials
- DDC replacing sewer lines through Manhattan's west side - On Dyckman Street from Vermilyea to Sherman, Ft. Washington Avenue from 163<sup>rd</sup> to 165<sup>th</sup> St. This inevitably will be disruptive, but they will reach out to the community to mitigate inconvenience. The work is estimated to be completed by Spring 2003.

### PUBLIC SESSION

Michael Alvarez, New York Public Library - Thanked the Board for support of NYPL with recent resolution.

John Culpepper, Lower Washington Heights Neighborhood Association - spoke regarding NYC rent guidelines coalition, a citywide group which meets monthly. Spoke regarding loss of housing due to conversion of rental units to commercial units (stores), and to medical and professional offices. Urged people to get involved with this group and this struggle.

Quorum reached at 7:40 PM

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Anita Barberis and seconded by James Berlin; no objections.  
Motion to adopt the minutes (as corrected) was made by Steve Simon and seconded by James Berlin.

No public officials to speak. No additional public speakers.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Housing/Land Use/Economic Development joint resolution presented by Maria Luna, stating that this is a vital neighborhood and a great place to live, and we want it to remain so. Accepted several grammatical changes as friendly. No further discussion. Resolution passed 25-0-1-0.

Norma Nadien thanked the three committee Chairs for their hard work.

Martin Collins noted that the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Cabaret license for Umbrella Bar & Lounge (440 West 202<sup>nd</sup> Street) and offered a correction to previous committee minutes.

Chair noted concurrent Empowerment Zone (EZ) meeting hence his lateness and excused absences of two CB 12 members who are on the EZ board. Praised recent resolution as powerful. We have been getting calls from other Community Boards and the press; there is interest. This issue is Citywide. Deferred balance of report so that we could continue with resolution which he supports.

Health & Environment Committee, Steve Simon - before introducing resolution on the future status of the Ambulatory Care Network Corporation also praised resolution just passed. Accepted friendly amendments to add ", Manhattan" after "Community Board 12" and changed "60 days" to "120 days" in the "Be it further resolved". James Berlin called the question; seconded by Sybil Dodson; no objection. Resolution passed unanimously (30 yes; 1 not voting due to conflict). Steve thanked for passage. Spoke in regard to anticipated vote by the City Council on Mayor's proposed ban on smoking in public places. Next meeting scheduled for 1/7.

Helen Morik said NY-Presbyterian Hospital views resolution as a friendly gesture by the board consistent with the hospital's intentions.

Parks & Cultural Affairs, Emilia Cardona - Abandoned Amtrak building on Dyckman Street is decrepit and an eyesore - something must be done. Differing possible uses for the building include cultural centers or use as needed office space and vehicle storage for Parks Department. Both uses are important for community, though there is no funding available from Parks Department to develop property.

Helen Morik: How did this come about now? Building has been decrepit for a long time.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: Interested parties have come forward to discuss site.

James Berlin: In favor to develop community resources, but this resolution puts blinders on us. It paints us into a corner. Parks use and cultural center are not the only possible uses - could be used as an athletic facility for example.

Glenda Swanson Massa: change "homeless people to invade" to "trespass on and misuse of" and add "multi-" before "cultural" in first whereas.

Kirk Miller: Questioned "redefine area" and also opportunities for revenue generation: Chair asked for specific wording changes.

Mr. Berlin: Change "redefine" to "enhance" in 6<sup>th</sup> whereas and "enhances" to "creates" in 7<sup>th</sup> whereas. Change "and community multi-cultural organizations" to "in consultation with the community". Kirk Miller question regarding reverse -These are clarified fees collected from concessionaires.

Ms. Lorris Ritter: spoke on behalf of Parks Department's need for equipment storage space.

Milagros Vicente: supports keeping "cultural" in whereas.

A: vaguer wording includes possible use not only for cultural but also recreational, support or other uses.

Ron Peterson: Spoke in support of Jim's change.

Maria Luna: Echoed Ron Peterson's concerns.

Mr. Miller: Asked who are the players involved?

A: read the minutes. <brief break for people to read the minutes>

Rafael Escano: Spoke in support for putting "cultural" back in, because the people who might put money up to develop site would only do so for that purpose.

Mr. Peterson: Have there been any proposals submitted to Parks Dept? RFPs?

A: No

Zead Ramadan: \$1.5 million from City Council for renovation of building, including construction of bathrooms. Monies were allocated but are on hold.

Ms. Luna: Point of information – can this go back to committee? Have any of the foregoing suggestions been incorporated?

A: <Chair read all of changes so far.>

Ms. Lorris Ritter: add "parking" before "office" and add "and".

Luis Facundo called the question; seconded by James Berlin; no objection. Motion does not carry: 16-16-1-1.

Traffic & Transportation, James Berlin – Next meeting is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>. Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner will be attending to discuss plans for 155<sup>th</sup> Street. Also on the agenda are construction plans for the Major Deegan Expressway and 207<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. Encouraged people to sign petition (and to get others to sign) regarding ending 9-train service and going back to 1-train services only.

Public Safety, Dr. Pamela Palanque North – Westchester representative regarding the nuclear reactor at Indian Point addressed committee regarding safety issues of having a nuclear plant in vicinity. The Chair also addressed local safety issues, and is scheduling walking tours of neighborhood to assess fire safety, crime and other issues. First walk will be Saturday 1/25; another Spring date TBA.

James Berlin and Sybil Dodson commented that Indian Point presentation was frightening and important issue to consider, but presentation may have been biased. Important to get balanced view.

Youth & Education, Sandra Wachspress – meeting rescheduled to January 13<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with Three Kings Day. Guests to include FDNY, CSD 6 and DOT regarding access to PS 5, and Jessica Garcia of CFE to present regarding the ongoing fight with NYS for fair and adequate school funding.

Committee for the Aging, Herbert Harwitt – Department of Aging Commissioner will be the next guest. Hopes that WHICOA and senior center Executive Directors will attend, as well as media. This is an important issue: "62 is right around the corner...!"

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT (continued): Zead Ramadan**

- CB member conduct – if you are going to go to the Board, please give courtesy of advance call.
- Conduct with staff should be respectful. Please ask staff if it is ok to use space (desk, phone, etc.) before using
- Regarding media: only Chair (or one authorized by Chair) can go on record on behalf of the Board.
- Borough Service Cabinet meeting is for Chair and District Manager only and only members of Board if asked by Chair.
- Thanked Assemblyman Espaillat for sending a letter to the Mayor reinforcing our opposition to EMS site on 181<sup>st</sup> Street.
- ULURP from Columbia University regarding changes to design of newest Audubon building. Lower height, but larger footprint. Will consult with Chairs of Committees, and there will be a public hearing. We are on a 60-day clock.
- Ribbon cutting for Greyhound bus from GWB to points south. Points north and west to be added in future.
- Cited letter-to-the-Editor of the Manhattan Times asking to remove 1/9 skip-stop service, and replace with regular 1-train.
- Need people for Traffic and Transportation committee.
- Attendance: Secretary will be sending letters, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to members with poor attendance. We need to have people in the Board who are active, and show up. This will help the quorum. Will also talk with the Executive Committee and By-laws committee to streamline process for removing Board members for poor attendance.
- The Empowerment Zone, along with WHICD and other local organizations, is reaching out to area businesses to help them get City contracts. The City wants to engage small contractors, but doesn't know how to get the word out regarding contracts it lets.
- Thanked Elouise Whitehurst, Julio Peguero and Norma Nadien for their attendance, despite recent illnesses.

Land Use, Maria Luna – reminded people that January's meeting will include discussion of survey to community regarding the Audubon/Amsterdam commercial use, to help possible rezoning of that part of the neighborhood to reflect current use.

Zead Ramadan spoke in support of this planning process and also 197A process.

Nelson Castro: how does the failed parks resolution go back to committee?

Chair: the people who support this idea need to bring it back to the Committee for further discussion.

Committee Chair: asked that committee members show up to the meeting so that issues can be considered by the full committee.

Helen Morik: our rejection of the resolution means that community input is not required for development.

Zead Ramadan: Clarified that Parks Department owns property and that they would have to come to community with any plans proposed for use of the facility.

Dr. Pamela Palanque North: press often shows up at meetings and notes are taken. If press asks follow up question to clarify what they already heard or saw, do we have to defer to the Chair? Zead Ramadan: Cannot speak for the Board, but can clarify what happened. If press wants opinion of Board, they must go through the Board Chair.

Helen Morik: Surprised that there was no report from the New York Presbyterian Task force.

Zead Ramadan: There was no request from the Chair to present; will ask Chair to present at January's meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Maria Luna: Kwanzaa celebration on 12/28 from noon-6pm at the American Museum of Natural History.

Steve Simon: Is glad that the press is paying attention to CB 12. Also announced information regarding Christmas tree recycling by Parks Department.

Dr. Pamela Palanque North: Museo del Barrio – 3 Kings Day Parade on 1/6/03 at 9am.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: Documentary 1/20/03 @ 10pm on PBS regarding civil rights leader Bayard Rustin.

Motion to adjourn by Rafael Beaumont; multiple 2ds; no objection.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

**NYFD Batt #13 – Chief Thomas Grabher**

Reported no statistics show any outstanding concerns. Holiday Inspection Program, visit merchants who might be overstocking their stores or have hazardous safety conditions. Points of concern, be aware tree decorating with lights or open candles, paper wrappers and boxes. Lackadaisical attitudes can be hazardous regarding safety, maintain a safe and orderly environment in your apartments and surrounding areas.

**Dept of Sanitation - Deputy Chief Kevin Emsworth**

Reported on the initiatives, start pilot program doubling the amount of waste baskets in some of the CB12 commercial strips. Spoke to the issues of reoccurring sidewalk obstruction violations along St. Nicholas Ave. and Amsterdam. Now receive stiffer penalties in fines. He reported these steps have been more effective. He also commented on the efficiency of regular street clean up and snow removal for the year. He wished everyone a wonderful New Year.

**GWB Station Krueger/Jones**

Wished everyone a happy holiday.

**Dept of Health – Sarah Roberts**

She reported on smallpox vaccines, distributed calendars and new brochures from DOH.

G. Feliciano: Is info being distributed in other areas in School District #6? DOH to check on outreach initiatives in the schools.

Z. Ramadan: What initiatives are in place in the Washington Heights area for smallpox vaccine.

DOH: 100-200, hospital workers at each hospital in NYC have been asked to volunteer to be vaccinated against smallpox. Depending on how the first round goes, emergency responders may be asked to volunteer to be vaccinated in the second round. The vaccine has side affects and the plans are voluntary.

Mr. Ramadan commented on diabetes in our Latin population and how can we offer more educational awareness on this issue. He asked DOH to provide literature in Spanish if possible. Ms. Roberts will research and respond at next DSC meeting.

**HPD – Tony Brogdon**

Nothing to report

**Project Renewal – Etta Graham**

Reported on stats from the mens shelter placement 1 private housing, 1 hospitalized, 2 short term detox, and 1 LTC. In January 2003, new initiative, Heritage Health & Housing will be opening a new site, Project Renewal will assist in referring some clients. Holiday celebration on 12/18/02. Ms. Graham commented on signs prevalent with depression during the holiday season regarding the mental health patients.

**ACS – Melvin Alston**

Newly appointed Melvin Alston, Child Care Specialist,(CCS) introduced himself and distributed literature. Mrs. Bozeman of ACS commented domestic violence initiatives are held every third Tuesday of the month at Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation at 2183 Amsterdam Ave.

**HRA - Denise Hudson**

Nothing to report.

**Ft. Washington Library – Estelle Friedman**

She reported SLA classes were filled and well attended. She commented there is a 14% cut in the budget which reduces 5 days of the week to 4 days.

**Washington Heights Library - Lynn Opinante**

She extended her gratitude towards Ms. Friedman for all her noteworthy efforts in her tenure as librarian.

**Commission Human Rights - Adneri Ponce**

Season's greetings.

**DEP – Alejandra Lamarche**

Signage for “Quiet Zone” completed. Happy Holiday.

**Miguel Martinez’s Office – Sander Dulitz**

He reported Councilman Martinez actively involved in parking crisis, attended meeting with the Jewish Community Council. Mr. Dulitz commented that a multi story parking facility will be constructed to accommodate 120 cars between W. 184<sup>th</sup> & W. 185<sup>th</sup> St. on Broadway year 2003. Wished a healthy and Happy New Year to all.

**Mayor’s Office, CAU – Lee Anthony Nieves**

He reported that CAU conducted a homeless initiative under the Henry Hudson Parkway, 1 female was removed and taken to Bellvue Hospital.

**Con Edison – Zamira Setara**

Nothing to report.

G. Feliciano thanked Con Edison for their participation in providing toys for the children this holiday season.

**Chamber of Commerce -Rita Kardeman**

She reported on new initiatives for tourism plans. She will let us know as more information becomes available. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

**Self Help – Adeena Horowitz**

She reported “Safe Streets” crime prevention program closed due to budget cuts.

**Assemblyman Farrell’s Off. - Ana Maria Grullon**

She reported service for flu shots is being provided and tax forms will be filled out in January.

**Senator Schneiderman’s Off. -Lillian Perez**

She reported Schneiderman’s Office looking for new office space in the capacity of 4,000 sq. ft. Wished group a Happy Holiday.

**Chair CB 12 – Zead Ramadan**

Spoke to a moratorium on illegal conversions. He commented on new cultural initiatives planned for 2003 that will enhance the history of Washington Heights/Inwood. Wished all agency members a good holiday.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair CB12 – Martin Collins**

Briefly spoke on upcoming events for Economic Development Committee. Safe holiday to all.

Ms. Feliciano thanked Peter Walsh from Coogan’s who catered the entire event. Happy Holidays to all!

Meeting adjourned 11:30am

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Blow

COMMUNITY BOARD #12, MANHATTAN  
DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET  
DECEMBER 19, 2002

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager  
Deborah Blow, Community Assistant  
Zead Ramadan, Chairman, CB12 Man  
Martin Collins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, CB12 Man  
Lee Anthony Nieves, Mayor's Off. , CAU  
Ana Maria Grullon, Assem. Farrell's Off.  
Sander Dulitz, Councilman Miguel Martinez's Off.  
Gabriela Rosa, Councilman Miguel Martinez's Off.  
Lynn Opinante, Wash. Heights Library  
Estelle Friedman, Ft. Wash. Branch Library  
Juan Ramirez, DA's Office  
Sgt. Susan Jenkins, NYPD, PBMN  
Captain James Kehoe, NYPD 34<sup>th</sup> Pct.  
Captain Jason Wilcox, NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct.  
Det. John Quinn, OCCB  
Chief Raymond Diaz, NYPD PBMN  
PO Lopez/Paez, NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct.  
Det. Billy Hughes, NYPD 34<sup>th</sup> Pct.  
Det. John Quinn, NYPD, OCCB  
Capt. Ed McGreal, NYPD PSA #6 Housing

Deputy Chief Kevin Emsworth, Dept of San., Man  
Mike Ryan, Supt., Dept of Sanitation  
Jane Schachat, Dir. Northern Man. Parks & Rec.  
Daniel Mercado, Dept of Parks & Rec.  
Adneri Ponce, Comm. on Human Rights  
Denise Hudson, HRA  
Chief Thomas Grabher, FDNY Batt #13  
Adeena Horowitz, Selfhelp  
Mona Yoffie, ACS  
Katrina Canady-Bozeman, ACS  
Melvin Alston, ACS  
Lillian Perez, Senator Schneiderman's Off.  
Alejandra Lamarche, NYC, DEP  
Tony Brogdon, HPD  
Terry Cullen, HH Bridges & Tunnels  
Zamira Setaro, Con Edison  
Sarah Roberts, DOH  
Cotea Jones, GWB/Port Authority  
Rita Kardeman, Chamber of Commerce  
Etta Graham/Clifton Hill, Project Renewal

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Ms. Feliciano Extended a warm holiday greeting to agencies, guests and representatives of city officials.

She thanked Captain Wilcox of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the refreshment preparations courtesy of Columbia University and Presbyterian Hospital catered by Coogan's Restaurant.

Ms. Feliciano announced that October's and November's minutes were available.

Motion to adopt the minutes S. Dulitz, seconded by Capt James Kehoe.  
Motion to adopt the agenda K. Canady-Bozeman, seconded E. Friedman

**Presentation by Detective Hughes, NYPD 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. regarding scams during the holiday's and off-season. (20 min).**

Video was presented to heighten the awareness of con games against our elderly population and to raise the level of conscientiousness of citizens throughout the city. Con games are professionally staged and executed by various age groups and cultures of people. The impact of con games causes emotional scars to individuals as well as financial hardships. We must be aware of the dangers. Det. Hughes ended the presentation offering outreach lectures to those who had an interest. Contact him at (212) 927-0576.

Ms. Feliciano thanked him for his efforts.

Ms. Feliciano referred to the agenda regarding the cutback of 44 Sanitation Enforcement agents' and how it will affect CB12, **Deputy Chief Kevin Emsworth, Dept of San. Man** commented that the information was unavailable at this time and informed the group that sanitation will revisit the question next month.

Captain James Kehoe, NYPD 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. reported that index crimes are down 6% for the 28 day period, GLA's are down 2% for the year. He commented that there has been a reduction of burglaries but that the Honda Accords are still the preferred vehicles for car thefts. He stated that lottery scams on the rise in the Washington Heights area. He stated there was one shooting in Dyckman Houses. Arrests are up and they are targeting 181<sup>st</sup> Street peddlers.

GF: Are any anti-scam programs being implemented during the holidays?

Response: Capt. Kehoe, said educational awareness lectures are helpful, but greater foot patrol and additional condor tours over holiday season will be provided. He reported on incidents where teachers credit cards have been stolen in the classrooms in the last two months, encouraged persons to keep valuable property with them. He stated identity theft is a large growing crime.

**Dept of Parks & Rec. – D. Mercado**

He reported agency collaboratively working with DOT on repaving the bikeway along Henry Hudson Parkway on the northbound side. Additional signage has been added to Isham Park, it reads closed at 10:00pm. Also additional signs posted for “dogs on leashes”.

**Manhattan DA’s Office - Juan Ramirez**

He gave an update on truancy initiatives. A collaborative program with NYPD, PAL and DA’s office to reduce the escalation of truancy within our school system. Outreach includes parent intervention programs and offers work related opportunities for adolescents. The week of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, a total of 36 truants were picked up and taken to the Washington Heights Center at 193<sup>rd</sup> & Bennett Ave., 12 of which were from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. areas and 5 were from the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. areas. 28 of the 36 were high school students, 5 were junior high school students, 2 middle school , 1 elementary school. 33 families were successfully contacted, 5 family conferences were set up. J. Ramirez was very elated with the results of parent involvement.

Mr. Ramirez provided arrests stats for both the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Pcts. In the Trespass Affidavit program combined for the year were 533. Drug arrests 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. – 1,443 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. 650 were totals for the year 2002. Combined total of marijuana arrests in both precincts was 1,447. Final stats for end of the year as follows:

	33 <sup>rd</sup> Pct.	34 <sup>th</sup> Pct.
New cases	73	57
Pending cases	47	27
Cases closed	52	42
Evictions	33	24

**NYPD 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. Capt. Jason Wilcox**

The Capt refelcted back on the efforts of those responsible for the opening of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. He commented that the community communicates positive feedback on the surrounding atmosphere of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Officers take pride in the new facility and dedication towards their work.. The Capt reported stats for the year down 2.4% in major crime categories, 4 murders this year. He acknowledged the heroic efforts of the police officers. He commented that the lower end of Washington Heights will be focused on as a priority now and in the new year. To assists in these efforts the Narcotics Teams, DA’s Office, Detective intelligence and Div. of Gang related bureaus.

Ms. Feliciano commented on looking to make 158<sup>th</sup> a model block.

Capt Wilcox responded : It is being considered. He also spoke to the importance of the Trespass Affidavit Program and the urgency of cleaning up that block and restore quality of life back into the neighborhood. Still actively involved in monitoring previous model blocks.

**NYPD PSA #6 Housing - Capt. McGreal**

Reported on arrests stats for 33rd Pct up 10% in crime, 72 vs. 22 arrests last year, quality of life 104 vs. 86 from last year. 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. up in crime 12 crimes over last year 48–50 %. 84% in arrests 104 vs. 65 for last year and 254 vs. 135 quality of life summonses from last year. Mostly domestic crimes on the rise.

Detective Quinn of Manhattan North wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Chief Raymond Diaz - Patrol Borough Manhattan North**

He reported that up 70% of firearms have been confiscated this year. He briefly shared experience regarding con games, he stated he was victimized once and he had his police uniform on.