

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 22, 2000**

**Members Present**

Anita Barberis  
Rafael Beaumont  
Abby Belkin  
James Berlin  
Emilia G. Cardona  
Dr. Francisco Chapman  
Laurie T. Cohen  
A. Fredericka Cuenca  
Walther G. Delgado  
Sybil R. Dodson  
Patrick Eglantine  
Isabel Evangelista  
Leslie Foster

William A. García  
Herbert Harwitt  
Joyce F. Holland  
Robert C. Liebeskind  
Maria Luna  
Isidoro Martinez  
Miguel Martinez  
Luis H. Minier  
Helen Morik  
Norma Nadien  
Marcos Navarro  
Dr. Pamela Palanque North  
Julio Peguero

Martha Pepin  
Zead Ramadan  
Steven Rizick  
George Sánchez  
Georgina Sánchez  
Barbara Smith Ramos  
Maria Sierra  
Francisca Vargas  
Juan Villar  
Sandra Wachspress  
Elouise Whitehurst

**Members Absent**

Jack Fogle (excused)  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (excused)  
José Delio Marte  
Jon Moscow (excused)  
William C. Ortega (excused)

Nelson Rojas (excused)  
Laura Sterling  
Ricardo Ureña  
Msgr. Gerald Walsh

**Ex-Officio Members, Public Officials and Guests**

Council Member Guillermo Linares  
Kate Podniesinski for State Senator Schneiderman  
Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager, Ex-Officio

David Addams for Borough President Fields  
Frank Hess for Assemblyman Farrell  
Joseph Rose, Chair, City Planning Commission

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The meeting of February 2000 was held at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. The session was preceded by a reception for board members, guests and the community-at-large to mark the start of the year 2000 meeting calendar.

**Community Board 12 was called to order and began its Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.**

The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved with a modification: deletion of the second statement attributed to Emilia G. Cardona under the discussion about Resolution 1.

**Chair's Report – William A. Garcia**

Reported on the Executive Committee's meeting which heard a presentation on NYPH's plans for the new building for the Children's and Babies' Hospital. Future discussion will take place at the committee level. Attended the Borough President's State of Manhattan Address, which referenced educational issues of our area and development plans for Sherman Creek. Attended an opening event of a new store at the GWB Bus Station and toured the facility with the Station's Manager. Met with Parks Department's Borough Commissioner to discuss concerns over improvements at Bennett Park. Discussed appointments of members and plans of CB12 with representatives of the Borough President's Office. Noted that board member John Culpepper has retired from CB 12. Reiterated his call to board members to respect each other's views. In response to a question, noted that he will be paying close attention to the representation of African Americans at all levels of the Board.

**District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano**

Provided a written report summarizing the work and meetings attended during the past month; announced the consolidation of local HPD offices and space needs of local schools. Reported on several new initiatives of the two local precincts and

the restart of construction of the new 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct building. Distributed statistics showing that CB12 ranks third in fire incidents in Manhattan. DA's office will restart landlord's task force. DOH will begin effort to target illegal food vendors in the area. Recruiting for job vacancy in CB 12 office. Complaints received regarding traffic light at Riverside and W. 165 St. (due to a power outage). A discussion followed regarding the attendance to the landlord's task force, school overcrowding and a request for a breakdown of fire incidents at the community level.

### Public Session

#### Barbara Hockstader

Works for Accion NY which is targeting the community for its small business loan program. In response to questions, noted the difference between Accion and other agencies and the requirements of the program.

#### Ralph Andrew

Commended the Board for efforts to ease tensions between groups at Bennett Park. New signs are up regarding leashed dogs and the Park's renovation has been publicized.

#### Yovanny Garcia

Announced that a major conference, Dominicans 2000, will be held at City College.

### **Guest Speaker: Joseph Rose, Chair of the City Planning Commission**

Reviewed the history and major provisions of the City's proposal to revise the Zoning Resolution on building bulk and height limits. Change will streamline approval process and make it simpler for applicants and communities to deal with zoning rules. New rules will be straight forward and work in tandem with the city's economy and eliminates loopholes. New proposal will limit to 7 stories new buildings in CB12; exceptions will be required to go through public review.

Approval of the proposal is a ULURP action. Chair Rose clarified that a future proposal will deal with zoning map problems in communities, such as business activity in residential areas. Chair Garcia noted that the bulk zoning proposal will be the subject of an upcoming public hearing of CB 12 and suggested that Mr. Rose send representatives.

Mr. Garcia solicited comments to prepare statement on the city's preliminary budget due this month.

### Public Officials Reports

#### Council Member Guillermo Linares

Reported that the Mayor has signed into law the naming of Juan Pablo Duarte Boulevard. Thanked the board for supporting this effort. Noted the concurrent celebrations of Dominican Independence and Black History Month in February. The City Council will be taking up the renewal of housing protection laws. The General Welfare Committee has approved a law establishing a transitional work program for welfare recipients. Also, new legislation proposed will require a grievance procedure for WEP workers. The Council is likely to override a veto of the Mayor.

In response to a question, clarified that the timeline for the signs for the Duarte Blvd. has not been set and will support the suggestions of Dr. Palanque North to foster exchanges on the Duarte Blvd. and the significance of St. Nicholas Ave. between African-Americans and Dominicans.

### Committee Reports

#### Economic Development Committee – Maria Sierra, Chair

Presented the resolution opposing cabaret license to applicant for 557 W. 157 St.. As amended to include "or any petitioner applying for a similar type of license", **the resolution was approved by a vote of 36 in favor and none opposed.**

Environmental and Parks Committee – Miguel Martinez, Chair

The resolution presented re use of diesel trucks to transport garbage was discussed with many suggestions for amendments. **The resolution was tabled, without opposition, and sent back to the Committee.** Mr. Martinez clarified that follow-up will fall on the new Health & Environmental Committee.

Housing and Homeless Committee

Maria Luna reported on the Committee's last meeting. Presented the resolution in opposition to the auctioning of city-owned lots. **The resolution was approved by a vote 34 in favor and 1 opposed.**

Land Use – James Berlin, Chair

Reminded the board of the hearing on bulk zoning. Background material is available at the office.

Reports from Representatives of Public Officials

David Addams for Manhattan Borough President Fields reported on items contained in the President Fields address, such as technology in District 6 and the ban on diesel buses in the city. Office is gathering information on shelters, soup kitchens, etc. to pass on to the Census Bureau.

Kate Podniesinski for State Senator Schneiderman provided written information on legislative proposals.

Frank Hess for Assemblyman Farrell thanked board for the position taken on the new cabaret application. Alternative uses, such as community services, should be sought for this site.

Announcements

Coogan's annual race will be held on March 5.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Walther Delgado