

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting – February 26th, 2008 – Russ Berrie Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue

PRESENT

Dora Maria Abreu
 Jackie Rowe Adams
 Jennifer Araújo
 Anita Barberis
 James Berlin
 Kotie Cannon
 Emilia Cardona
 Rolando Cespedes
 Sybil Dodson-Lucas
 Vivian Ducat

George Espinal
 Francisco Guzman
 Bea Hall
 Mark Levine
 Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
 Maria Luna
 Rita McKee
 Carole Mulligan
 Pam Palanque North
 Ines Saldana Olesen

Cheryl Pahaham
 Edith Prentiss
 Zead Ramadan
 Nelson Rojas
 Cleofis Sarete
 Steve Simon
 Gloria Vanterpool
 Manny Velazquez

EXCUSED

Wayne Benjamin
 Tony Lopez
 Glenda Swanson Massa
 Julio Peguero
 Jonathan Tasini

ABSENT

Isaiah Bing
 Aidee Camacho
 Martin Collins
 Joyce Humber-Falson
 James Freeman
 Julissa Gomez
 Ramona Gomez
 Albania Lopez Jimenez
 Helen Morik
 Rafael Osoria
 Rolando Rodriguez
 Ruddy Santana

The meeting was called to order at 7:22pm by Chair Manny Velazquez.

Deputy Inspector Drew Capul, Commanding Officer of the 34th Precinct, was invited to make remarks. He wished all a happy new year, wishing continued success in 34th precinct in reducing crime. He gave an overview of decreasing crime for at least the fifth consecutive year. Last year there were significant decreases from the '80s and early '90s when he was a uniformed officer and sergeant. At that time, Washington Heights was a hub for narcotics purchases on eastern seaboard; there were 126 homicides in 1993, the year before the 33rd Precinct was split out from the 34th. In 2007, the two precincts combined (equally the former 34th) had only 6 homicides; the 34th itself had only one. Shooting incidents went down to 12, a 25% decrease from the previous year, and way down from a peak of several hundred in the '80s. As an illustration of his officers' work, Deputy Inspector Capul described a recent very dramatic homicide arrest that read like something out of an episode of television's "Law & Order" series. He noted a small climb in grand larceny, and also gave warning about identity theft: always shred trash, don't just throw it out, because thieves look through garbage for that sort of information. He gave other crime prevention tips, noting that most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Question from Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: how do we get more cops? Our precincts received none of the new graduates, even though it was our #1 priority. A: NYPD put new cops into "high impact zones" where crime continues to flourish. It was a small class, and 50-60 officers went into those precincts. Areas where crime and violence is down (like here) didn't get any new officers. As weather gets warmer and certain crimes increase, some of those officers will filter out to local precincts. In response to a question regarding school crossing guards, D.I. Capul advised that we call Officer Steve McManus, who is in charge of Traffic Safety at the 34th at 212-927-0703. Mr. Velazquez asked about the rise of gang activity, both in terms of youth-on-youth and youth-on-adults violence; D.I. Capul advised that, in particular, all should be careful of theft of cellphones, iPods, iPhones and similar items.

Absent a quorum, Mr. Velazquez gave the **Chair's Report** (7:35pm):

- Welcomed Paola Garcia to the Board staff
- CB12's DSNY Sanitation rating – 97% clean streets
- More than 100 people attended the February 20th BP's M-29 Construction Task Force meeting. Thanks to Obie Bing and Steve Simon (?) for their efforts.
- Announced free tax services through the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp
- 181st street DOT survey will begin soon; scope of work available in the office
- Announced the Coogan's "Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks" 5K race this Sunday (March 2nd)
- RACH-C annual gala 4/6 @ 7pm free concert
- Delayed construction of WH Academy (PS 366) due to budget constraints.
- Public meeting to discuss proposed cuts to senior centers at CB12 on March 13th at 10am; DFTA is proposing that each board would have a "wellness center" and other senior centers might be closed.

In the continued absence of a quorum, Ebenezer Smith gave the **District Manager's Report** (7:42pm):

- Gave more details on the recent M-29 Task Force meeting
- A lot of complaints about dog waste – 6 calls in 3 days. Reported to DSNY enforcement. Encouraged people to call 311, and also report to board office.
- Encouraged all to complete a "Take Me to the River" survey (go to <http://mbpo.org/land-use/tmtr> or CB12 office) especially re: parks access.
- Gave status update regarding flooding at 821 Riverside Drive, which was reported to board, and immediately resolved.
- DOT inspected and made repairs on Ft. Washington Ave. along route for 5K race to ensure that it is safe; filled potholes.
- Working with 33rd & 34th Precincts to resolve noise complaints at various bars and restaurants throughout the board. We received information that situation at La Parilla has improved, but we are continuing to work on this until there are no complaints.

Question from Maria Luna about sewer at 821 RSD – every time it rains, it floods. A: they cleaned the catch basin; we are monitoring it. Ms. Luna noted that there is a erosion problem on the adjacent embankment, and asked the DM to follow up with appropriate agency, which he agreed to do.

A quorum having been obtained, George Espinal made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Emilia Cardona and passed with no objection. (7:50pm)

Reports of Representatives of Elected Officials (7:51pm) was placed earlier in the agenda, to the extent that their comments related to the subject of the public hearing incorporated within this evening's General Meeting.

Wendy Garcia for Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer also gave an update on the BP's Con Ed M-29 task force, which is working on a construction timeline so that appropriate public notice can be given. Construction will be starting soon. They will be doing outreach to business community as well; some businesses on Broadway are concerned that they will have to close during construction. The BP's office is reaching out to ConEd to resolve these potential conflicts. Also negotiating how to address traffic, especially buses at 207th & Broadway. The MTA is being flexible on how to move around bus service to accommodate the construction. Please e-mail me with your recommendations to pass on to MTA. With regard to the CB reappointment process, please call the office if you are unsure of your status. Everyone who is up for appointment or reappointment must be interviewed. The BP sponsored a workshop at GWHS along with Councilmember Martinez' office and the NYPD on gangs and how to identify them. Working on installing cameras in the area. Another forum is scheduled for March 10th. The BP recently was on TV calling on a construction watch for all of Manhattan, in light of what has happened with the M-29 project, Deutsche Bank tragedy, scaffold collapses and other areas impacted by construction disruptions. Identify areas to be mitigated along areas of construction sites.

Raquel Retif for NYS Senator Schneiderman (7:57pm): announced the opening on 2/14 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage an exhibit on Sosua, the Jewish community begun in Dominican Republic during 1930s. Noted the recent publication of an article by the Senator on "Transformational and Transactional Politics" in The Nation magazine. Reported that a recent (2/7) community meeting on housing and tenants' issues was attended by over 200 people.

Frank Hess for NYS Assemblymember Herman "Denny" Farrell (7:59pm) referred to written reports, including an "Albany report" and a directory of community essentials (i.e., important contact numbers in the district). Made brief comments regarding congestion pricing; the plan is still being studied and there is no definitive solution as of yet. Also noted condolences on the recent (February 22nd) passing of Ed Flynn, whom he described as "loud, who spoke often, but always from his heart. Ed was very active in the community and will be missed." The funeral is tomorrow (2/27) at 10am at St. Catherine of Genoa, 153rd Street between Broadway & Amsterdam Ave.

Simeon Bannister for Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum (8:01pm): Our office's mandate is to ensure that city services are given fairly to all New Yorkers, but primary focus in the coming year and a half will be on ACS and DOE, b/c we are focusing on our children, our future. Protesting across-the-board cuts in schools, which will result in significant losses of enhanced services vital to a well-rounded education, such as arts and music. . Also spoke out against high-stakes testing phenomenon. DOE should revisit these policies. Also concerned that consultant budgets are very high, at the expense of services to students.

A motion by Steve Simon to adopt the minutes was seconded by George Espinal, and passed with no objection. (8:05pm)

Gustavo Rojas for NYS Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat (8:06pm) was welcomed to this, his first meeting, by the Chair. Mr. Rojas apologized that due to staffing needs in Albany he cannot attend these meetings as often as he would like. He noted Mr. Espaillat's involvement in an initiative to help abate the current housing crisis: tenants being harassed by landlords who want to make a quick profit due to the increasing popularity of this neighborhood. There are many good landlords, but some are unscrupulous. "Nos Quedamos" initiative is helping those who are being taken to court by providing legal services through CUNY Law School; a legal clinic is opening at his office at 210 Sherman Avenue for people who illegally are being harassed. He also announced an event at Isabella on Thursday, 2/28 for African American History month. Mr. Simon commended Mr. Espaillat's housing priority; asked if increased legal services for tenants should be one of CB12's expense budget priorities? A: Yes.

Public Speakers' Session (8:11pm) It was noted that public speakers list included those submitting public testimony at the Board's hearing on NYC Office of Management & Budget's report of agency responses to the Board's FY '09 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities. In consideration of the number of speakers this evening, the Chair encouraged everyone to keep their comments brief, and also to be respectful in their comments.

Martha Mendez, Puerto Rican Family Institute: providing free parenting workshops for men/boys. Usually these workshops are targeted to girls, but boys need advice on how to be good fathers, uncles, cousins, role models. Must be 18, if not a biological father (in which case boys of any age may attend). They work throughout the city, at schools, CBOs, etc.; also offering anger mgmt workshops. 718-963-4430 x4501.

Dana Ross/Tamara Sharon, Community Residents: re Bianco Night Club, 4455 Broadway near 190th. Started in February '07. Located in residential area on Broadway. Our building is across the street, and all our windows face the club. Biggest problem is on Thursday-Sunday, hearing loud music, 11am-6:30am for more than a year. There are crowds of people coming out of club drunk, yelling and fighting, as well as shouting, sirens, etc. Calls to 311 daily, as well as to DEP, which has come several times to take measurements. Working with precinct, but there have been no improvements. We need help! Ms. Sharon echoed Ms. Ross with an impassioned plea. Mr. Velazquez noted that this location never came before the Board because they already had a license, but they reinvented themselves without any additional input from community or permission from SLA. Zead Ramadan, Chair of Economic Development, thanked the members for coming and noted that he is working with DM and precinct to work on this serious problem. Mr. Simon noted that this issue was discussed when a DEP representative came to the Health & Environment Committee this month and that the DM should look into whether the nuisance abatement law may be brought to bear to shut this establishment down.

Maureen Lin, Go Evergreen Kids: www.goevergreenkids.net is now live. Kids under 18 can go there to submit energy-saving ideas. Deadline is March 20th; judges will pick the ten best ideas, which will be posted on the website. There will be an awards ceremony at CU in April.

Ken Rosenfeld, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation: spoke about the importance of tenant services, the Lead-Safe House, legal and social services, DV services and counseling, EITC advice, etc. Would like to address budget priority rankings: we need space – we are bursting

at the seams – yet there is very little commercial space available in the community. Supports Lead-Safe House – why was it removed from the NYC budget? This is vindictive and disgusting. It was the only one in NYC, and was now the only one in Manhattan; previous administrations and Bloomberg administration hate what we have done, and they don't support it. Service is denied, why? I don't get it, why won't they continue funding? Also pitched importance of legal services; NIMC offers the only full-time service in the neighborhood. We are only funded for families with children, but what about singles and elderly. Budget priorities also omitted code enforcement – why – we need it!!

Doris Athenios, Community Resident: accused a member of the board, Vivan Ducat, of making discriminatory statements in her role as the president of her coop board. Requested that these statements be investigated. Ms. Athenios read some e-mails, and proceeded with a lengthy and detailed personal attack on Ms. Ducat. Mr. Simon pointed out that the e-mail quotes were lifted out-of-context and that Ms. Ducat's actions themselves were not discriminatory. Jim Berlin: noted that since the Chair is the only spokesperson of the board, what individual Board members do outside of the Board is not the purview of the Board; if people have complaints about a member, they should complain to the Borough President, not to the Board. Pam North echoed this idea, and also noted her discomfort with the public reading of such allegations without the board member having the opportunity to respond. Mr. Velazquez noted that there would be additional speakers on this subject. Sybil Dodson believes this discussion should be held in private; the chair noted that he would prefer to do this privately, but the City Charter allows anyone to speak on any matter for three minutes, so he could not prohibit this public member from speaking. Wendy Garcia noted that reappointments are made based on attendance and other criteria, and would hear any issues that people might bring in this regard.

Lawrence Chabra, Community Resident: lives in the same building as the previous speaker and also serves on that co-op's board with Ms. Ducat. The Board has privately censured Ms. Ducat with regard to her comments, and she already has addressed the building on this internal matter. He thinks that the use of CB12 as a forum for this discussion is an inappropriate use of the CB's time.

Jim Berlin, Castle Village: the 181st Street northbound ramp to the Henry Hudson Parkway will be opening later this week, though there will be a future closure to accommodate another construction project, unrelated to Castle Village, perhaps 18 months from now.

Bob Isaac, Community Resident: Spoke regarding Ed Flynn. In remembering him, we honor his – and each of each one your – service to the community. He cared deeply.

Maria Luna, 839 RSD: concerned that MTA is not recommending rehab of the 157th Street station for funding. I am extremely insulted.

Committee Reports (please note in addition to Committee minutes) (8:57pm):

George Espinal for Youth & Education: new computers at Inwood branch library. Committee is following up with the Fort Washington and Washington Heights branches to see if they have upgraded hardware and software as well. The next Committee meeting will be with the School Construction Authority for an update on the W 204th & Sherman site, Gregorio Luperon HS, as well as other new sites. CEC 6 came before the Committee with a resolution to study the W 168th Street & Jumel Place corridor; we will be looking at a possible resolution to support them. The Committee also is working the Traffic & Transportation and Public Safety Committees. A resolution regarding tobacco was tabled until the March meeting due to quorum issues, and some content issues.

Zead Ramadan for Economic Development (8:59pm):

- #1 recommending that the TLC approve a renewal license for RC Audubon Car Service passed unanimously (25 votes).
- # 2 recommending that the SLA grant a new On-Premises Liquor License to Jade House, 4028-4030 Broadway, passed 24-1-0-0.

Noting that the meeting was one member away from losing a quorum, since many members already had left early, the Secretary requested that all remaining members stay, so as to maintain quorum for votes on eight or more upcoming resolutions. There followed a brief discussion of Economic Development Committee's resolution #3, regarding an SLA matter, but as the roll was being called, it was noted that with only 23 members remaining, we had lost the quorum so the meeting's business could not be continued.

The Secretary gave an **attendance report** and distributed letters to those Board members still remaining whose last names begin with letters "A" through "L" which advised of the attendance record for each individual Board member for the period 1/1/07-present, and requested that each member take the opportunity to correct his or her record by March 7. ("M" through "V" are not yet completed, and will be mailed later in the week.)

There was no formal adjournment due to the loss of quorum.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Community Board 12/Manhattan Office • February 5, 2008**

Committee Members Present: Rita L. McKee, CB12 2nd Vice Chair (acting EDC Chair); Tony Lopez, CB12 Treasurer (acting EDC Asst. Chair); Ruddy Santana; Nelson Rohas

Committee Members Absent: Zead Ramadan, Chair; Julio Peguero, Assistant Chair (Excused); Janifer Wilson (*Rafael Osoria considered inactive, on temporary medical leave*)

CB12 Staff Present: Adolfo Cuevas

Board Members Present: Martin Collins, George Espinal

Police representatives present: Deputy Inspector Andrew Capul, 34th Precinct; Deputy Inspector Joseph Dowling, 33rd Precinct; Police Officer Tony Trinidad

Members of Public present: Tran Li (Peter), Jade House; Ramón Cabral, RC Audubon Service; Candida Bastalla, The Bridge Restaurant; Alvaro Olivero, AO Caridad Restaurant; Ligia Fernandez, Olga Garcia, Elizabeth Cichon, Michael Feldman, Tenants Association (La Parilla).

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm. A quorum not yet being present, Ms. McKee ascertained which applicants on the agenda were appearing in person before the Committee, and explained that, until and unless a quorum was reached, no vote could be taken, though information would be taken as their names were called. The Committee could consider non-actionable agenda items, so Ms. McKee called upon Mr. Collins to explain the status of the Con Ed M29 transmission line project. Mr. Collins gave a detailed presentation and provided members of the Committee, 34th Precinct and the public with a 3-page summary, including a description of and timetable for the project and contact information for Con Ed community liaison, Mayra Linares (800)-799-1083.

A group of concerned residents were present to follow-up their appearance before the Committee at its last meeting regarding La Parilla Restaurant; representatives of Audubon Car Service were also present. Neither group appeared on the agenda; the agenda was amended to include them. Since the residents were making a second visit, they were called first on the agenda.

Public Comments re: La Parilla, 3920 Broadway (second appearance)

Members of the Tenants Association inquired why they did not appear on the agenda, and requested a third CB12 contact person with telephone and email. What letter went to the SLA, per the last meeting? They would like copies of all correspondence to/from the SLA on the matter of their complaints regarding the restaurant. They reported that noise continues with no relief, and that no representative appeared for the January 29, 2008 court date. The DEP has issued a violation. Deputy Inspector Dowling, 33rd Precinct will meet with building residents, the owner and DEP to schedule a sound-check and recommended soundproofing measures, including non-overrideable limiters; the suggestion was made that a CB12 representative also attend that meeting, and Inspector Dowling will be in touch with the District Manager. Residents noted the liquor license is up for renewal in April and they will attend next month's Committee meeting.

A quorum having been reached during the meeting, the Chair moved on to the printed agenda and requested police and community input on the venues listed thereon.

It was determined that **La Posada Restaurant**, 3496 Broadway, applying for an On Premises Liquor License, does not fall within CB12's jurisdiction; this venue needs to be referred to CB9.

REPORT ON APPLICANTS BY Deputy Inspector Capul, 34th Precinct:

RENEWALS:

OPL: Mary K. Mac, Inc., d/b/a Patrick's Bar, 221 Dyckman Street, had eight 311 complaints in 2006, no violations or summonses issued; no recent activity. The Precinct has no objection to an On Premises Liquor license. Board Members expressed approval of the establishment.

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

OPL: Darling RG Restaurant (presently known as **Santana**), 1636 St. Nicholas Avenue, wants a full liquor license; Deputy Inspector Capul stated the Precinct's opposition to an On-Premises Liquor License. The venue sells counter food (prepared food/sandwiches), but the real action is downstairs in a club with speakers. The place seats 20-30; no 311 call history, probably because all activity is in the basement. Deputy Inspector Capul expressed concern about the narrow 18-step spiral staircase leading to the basement. A recent inspection found one locked emergency exit; another is a three-foot-high, crawl-through. Deputy Inspector Capul stated this is unsafe, and the FDNY will be notified.

Vote, Disapprove: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

OPL: El Caribe, 1562 St. Nicholas Avenue, seats 14-16 people but has no readily available menu for its takeout/prepared food. Deputy Inspector Capul stated the Precinct's opposition to an On Premises Liquor License.

Vote, Disapprove: Committee, 3-0-1; Board, 2-0-0

OPL: La Potensia, 1559 St. Nicholas Avenue, seats 25-30 people and is a good size restaurant. The Precinct has no objection to an On Premises Liquor License.

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

OPL: R A Restaurant, 398 Audubon Avenue, has 8-10 tables but also has a back room that is a social club with domino tables; money was seen on the table during a recent inspection. In addition, the SLA has a current suspension on file. The Precinct has strong objections to an On Premises Liquor license.

Vote, Disapprove: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

OPL: Melodia, 154 Post Avenue, is a problematic location. Occupancy is 200-300 and the location has occasionally had disorderly groups, fights and slashings. It is a problem at closing time when customers exit onto the street. Deputy Inspector Capul said the owner tries hard to control things and did not offer an opinion on its license renewal, but noted that security has to improve. Committee discussed a meeting with the owner, 34th Precinct and CB12 to address problems; also noted was the garbage that piles up outside the establishment on weekends.

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

El Guanaco Restaurant and Pupuseria, 4195 Broadway, applying for Restaurant Beer and Wine: no objection from the Precinct; no adverse history.

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

NEW:

Jade House, 4028-4030 Broadway: no objection from the Precinct. Jade House is an existing Chinese/Japanese restaurant at 4028 Broadway, and has been there more than 20 years. Peter, the owner for the past 10 years (his father owned previously) is expanding into 4030 Broadway, now under construction. Peter brought a copy of the plans for the new 1,100 sq. ft. premises, which will be a full-service restaurant, including Szechuan food; seat 50 people; create 15 new jobs; and have hours of 11am-11pm with table service only. Several members of the Committee stated that the restaurant has an excellent reputation, and noted that Woodrow Court, the owner of the building, has a co-op board that is exacting in its standards for commercial tenants.

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 0-0-2

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION:

RC Audubon Car Service, 2129 Amsterdam Avenue; no objection from the Precinct. Members of the Committee expressed that this car service has been in business for 20 years, at several different locations throughout District 12, and has no history of complaints. The owner promised to fax a copy of his ADA compliance certificate to CB12 [and did so, the next morning].

Vote, Approve: Committee, 4-0-0; Board, 2-0-0

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Committee turned its attention to the recently released FY2009 Preliminary Budget Register for District 12, and to formulating a Committee response to the Agency Response it lists. The following questions and concerns were noted by those participating:

Priority

- 1 Funding for the development of affordable housing**
Agency Response: Not recommended for funding
Committee Rebuttal: Where IS this 10-year plan? Can members of the Committee have a copy? Is Sherman Creek a part of this plan? What is the planned percentage of affordable housing in the Sherman Creek plan? in the 10-year plan? Are there demographic forecasts available that would be helpful to small and large businesses in their planning, and to CB12?
- 2 Develop daycare centers to alleviate severe shortages in CB12**
Agency Response: Further study is needed.
Committee Remarks: Affordable, quality daycare is an ongoing need for working families in our neighborhood – increasingly, two-income – and its absence affects the economic health of working families, affects their financial input into the community's businesses, and has a depressive effect on real estate sales for families from "starter" to established. How can CB12 facilitate and foster the

development of affordable, quality daycare centers as part of an economic growth initiative?

3 Fund renovation to expand and improve the physical structure of Washington Heights-Inwood Senior Centers.

Agency Response: Approval depends on sufficient Federal/State Funds

Committee Remarks: Renovations and rehabilitation in senior daycare centers will become a critical need as the population in WaHI ages. The lack of senior daycare will have an impact on real estate sales and neighborhood make-up, and the nature of the neighborhood will change as a result. Centers are now crowded and utilitarian, with inadequate staff and uncomfortable interiors.

4 Acquire Sherman Creek properties to building affordable housing and provide opportunities to develop retail and office space, waterfront access and community amenities.

Agency Response: Further study is needed.

Committee Rebuttal: See comments under Priority 1. Also, there is concern that development in Sherman Creek (and at the Port Authority project in the GW Terminal) will affect the neighborhoods' overall make-up, both demographically and business-wise. Will chains in these two developments push out small mom-and-pop businesses? Will preference on space be given to local companies and small businesses? The Committee has already noted a number of small businesses forced to vacate because of recent rent increases.

5 Request funding to build a new youth development center north of W. 192nd Street

Agency Response: Not recommended for funding

Committee Rebuttal: With a booming graffiti problem and streetboarding returning as a safety concern, a youth development center is a critical need. There is nowhere for teens, in particular, to "hang out" – which means they are loitering in front of district businesses, engaging in illegal activities, and/or illicit substances. Perhaps existing schools can be used after hours? (Liability issues with this solution?) Teens have been observed skateboarding and trickboarding down Fort Washington Avenue, at the GWB Terminal, and on 175th Street, among other places, congregating in large numbers and creating security and safety hazards. Some business owners are frustrated and others, afraid. The anecdotal evidence of increased numbers of "smashes" and other vandalism, if true, may be connected to so many youth at loose ends.

6 Request the construction of a new high school in Region 10/District 6

Agency Response: Not recommended for funding

Committee Rebuttal: The Committee is puzzled. WaHI needs new schools to ease overcrowded conditions and aging facilities in one of Manhattan's densest population centers; a new facility with updated equipment and more desks would be a welcome respite. Is there a projection that there will be fewer school-age

children in this district in the next 10 years? If so, where is it? Can CB12 see the sources used to make this determination of rejection?

The Committee has concern about the criteria on which decisions are being based: current, short-term, or long-term demographics and needs? Is there a belief that development of the Sherman Creek and Port Authority projects will dramatically shift the long-term demographics of the neighborhood or its needs? Is there a projected drop in the birthrate of The Heights? Area businesses will always need an educated local workforce, and building a new high school would have a dramatic effect on WaHI *now*, as well as a long-term effect. From an economic standpoint alone, a building project like this could employ hundreds of local workers and be an fiscal shot-in-the-arm to local restaurants and other small and large businesses in the vicinity.

Finally, the Committee notes that education and success in life in general seem to go hand-in-hand; the higher the level (and quality) of education, the higher the average income and the greater the number of opportunities open to the Hispanic community, in particular, which comprise 70+% of our District. Conversely, the lower the level (and quality) of education, the less frequently those opportunities are available and therefore, the lower the income. A new high school to supplement the overcrowded, outdated one that exists now, in an area where the below-18 population was 40,000+ at the *last* census, is not an unreasonable request of a City which prides itself on its educational policy.

7 Increase funds for the preservation and rehabilitation of occupied, vacant homes and multi-family housing.

Agency Response: Project is included in the ten-year plan.

Committee Remarks: See Priority #1 for remarks on the ten-year plan. There was some resigned skepticism expressed that the FY2009 Budget appears to invest more heavily in buildings and housing stock than in the people who now live there. The Borough President's plan to take a census of vacant buildings and match them with the homeless was discussed, and most agreed that such use was invaluable, with the numbers of homeless rising.

Rehabilitation of existing housing stock is, of course, a wise investment in WaHI's infrastructure, even in a real estate market where values are trending downward (which Washington Heights and Inwood are not). The balancing act will be keeping *rents* affordable in an area where housing *sales* have, in many instances, nearly doubled in price. Rehabilitated housing is a temptation for speculation amid rising housing prices, and business owners whose commercial space is in residential buildings have had to deal with record increases in rent over the past several years.

For the economic health of our community, we, as a Committee, urge that due consideration to retention of the neighborhoods' character and demographics and

due diligence to all financial aspects of it, including investment by the city in private speculation, be part of any and all development in The Heights.

8 Full renovation of the Engine 67 firehouse on West 170th Street

Agency Response: The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources.

Committee Remarks: The Committee is gratified to see that this firehouse has finally made it “up the list” to the immediate attention of the agency, especially when the city may be facing cutbacks in services. Several of our firehouses – critical in areas of aging lumber-based building stock – are in need of repairs and updated equipment, and we trust that future funding opportunities for this vital infrastructure repair will follow in due course.

9 Rehabilitate the Dyckman Street IRT Subway Station

Agency Response: This project is proposed for inclusion in future MTA Capital Programs for 2007-2011

Committee Response: This elevated station, in “a serious state of disrepair,” as described in the request originally, is one used by tens of thousands of residents and workers each day (as are nearly all of the MTA’s subway lines). Structure failure at this location would be more than an inconvenience, like the broken escalators at 181st Street “A” station; it has the potential for real harm to those who trust in its safety, daily.

The Committee, not knowing the timing of the scheduled repairs, trusts that the MTA will focus as quickly as possible on this particular rehabilitation project. We are grateful that such a vital transportation artery into Washington Heights-Inwood is included in the MTA’s Capital Programs, 2007-2011... we hope that this first step will become the impetus for opening Washington Heights-Inwood to an economic growth spurt.

10 Purchase Cars, Bikes and Vans for the 33rd and 34th Precincts

Agency Response: New equipment must be requested by the NYPD commanding officer. Vehicles are purchased on a replacement cycle. The Commanding Officer, Borough Commander and Chief of Patrol have input into the mix of replacement vehicles. Specific funding is unknown until budget adoption.

Committee remarks: Since bike patrols are highly effective measures in focalized urban business areas, the Committee is pleased that such requests will be taken seriously, particularly since The Heights are already magnets for cyclists and existing bike lanes are scheduled for expansion in the future.

We are aware that both Precincts are in need of solid motorized vehicles that will require less maintenance, and trust that the Commanding Officer, Borough Commander and Chief of Patrol are all aware of the situation and actively seeking ways to address the problem. We encourage cheaper, cost-effective measures like these to be implemented quickly, especially if projected staff budget cuts are made; our Precincts are already undermanned at present, and

good equipment at a fraction of the cost of personnel would help them be more efficient, especially with petty crime. The constant, and randomized, presence of police cyclists would also be reassuring to the public and to the business community. We strongly support that measure.

11 Reconstruction of the Highbridge Park landscape, including drainage, lighting and paths in the park.

Agency Response: Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

Committee Remarks: The Committee is certain that our elected officials are fully aware of the condition of Highbridge Park; they simply do not have the funds available to address them, not even the most basic problem of ADA compliance, let alone how the presence of homeless and vagrants in an unlit park makes enforcement or crime prevention dangerous to our police and citizens – cyclists, joggers, strollers, families with children – alike.

The eastern half of The Heights would benefit tremendously, both the residential and commercial population, with the development of Highbridge Park on the models of Washington, Riverbank and Riverside Parks, all of which are on the western half of The Heights or the UWS and south of Highbridge; of Fort Tryon Park in mid-WaHI; and Inwood Park to the north. Completion of a comprehensive plan and the rehabilitation of Highbridge Park, and eventually, Sherman Creek, would also equitably, and beneficially, spread out the greenscape in northern Manhattan.

We hope that the Department of Parks and Recreation will make every attempt to shuffle its capital priorities to complete this underserved area, and usher in a new era of prosperity and higher quality-of-life benefits on the east side of The Heights, as it has on the Upper West Side, Midtown, and other neighborhoods. The new bridge will be open soon, and, on the Bronx side, a completely rehabilitated park will greet our residents when they cross over. What will Bronx residents find when they cross to WaHI? If The Heights are to become a vital economic and recreation center in Manhattan, attention to its underserved residents, and to the long-term economic impact of procrastination of services, is essential.

12 Fund full renovation of both the Washington Heights and Fort Washington branch libraries and make both ADA-compliant.

Agency Response: NYPL is in favor of this project but added or restored City funding is required for all expense budget costs and any needed capital costs. NYPL will continue to work through the City's budget process for needed funding.

Committee Remarks: The Fort Washington Branch Library is mid-rehabilitation, and has been for some time. Though conditions are not dangerous, the branch is not serving the public in The Heights to its full capability, and residents are being deprived of a valuable educational and cultural resource as a result. The

Committee looks forward to a change in the budget process that would reverse cuts that have been made in vital resources for adults and children, especially libraries in areas where English usage is below the average for the City.

13 Acquisition of Property and Construction of EMS Base Station

Agency Response: This project is included in the ten-year plan.

Committee Remarks: We were delighted in this positive response, and very interested in where it falls on the capital timeline. Since ambulance response in WaHI has been recorded as long as 35 minutes, the need for a base station in mid-District has been obvious to its residents and officials alike.

The Committee has learned through unofficial sources that a site, or sites, have been selected, and is anxious to hear more about that selection and about the timeline for implementation.

14 Expedite construction of a new District 8M garage and relocate its trucks from West 215th Street.

Agency Response: This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the final design contract has been let.

Committee Response: The Committee would like to hear specifics about the timeline for construction of this garage in District 8, the completion of which appears to be five years from now. The DSNY is already housing vehicles for three other districts, including 8, in District 12, and the pollution and noise of these trucks continues to lower the quality of life in The Heights generally and in the neighborhood where these trucks are housed, in particular.

The Committee is aware that these conditions violate the City Charter's co-terminality provisions, and is confident that officials at all levels are working toward an expedited solution which would lessen the traffic on streets in The Heights and help alleviate the breathing problems of our residents, which are being exacerbated by the unnecessary daily presence of so many trucks from other Districts. Rather than a "parking lot" for the storage of materials used in other Districts, our unused space could be used more beneficially.

Summary: The Economic Development Committee of Community Board 12/Manhattan recognizes that budget demands throughout the City exceed available funds. We are also aware that economic need in The Heights is greater than nearly any other District in Manhattan, and that population density and aging infrastructure will require an expanded effort on the part of the City to address issues of transportation, security, educational development, housing, youth and senior adult services, and quality of life in northern Manhattan. We look forward to more positive responses in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Rita L. McKee, acting Chair in the absence of Zead Ramadan

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008**

Committee Member
Emilia Cardona, Chair
Francisco Guzman
George Espinal

Committee Absentees
Aidee Camacho
Dr. Joyce Humber-Faison
Dr. James Freeman
Julissa Gomez
Rolando Rodriguez
Jennifer Araujo

Board Members Present

Staff Attending: Ebenezer Smith-District Manager, Adolfo Cuevas, Community Service Aide

Guests:

Phyllis Smizaski-Resident, Clifton Hill-Project Renewal, Ruben Varga-Community Resident, Lt. Nunez-NYPD 33rd Pct.

Meeting convened at 7:10pm by Chair, Emilia Cardona

Traffic Enforcement agents and their impact. Introducing Julio Toro, Commanding Officer for Northern Manhattan. His group is in charge of enforcing parking and traffic regulations.

- Ticker numbers are on a rise in Washington Height.
- Primary function is to control any vehicle impacting or impeding traffic flow
- Little to no tolerance for violators
- Public commended traffic enforcement being vigilant on Broadway between Dyckman & 208th Sts.
- Traffic agents are vigilant around the clock, day and night
- Work 10 hrs of a 4 day week
- They are identified as civilian uniformed employees of the police
- There are 4 level ranges to issuing tickets
 - Issuing moving violations
 - Issuing summonses
 - Issuing traffic violations

Enforcement work hand and hand with the precinct for example if there is a special event which needs special traffic control. There was a concern over some police officers who use their special permits at inappropriate times. If a citizen is concerned about this all they need to do is call (212)996-8583 and provide the number on the permit.

When Deputy Inspector Capul reports their summary statistics they do not include the numbers from Traffic. Traffic gives many moiré summonses because that is their main function. Unfortunately, level one Traffic enforcers would not be able to stop or report anyone for a moving violation. For example; if a traffic enforcement personnel witnesses a vehicle making a violation, he or she cannot stop the vehicle or enforce any laws.

Additional concern was raised about Fort Tryon Park at night in the summer time. In such a case Mr. Toro suggested that it's an issue for the 34th Pct. to handle. It may be that the 34th pct. does not have the capacity to address that issue. Similarly, it may be helpful to write to the Commissioner to ask for a task force but go to 34th precinct first.

A question was raised that if a Farmer's Market was set up at Bennett Park, how would parking affect the community. Officer Toro said his group would not be involved in that aspect of enforcement, the local precinct community affairs division and Parks would discuss that. The only problem his group would have would be double parking if a constituent wanted to go and buy produce at the market.

Traffic Enforcement agents are hired much like any other civil servant. There are certain minimum requirements and exams which everyone needs to take. They make a starting salary slightly higher than regular police officers with much potential for overtime.

18 to 20 percent of Toro's work force are Latino, 25 or so percent may be Middle Eastern with the rest of the balance falling into other ethnic group. Assaults to traffic agents is a bit higher but arrest from those assaults are also high. Stopping an agent from doing their job is an arrestable offense. If you try to stop agents from putting a ticket on the wind shield or, over the license plate it is considered obstructing government work.

There were plans to get traffic control agents at W. 181st Street and Amsterdam but those plans were put on hold. It really depends on if the capacity is there.

Lt. Nunez reported from the 33rd Pct. He commented on the spike in stolen cars but agency is working with small numbers. The Lt. states a 300% increase. Riverside drive seems to be the hardest hit.

- Grand Larceny cases increased
- Decrease in burglaries
- Assaults are up; domestic or late nights,
- Several gun arrest this year
- Mailbox burglar, caught recovered a lot of mail; solved 14 reports
- Graffiti is still a concern(33rd Pct. well aware, continues to be proactive in cracking down

One unusual arrest of a burglar who would break into apartments and would touch women or would just break in the apartment and lay a sleep next to the women. There was concern about street vendor sales who are operating at late hours of the night facilitate activities which may put some quality of life issues at risk.

New Business

Discussed possibility of having joint meeting with youth and education committee.

Suggestions were made about looking more deeply into the new noise code because it may be difficult to understand the official literature.

Meeting adjourned 9:05pm

Submitted by Francisco Guzman, transcribed & typed by Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

CONCERNS FOR THE AGING - MINUTES
February 11, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Chair
Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair
Gloria Vanterpool, 2nd Ass. Chair
Ramona Gomez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Staff Member Present: Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests: Elaine Flech-CAN, Ethel Linder Stoll-Resident, Alberto Murray- Dept. VA, Edward Daniels-IVC, VETS, Jim McNiff-Resident, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, RoseMary Cortez-Allen Pavilion, NYP, Julia Marsh-Manhattan Times, Diana Hernandez

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Opened meeting at 10:15am

David Johnson presented background information on Department for the Aging changes to meals on wheels and senior centers. Meals on wheels will be reduced from 97 contracts to 10-20 contracts around the entire city. The service moves toward the Senior Options program in the Bronx. Changes to senior centers in the Bronx: moves away from meals as central; and moves toward health activities and promotions activities as the emphasis. Regionalization seems to mean pooling money in the community and fostering competition. At ARC and STAR, 80% of the attendees to the senior center are below poverty level, with the majority coming for meals. Ethel Linder Stoll expressed concerns over frozen meals, capacity to handle microwaves, sense of underlying goal to direct providers. We need to educate the seniors who are most impacted by these changes, and the rest of our community board members. VA rep Mr. Daniels agrees that they should advocate for seniors also.

Shine light on issue by having a large speak out. Suggest March 13th to the 14th of 2008 for Commissioner Mendez-Santiago at Community Board 12.

Senior Safe Streets program is back. The committee would like DOT for April meeting to present on this. The Committee discussed some of the dangerous places for closing the street. Jim McNiff raised questions about MTA unlimited pass.

Submitted by Fern Hertzberg
Transcribed by Adolfo Cuevas

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 5, 2008

Committee Members Present

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair
Francisco Guzman
Ines Saldana Olsen

Committee Members Absent

Jennifer Araujo
Emilia Cardona (excused)

Board Members Present

Edith Prentiss
Adolfo Cuevas (staff)

GUESTS: Tracy Eberhart Harlem River Boat Club, Meg Gibson community resident, Michael Feldman Harlem River Boat Club, Marisa Panzani community resident, Rachel Lapkin community resident, Norman Skinner community resident, Jacob Morris community resident, Obed Fulcar Friends of Sherman Creek.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by the Chair, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter.

Park co-naming(s) near W. 155th St and Edgecombe Ave.: This topic was discussed in great detail two meetings ago. Sugar Hill is generally considered as part of Harlem, but geographically speaking it is in part of lower Washington Heights as well, extending to the lower 160's. Public member Jacob Morris commented on possibly naming the small traffic triangle at 155th Street & Edgecomb Ave., "Sugar Hill Luminaries Park". DPR representative Jennifer Hoppa and Ms. Lorris Ritter noted that there is also another community group seeking to co-naming that same space after Juan Bosch, political leader, historian, man of letters, and the first democratically elected President of the DR. Ms. Lorris Ritter suggested that the playground on Edgecomb & 157th Street also would be an appropriate site for either of these honorifics. There was a lengthy discussion on the relative merits of each site for either co-naming. In order not to create a conflict where none need exist, the Chair will reach out to the organization pursuing a co-naming for Juan Bosch and continue the discussion. Public member Meg Gibson proposed the possibility of having stones with plaques in either location both as a fundraiser and a way of allowing for participation of a variety of residents. Ms. Prentiss also noted that, regardless of the naming opportunity, if the triangle is turned into a small park of Greenstreet, there should be proper curb cuts.

Harlem River boating: In the last century, rowing was a popular form of public recreation, and the Harlem River was dotted with dozens of boathouses for human-powered craft (i.e., crew shells, row-boats, canoes and kayaks). Tracy Eberhart and Michael Feldman of the Harlem River Boat Club (HRBC) spoke of their vision for expanding waterfront recreation along the Harlem, citing the public health benefits, and noting that the current number of boat houses in New York City is insufficient to support existing need and potential growth. The HRBC has seen a rise in interest as they have increased their programs, including an annual "Learn to Row" Day. Their biggest challenge is a lack of space; currently they are based at Roberto Clemente State Park. They are looking for outreach opportunities to get more people involved, and described some of their proposed programs to attract even more people to the sport. The Chair suggested several resources; including the Audubon Partnership's annual street fair, and the Uptown ArtStroll. Ms. Hoppa noted that DPR has a capital project to clear an area behind P.S. 5 which then would be available to RFP as a waterfront concession.

Proposal for Bennett Park Farmers Market: There are several farmers markets in Washington Heights which have been successful. A group of area residents would like to see a Greenmarket in Bennett Park, and they presented a petition with over 750 signatures of community members who would like to see this happen, perhaps in the southern area of the park, where it is paved. The NY Council on the Environment (which manages Greenmarkets) requires that any proposed Greenmarket location have sufficient foot traffic to support a Greenmarket, and that there be Community Board support. There was a lengthy discussion on the merits of such a plan, including timing (likely Sunday, though other days might be considered); siting issues; competing recreational use of the park; and possible parking, traffic and sanitation issues. Although the public school further north on Cabrini Boulevard would have fewer parking and other operational challenges, there is insufficient foot traffic, and therefore likely would be rejected by the NY Council of the Environment. It was proposed that the same e-mail and flyer outreach that generated the petition signatures be tapped for possible ideas on parking mitigation, and to determine the level of public support for possible parking and traffic restrictions to support the placement of a Greenmarket in Bennett Park. Specific suggestions were made regarding 183rd Street, Pinehurst Avenue south of W183rd Street, and the privately-owned driveway Hudson View Gardens. It was also suggested to observe other Greenmarkets to see how they manage their set-up, break-down, parking and other operational details. In general, the idea was viewed favorably and with enthusiasm. The organizers will do additional research and return to the committee for further dialogue.

New Business: Community resident Meg Gibson expressed concerns over noise in Bennett Park at all times of the year, but particularly during the warmer weather. She would like to know what can be done to close park during the night time so that during the summer the noise is kept to a low level (or none). The Chair suggested that this is an enforcement issue; all NYC parks are considered "closed" after 1am, and all playgrounds are considered "closed" at dusk. This has been a long-standing, on-going problem, to which there periodically has been relief in the presence of consistent pressure on the precinct. The public can take action by making frequent calls 311 and working with the precinct; the Chair will remind District Manager to raise this issue again with the 34th Precinct. There was a lengthy and at-times heated discussion about competing needs and interests by different park users, including young children, older children, teens, the elderly, dog-owners, etc. Ms. Gibson also voiced a concern over some of the noisy components of the Park's playground equipment, inquiring specifically about the removal of bells and a squeaky bridge. Although these components have a legitimate recreational function in terms of playground design for young children, there is great potential for misuse and noise at night by older children and teens.

There being no further business, **meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.**

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 7, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon, Isaiah Bing, Martin Collins, Beatrice Hall, Helen Morik, Pamela Palanque North.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rolando Cespedes, Matt Chachere (Public Member).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Espinal, Edith Prentiss.

STAFF: Adolfo Cuevas.

GUESTS: Harry E. Mayer, DEP; Rob Roberts and Jennifer Paulino, Health Corps.; Ana L. Parks, WEACTION; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Dr. Angela Campbell, Academic Pathways; John Culpepper, LWHNA; Giovanni Puella, Heritage Health & Housing; Confesora Batista, Doris Brosnan.

1. S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

2. **How the Department of Environmental Protection handles noise and air pollution complaints from the community –**
Harry E. Mayer, PhD, P.E., Director of Technical Services, Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC), DEP, gave a Powerpoint presentation explaining DEP's structure and his bureau's responsibilities. He made the following points:
- BEC has 180 staff working around the clock and uses City tax-levy funds; every other part of DEP relies upon either water/sewer fees or proceeds from bonds issued by the NYC Water Board.
 - BEC has three units – Air/Noise Permitting, Enforcement and Policy; Asbestos Control and Emergency Response and Technical Assessment.
 - Among other things, BEC enforces Local Law 77, which requires ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for City vehicles, and Local Law 113, the amended Noise Control Code, effective 7/1/07.
 - Complaints should be made to 311 – easier to track.
 - BEC tries to satisfy every complainant and report back on its response to each complaint.
 - BEC responds to asbestos complaints 24/7.
 - BEC also conducts Right-to-Know inspections dealing with 3,000 chemicals/hazardous substances stored in businesses and government agencies.

Questions and Answers

Palanque North: What is the purpose of bill currently being considered by the City Council, Intro. 650, which requires permitting of equipment used by non-governmental parties to monitor air quality for radiation or biological agents?

Mayer: Permits would be issued by the NYPD. Intent is to avoid unnecessary public fears if equipment is improperly used or records false positives. E.g., a radiological meter could go off in the vicinity of Columbia Univ. Medical Center because of the use of X-rays inside, not because of an attack.

Simon: Will equipment be examined to make sure it's reliable?

Mayer: NYPD and DOH will evaluate equipment in light of homeland security.

The committee reviewed the lists of air and noise complaints in CD 12 in December & January.

Collins: Why are there so many "open tickets" (complaints with no response) for construction noise and residential smoke?

Mayer: I'll do a detailed computer run to determine the actual number and report back to CB 12.

Morik: Although there were a large number of jack hammering complaints (22), it may not be illegal.

[Note: Many of these complaints may have come from people living near construction site at 29 Overlook Terrace.]

Simon: Why did CB 12 have highest # of residential smoke complaints (37) in Manhattan in December?

Mayer: Smoke complaints probably result from poor quality oil. Inspectors find that dirty oil or waste oil is mixed with clean oil, or that boilers are not calibrated. He agreed to check on past complaints in CD 12 to see if this is a consistent pattern here.

Bing: More enforcement is needed on this issue. Supers don't have #6 boiler licenses. Boilers have poor combustion controls.

Many boilers in this community are 50 years old; lifespan is only 25 years.

Mayer: We can help supers calibrate boilers. DEP's goal is to correct problem, not just issue Notices of Violations. We'll come down hard on landlords who don't make repairs.

Espinal: Recently, a neighbor became dizzy and had a seizure because of high level of carbon monoxide.

Mayer: CO emissions could come from faulty boilers.

Smizaski: Pesticide recently sprayed on Overlook Terrace between 187-190 Sts. but landlord did not post signs or close off area.

Mayer: You should call 911 when pesticide is openly sprayed without any precautions. Area should be cordoned off. There should be no contact with humans or animals.

Smizaski: What's being done about polluting school buses?

Mayer: They're required to switch to ultra-low sulfur fuel.

Simon asked Mayer to look into persistent noise complaints received by CB 12 office concerning the Parrilla Restaurant, 3920 Broadway, and Bianco, a nightclub at 4455 Broadway. Following up on last month's meeting, Simon also asked whether Mayer had been able to find any mercury poisoning cases in DEP's files. Mayer said he found no such records.

3. **Presentation by Health Corps on the Healthy Bodega Initiative** – Rob Roberts, Director of Education, and Jennifer Paulino, Coordinator at George Washington H.S. Roberts spoke first and made the following points:
- Health Corps was founded by Dr. Mehmet Oz, of Columbia Univ. Medical Center, because of many children with obesity problems he saw. It is based on Peace Corps model.
 - Three themes stressed: mental resilience, physical fitness and nutritional balance. Give kids info on how to live a healthy life.
 - Chapters currently exist in 36 schools, 29 in NYC. Next year plan to increase to 61 sites.
 - GWHS was the first site; has four coordinators for the different schools in the building.
- Paulino then spoke and said the following:
- A health fair will be held at GWHS on May 12 at 4-8 p.m.
 - She talks to different classes once a week, all year long.
 - Students meet with cafeteria manager, taste test foods to make sure they like and will eat what's on the menu.
 - Health Corps assisted in the Healthy Bodega Initiative organized by the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. Students went into 20 local bodegas and interviewed the owners about whether low-fat milk and fresh produce is sold there. Kids felt empowered, that they're helping to change the community. Will follow up with return visits to the bodegas this semester.
 - Kids are encouraged to come to school for healthy breakfast. Health Corps holds events with cartoons, music, performances, cheerleaders, contests.
- Morik offered to have NYPH assist Healthy Bodega Initiative by providing a grant to support a reward program for bodega owners.
4. **Review of Responses to Budget Requests** —The committee reviewed the agencies' responses to our recommended expense and capital items that were included on the Board's list of budget priorities. It was agreed that the Board should request further information about when the District 8M Sanitation garage will be constructed (Capital Budget Priority #14), whether District 12 will be receiving additional Sanitation equipment, including collection trucks (#18), whether District 12 will be receiving any innovative garbage or recycling cans on our streets (#24), how rodent control effectiveness is being measured in our district (Expense Budget Priority #11), whether DEP will create a special noise enforcement unit for District 12 (#17) and why it already has been determined that additional Sanitation workers cannot be funded in FY 09 (#23). Members expressed their displeasure with the negative response to the request that the funding for the Lead Safe House be restored (#10).
5. **Old Business**
- **Update on the M29 Transmission Line Construction Project** – Collins: A Construction Task Force created by the Borough President's office with CB 12 will meet on Feb. 20. He & Bing will post flyers and distribute letter about the M29 project sent out by Con Ed to the community. Asked Con Ed to translate letter into Spanish & Chinese. 150 businesses affected. Bing: Construction on retaining walls has started at the substation site as well as trenching. Truckloads of material being removed. Reviewed plans for substation. Morik: any response to resolutions we passed? Simon: Apparently not. Will ask office to follow up. Collins: Maurice Bruet of DOT said that if Con Ed does not repave west side of Broadway, 204-220 Sts., Dot will do it after M29 project completed. DOT also plans to repave Broadway, Dyckman-204 Sts., curb to curb.
 - **Mercury poisoning** – Morik will check NY Presbyterian Hospital records for mercury poisoning cases.
 - **Green Cart Legislation** – Council Member Martinez was quoted in Daily News objecting to bill at City Council hearing, citing possible impact on bodegas, etc. Collins: SW corner at 10th Ave. & 207 St. is a possible location. Unlicensed vendor is selling produce there now. Prentiss: disabled community has spoken to DOH on this issue.
6. **New Business**
- Collins distributed NY Post article about city's "rodentologist," who helped devise a new \$1.5M rat-inspection pilot program for The Bronx, and suggested he be invited to H&E Committee to give a report in six months.
 - Collins distributed Riverdale Press article reporting on a new Sanitation program to reduce alternate-side parking rules from twice weekly to once weekly in areas that score 90% or above on the City's scorecard for street cleanliness. He reported that DM Smith called DSNY to find out whether we have blocks that qualify, what period of time they must exceed 90% and what happens if ratings fall below 90%.
 - Bing asked whether there is a program to recycle electronics equipment in District 12. Collins: Per Scholas, program in the Bronx, came to the board sometime ago; it picks up and rebuilds equipment.
7. Mail was reviewed.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES
February 4, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jackie Rowe Adams
George Espinal
Cleofis Cabral-Sarete

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Albania Jimenez (Excused)
Rolando Cespedes
Jose Lopez
Maria Luna

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

PUBLIC MEMBERS
Judith Rodriguez

Staff Member Present: Adolfo Cuevas, Community Service Aide

Guests: Erk Carlson-NYPL, Bibiana Cuevas-Resident, Felicia Lora-Resident, Robert Rosa-Resident, Esther Collado-Resident, Abraham Palma-YM-YWHA

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Meeting started at 7:25pm, chaired by George Espinal.

"Smoke Free"

A youth initiative; Youth are a target in smoking campaigns. Today's teenagers are seen as the best future customer. Rogie promotes education on tobacco through presentations. Teens are exposed to tobacco buds outside and inside the grocery stores, magazines, fashion magazines, supermarket, etc. The group wants to make the grocery stores aware of the damages tobacco has on individuals. There have been three smoke advertisements or more on bodegas and newsstands; some posted three feet making young children be able to see the advertisements. The initiative is to make tobacco retailers remove, reduce, and relocate these advertisements; in addition, there will be visits to the stores. The support of the Youth and Education committee with a resolution is necessary. Six percent of teenagers smoke, down four percent from before. This is the first committee the group has visited. Their future plan is to work with this initiative in the five boroughs. It is important to plant advertisements about not smoking. The resolution was voted and unanimously adopted; going forward to the General Meeting to be approved by the entire board.

Libraries in Washington Heights have exciting programs with videos and they are very well attended. There are games and enjoyment, many of which are educational. Inwood Library is having a Tuesday writing program for teenagers that will begin on February 13.

Community residents recommended the Police to be vigilant about gang activities and graffiti. The police department will continue to patrol schools.

The Committee is looking forward to the School construction Authority progress on school construction in district 12. Projects include but not limited to: Gregorio Luperon High School, West 204th & Sherman Avenue.

Community Education Council # 6 brought forward a resolution for the Department of Transportation to implement appropriate signage to deter motorist from speeding on Jumel Place. The representative from the Community Education Council (CEC) emphasized the importance of implementing signage before a child or an adult get injured or hurt by a speeding motorist. The Committee will look further into this matter.

Motion to Adjourn by Jackie Rowe Adams
Moved by Cleofis Cabral-Sarete

Meeting Adjourned 8:45pm

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES - MINUTES

February 7, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Pahaham, Chair
Glenda Swanson Massa, Asst. Chair
Kotie Cannon
Edith Prentiss

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rolando Cespedes
Carole Mulligan
Rolando Rodriguez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Staff Member Present: Adolfo Cuevas, Community Service Aide

Guests: Ana Parks-WE ACT Lead Outreach Campaign, Elena Guzman-Resident, Jack Cohen-Resident, Victor Body-Lawson- Body-Lawson Associates, Architects and Planners, Anthony Parson-Resident, Yoonie Cho-SOBRO, Phillip Morrow-President and CEO of SOBRO, Giovanni Puello-Director of Community Relations, Heritage Health and Housing, Inc., Ricco Cox and John Spratley-Representatives of the Fort Washington Men's Shelter

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Chairperson Cheryl Pahaham convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Lead Outreach Project

Ana Parks, the Lead Outreach Project Manager for West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) presented on the organization's lead poisoning abatement and education project. The project targets East and Central Harlem, Inwood, Washington Heights, and Morningside Heights. The Lead Outreach Project is working in conjunction with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, but is also looking to partner with upper Manhattan organizations that can help to spread the message. The organization's primary objective is to raise public awareness about the dangers of lead paint and what can and should be done to mitigate the danger and avoid harm. Ms. Parks also indicated that her organization could connect landlords to agencies that would provide grants to complete any needed lead abatement work. Ms. Park's organization is working with the goal of ending lead poisoning by 2010. Ana Parks can be reached at (212) 961-1000 (ext. 322)

SOBRO

Representatives of the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SOBRO) attended the Housing and Human Services Committee meeting to present on a proposed development that would be done in partnership with the Centro Evangelistico Church, a neighborhood church. Based on a 2007 agreement in which SOBRO took title to the property, SOBRO would develop a vacant site at 1769 Fort George Hill/1759 St. Nicholas Avenue. SOBRO seeks CB 12 support for a zoning variance application to increase the FAR and already presented to the CB 12 Land Use Committee on this issue. SOBRO proposes to build a 14-story residential building with a community facility, with a square footage of 217,845 on a lot that has 21,686 square feet. The church would occupy 15,838 square feet of this new building. The development would offer 116 units of 1, 2, or 3 bedroom co-ops (the 3 bedroom units were about 1,200 square feet) and 100 units of parking for co-op residents at an estimated development cost of \$57 million.

Mr. Morrow stated that he hoped that all of the units in the building would be affordable co-ops

and that the maximum income for each household would be 130 percent of the area median income (currently at about \$91,000 for a family of four). He stated that affordability would be based on whatever financing mechanisms were made available to SOBRO by the City and the State. He expected that units would cost between \$250,000 and \$440,000 without subsidies, but that he hoped to subsidize all units and to offer 3 bedroom units for about \$300,000. He noted that actual sale prices had not yet been determined because SOBRO had not finalized what subsidies it would draw on that would reduce the sale price.

Additional discussion on the project raised the following issues: whether units designed for the disabled would actually be accessible by the disabled without further renovation; whether the developers had a construction noise mitigation plan, as the project would require drilling; how the church would address the traffic and parking needs during church services; what kind of community use of the new space the church would be willing to provide; what kind of protection from 1 train noise and vibrations the construction would provide to the development's residents (the building would be 50 feet from the train tracks); how many units would be offered at various household income levels; and, what agreement SOBRO did reach with the MTA in order to develop a site adjoining an MTA property.

SOBRO representatives stated that they wanted to apply to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for a zoning variance in April 2008 and that they hoped to secure a letter of support from CB 12 before applying to the BSA.

SOBRO representatives agreed to return to the Housing and Human Services Committee meeting in March 2008 to address the outstanding issues, including an explicit agreement as to a community space.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Paham, 02/19/08

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
James Berlin
Isaiah Bing
Vivian Ducat
Ruddy Santana

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu
Rafael Osoria
Ines Saldana-Olesen

Board Members

Guests: Kerim Odekan/Analyst - HPD, Alejandro Baquero/AVP - EDC, Edwin Marshall, Jaime Ortiz-DCP, David Brodherson, Lakeshmi Gandhi, Gail Addiss, Michael Waldman, Todd Wiley, Yoni Bak-North Man. Construction, Stephen J. Di Cioccio-Phillips Lytle, Rev. E. Hudon-Rocky Mt. Baptist Church, Paul Martin, Miguel Martinez-NYC Council member, Richard Allman, Jose Pigugue, Betty Lehmann, Jim McNiff-resident

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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Land Use chair, Wayne Benjamin advised the land use committee ("LU" or the "Committee") that Yvonne Stennett, who is Executive Director of Community League of the Heights and co-chair of Land Use for Manhattan Community Board 9 was scheduled to attend the LU meeting but called to say that she is unavoidably detained at another meeting. Mr. Benjamin advised that Ms. Stennett is interested in exploring areas where the land use committees of Community Boards 9 and 12 might work together. It was noted that Ms. Stennett communicated that CB9's new Chair, Pat Jones, is also supportive of the two community boards working together more closely. The Committee expressed interest in discussing the matter further.
3. Edwin Marshall of the Department of City Planning ("DCP") introduced that team of representatives from DCP, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") and the Economic Development Corporation ("EDC") present to provide LU with an update on DCP's Sherman Creek rezoning proposal. Mr. Marshall turned the presentation over to Jaime Ortiz, DCP's project manager for the Sherman Creek study. Mr. Ortiz provided the Committee and guests present with a recap of the original proposal and modifications made to-date (these were presented to CB12's Executive Committee in December 2007). LU was advised that the modifications to the original rezoning proposal are intended to be more sensitive to the existing built form of the neighborhood and to shape the bulk of new buildings constructed under the new zoning to permit more light and air to reach windows located at side- and rear-yards of existing buildings. One impact of the modifications is to increase maximum building height from 120 feet to 190 feet (bulk is not decreased but is pushed away from the edges of a given site towards the middle). Concerning affordable housing, the HPD representative noted that recent changes to NYS law (the 421a program was cited) and program requirements for public sector subsidy funds increase the probability that affordable units in new developments will be on-site. Councilman Martinez questioned the percentage of units that are required under the proposed Inclusionary Housing zoning. It was indicated that the citywide inclusionary housing zoning requires 20% of the units to be affordable, typically at or below 80% of area median income. The Councilman and the Committee each expressed interest in having the percentage of affordable units increased to 30%. A guest asked for clarification on how area median

income is calculated. There was a general discussion the waterfront esplanade – the adequacy of its proposed width being of particular concern. The Committee indicated that the proposed increase in density / floor area ratio (“FAR”) contemplated the Sherman Creek rezoning may be excessive in that the materials presented by DCP which illustrated the result of potential development under the revised zoning proposal show buildings that are dramatically out-of-scale with existing buildings. LU further noted that DCP’s rezoning study, in exploring higher FARs, should consider lower target densities than those proposed.

4. Mr. Benjamin distributed materials to the Committee related to zoning text amendments proposed by the NY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (“AIA”). He noted that at a recent meeting hosted by the Historic District Council (“HDC”) concerns were expressed with regard to these amendments and the process used to propose the amendments. The amendments generally focus on maximizing, not increasing, the FAR that can actually be built on sites within R3-1, R3-2, R4, R5, and R6 through R10 zoning districts. With regard to the process, Wayne advised that it is his understanding that any private party can proposed zoning text amendments but that the impact of privately-proposed amendments is generally limited or site-specific. The AIA-proposed amendments are private applications that have citywide impacts. Mr. Benjamin further noted that Councilman Avella attended the HDC meeting and expressed process-related concerns, most attendees at the HDC meeting appeared to be residents of low- to mid-density residential areas and that AIA-proposed amendments might actually be beneficial to Washington Heights and Inwood. Edwin Marshall was asked if he could assist the Committee to better understand this matter. Mr. Marshall confirmed that private parties can propose zoning text amendments, private applications do not follow the same approval process (community board and city council approval not required) and that DCP is in on-going discussion with AIA concerning their proposed text amendments. He suggested that LU invite AIA to attend a meeting to discuss the matter further; the Committee concurred with this suggestion.
5. Yoni Bak of North Manhattan Construction Corporation introduced the Rocky Mount Baptist Church team and provided the Committee with an update on the proposed mixed-use development, which consists of a new 30,000 square foot church and a 100,000 square foot residential building (the “Project”). The Committee confirmed receipt of the materials forwarded by or on behalf of Rocky Mount subsequent to its last presentation to LU. Committee-member Obie Bing noted that the materials submitted provided substantial information on utility demands. LU was advised that the development plans have been modified so that residential portion of the project will not be 100% market rate units but rather an 80/20 development, i.e.: 20% of the units will be affordable. LU was also advised that the Rocky Mount team is in discussions with HPD concerning subsidy funds and with the Community Preservation Corporation (“CPC”) concerning construction financing. Mr. Benjamin noted that NYS subsidy funds are also available for residential development and that consideration should be given to combining NYC and NYS funds so that either a higher percentage of the units can be affordable or that the affordability threshold can be lowered. The Rocky Mount team expressed interest in continuing to work with the community and the community board on this project.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes

February 4, 2008

Committee Members Present

Mark Levine, Chair
Anita Barberis
Dr. James Freeman
Edith Prentiss

Committee Members Excused

James Berlin
Johnathan Tasani

C.B. 12 Members Present

Martin Collins
Obie Bing

Guests:

Maurice Bruet, Maggie Clark, Annette Dieli, Bus Isaac, Gail Addiss, Carol Blagman.-

Chair Mark Levine opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee and guests.

Presentation of Plan-NYC re congestion pricing by Dan Pedevillano of NYPRO Strap Hangers, advocating the alternative selected which reduced the northern boundary to 60th St instead of 86th St. This program is projected to raise \$500 million which would be dedicated to MTA capital improvements with an additional \$350 million from the Government for mass transit, if this program is approved. The rationale supporting congestion pricing is the projected population growth of one million by 2030 and a mass transit system that is presently close to capacity. DOT is reviewing parking strategies to alleviate impact on neighborhoods outside the constraints. Discussed why no application of this program to New Jersey cars entering the city and why only capital improvements and not operational ones, like new elevators. It was recommended that neighborhoods who are at risk (like WH-I) should be targeted for capital improvements. 60% of citizens polled agree with some type of congestion pricing, even though some of our representatives had issues with it. Our City Council must approve first and Albany has must approve by 3/31/08.

Martin Collins requested that DOT review angle parking on the south side of Dyckman & Staff. Presently, there is 90 degree parking on the north side of Dyckman and the recommendation was to have 45 degree on the south side. Maurice Breuet, Deputy Commissioner of Manhattan suggested that there may not be enough room as there is a minimum width requirement (eleven feet on both sides), but did think that if both sides of the street would 45 degree angle park the standards might be met and requested a letter to review of this proposal.

Maggie Clarke of Riverside Inwood Neighborhood Garden (RING) presented a proposed Dyckman Greenway Connector for cyclists. It entailed a dedicated eight foot wide bicycle path separated from traffic by a green divider, on the north side of Riverside Dr. & Dyckman, from Henry Hudson to Harlem River. Suggested that 45 degree parking on the south side would accommodate the loss of parking on the north side, with additional parking Staff./Henshaw. This would reduce the vehicular traffic lanes to three, with the middle lane for turning. Some important points were raised in discussion: (1) maintenance of green divider as this is opposite a park and (2) more importantly the need to build consensus with the impacted businesses, residents, churches and political representatives to gather support this proposal.

Working with Council member Robert Jackson, Bob Isaacs shared copies of a brochure on bike safety entitled "Rules of the Road." This is an effort to increase the safety of all cyclists and ensure that are aware of the law. It was suggested that in order to "inform," these brochures should be distributed to all bicycle-delivery stores and bicycle clubs. Further, to "enforce" we should and will invite the safety officers of both the 33 & 34 Police Precincts to our next meeting.

Obie Bing shared his take on a meeting to reform alternate side of the street parking rules with three other community boards (#6 & #7 Brooklyn & #12 in Riverdale). The focus of relaxing the rules would be based on an over 90% rating of cleanliness for a period of time. Looking for some pilot program areas.

Maurice Breuet advised us that the ramp at 181st St. Riverside would be opened in February with temporary closings when repairs to the 181 wall or new street markings.

Edith Prentiss requested that the TLC's enforce their regulations regarding services for the disabled when licensing taxi companies.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anita Barberis