

General Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2003

Members Present

Jacqueline Aristy	Rafael Escano
Anita Barberis	Luis Facundo
Rafael Beaumont	Venecia Fernandez
Abby Belkin	Leslie Foster
James Berlin	Beatrice Hall
Emilia G. Cardona	Herbert Harwitt
Nelson Castro	Joyce F. Holland
Martin Collins	Jose Lopez
Mireya Cruz	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Fredericka Cuenca	Benjamin Mantell
Walther G. Delgado	Renato Mena

Kirk Miller
Helen Morik
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Ron Peterson
Zead Ramadan
Nelson Rojas
Steve Simon
Barbara Smith Ramos
Glenda Swanson Massa
Milagros Vicente
Sandra Wachspress

Members Absent

Sybil R. Dodson (excused)
Ivelisse Fairchild (excused)
William A. Garcia
Nelson Gomez
Maria Luna (excused)
Norma Nadien (excused)
Marcos Navarro
Julio Peguero (excused)
Msgr. Gerald Walsh (excused)
Elouise Whitehurst (excused)

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M. with quorum.

Helen Morik motioned to adopt the agenda; seconded by Glenda Swanson Massa; unanimous.
Emilia Cardona motioned to adopt the minutes; seconded by Beatrice Hall; unanimous.

Chairman's Report: Zead Ramadan

- DSL at CB 12 office; welcome to use to do CB12-related research, but please call first.
- New UMEZ Chair is Kenneth Knuckles. Spoke highly of his experience and qualifications (previous Vice President at Columbia University; also worked previously for the Bronx Borough President.)
- Spoke to graduating class of police recruits for Manhattan North. Talked about cultural sensitivity and history of the area.
- Town hall meeting.
- Met w/ Savonna Bailey McClain & W Harlem Arts Fund re: uptown heritage area. Promising proposal, though they need a board of directors.
- Upcoming meeting of Harlem Heights Historical Society on same subject, on Thursday 1/30 at Russ Berrie Institute.
- Acknowledged Captain Wilcox & Community Affairs Sgt. Sanchez of 33rd Pct; Det. Hughes of 34th Pct community affairs; Assemblyman Espaillat and his staff Sander Dulitz; Lillian Perez for State Sen. Schneiderman; CU Deputy VP for Government and Community Affairs Ross Frommer; and Councilman Jackson (who arrived later from another meeting.)
- Talked about Dyckman Institute Scholarship, its history and introduced Mr. Frommer, who introduced this year's winners, Katherine Paez and Joanne Marmol. Both candidates gave brief remarks. It is an honor to have these two dynamic and smart young women in our community. Steve Simon echoed the importance of this award, which reminds us that this community has lots of smart, talented young people.

(7:45) District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

- The 33rd Precinct received 8 officers and the 34th received 7 officers from the new class of recruits. Currently, the 34th has 166 officers and the 33rd has 177 (including new officers). Major crime is down, though auto theft is up; described precinct initiatives in this regard.
- 824-HEAT – HPD hotline for heat problems. Also urged caution with space heaters, which are a major cause of electrical fires during the winter. Citizens Committee Neighborhood Environment Action Program – grants of \$1K - \$15K. Deadline 2/13/03; www.citizensnyc.org; 212-989-0909.
- Coogan's 5k race is on Sunday, March 2nd.

(8:52) Public Session

Mariela Rueda, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. – Free tax help for community members.

Kisasi Brooks, New Yorkers for Parks – (212-838-9410 x. 224 - www.ny4p.org) – updated on '03 advocacy agenda and research projects. Doing a study with the management consulting firm, Ernst & Young, to assess parks' impact on real estate values. They are continuing with councilmanic district profiles. Have architecture interns who can help with design of parks and playgrounds.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brooks' organization for these useful reports.

Eleanor Lundeen, Fred Johnson and Andrew Engelhard, Community Residents – Spoke regarding DOT's request to change the traffic pattern on 155th Street. Concerned about excessive traffic impact to neighborhood, and that proposal will turn a residential street into a major thoroughfare. Some clarification that problem is not only increase in number of trucks, but diversion of other traffic from Broadway and Macombs Dam Bridge. They plan to attend public meeting next week. *[Note: DOT subsequently withdrew the proposal; the item was withdrawn from the hearing's agenda.]*

Ron Peterson, Vivian Dennis, Community League of W. 159th St. – Highlighted services offered by the Community League and introduced Ms. Dennis highlighting especially her work with food distribution and getting food stamps for those who qualify. Ms. Dennis spoke about the Heartshare Program, which helps people who have had their heat shut down. Also spoke about the League's community garden renamed for Dorothy McGowan, a social worker from the League who died last year. Also described program they have with PS 4 in the garden.

Helen Morik, New York Presbyterian Hospital – Presented community service plan to the board; parking at Ft. Washington Avenue and 165th St. facility. Will be offering discounted overnight monthly parking for community residents. Blood drive during week of February 24th. Current shortage exacerbated by ban on importing blood from Europe.

Peter Walsh, Coogan's – spoke regarding their 5th Annual Salsa, Blues and Shamrocks 5k run. Raises money for the Armory Track & Field Center, and also increases awareness of the sport and discipline of running; spoke of community support for the event. Info available at www.nyrrg.com. Kids' sign-up will be in the CB 12 office.

Judith Rodriguez, New York Public Library - writing workshops for adults from 1pm to 3pm Saturdays in March at Inwood branch. Workshops are free, but registration is required. Also free computer classes from 10 am to 12pm on Fridays.

Antonio Rodriguez, Washington Heights/Inwood Community Network Office of Empire State Development Corp. – office is located 210 Sherman Avenue. NYS business development services.

(8:32) Public Officials Reports

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat – spoke about recent solidarity trip to Israel; very moving and interesting.

- ❑ \$8-10 billion budget gap, and the Governor has pledged no new taxes, so this can only mean budget cuts.
- ❑ Indian Point – supports closure and is plaintiff in suit against Con Ed regarding cost pass through from shutdown several years ago.
- ❑ Spoke regarding the Amtrak building. Supports initiation of a planning process for the development of this facility. Says there is \$2 million City funding plus \$250k from NYS to clean out the building and another \$100k from NYS for planning; stated NYS money could be lost if the plan he proposes is not acted upon. Spoke in support of a Dominican cultural center. Storage facility lacks vision; site should be gateway for NYC especially if NYC is selected for 2012 Olympics.

Leslie Foster asked a question regarding Summer Youth Employment. Answer: supports funding for SYEP.

Ron Peterson asked regarding rent stabilization. Answer: Co-Sponsor of new bill supporting rent stabilization bill. Wants to do away with luxury decontrol and preserve succession rights.

Luis Facundo: regarding Duarte Cultural Center – is preparing schematics. One reason Board rejected proposal is that there was no sense of what the vision is for the building. Answer: "I am advocating for the Parks Dept. to give up the building. Parks has no money to develop the facility."

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: would you support other visions if the funding were there? Answer: yes, but artistic community has been marginalized and should be brought into the process.

Emilia Cardona: noted next committee agenda; invited Assemblyman to attend.

Councilman Robert Jackson – Has copy of summary of budget Mayor presented this morning. Also available online. Bottom line: \$3 billion deficit on top of cuts already happening. Mayor says unions must come up with \$600 million in savings or there will be layoffs. Senior centers are "off the chopping block". \$150 million cut from education, on top of Gov. Pataki's proposed \$1 billion cut. Goal for the year is to stay where we are, rather than slipping back. Lobbied by C. Virginia Fields to "hold the line" on MBPO funding.

Milagros Vicente: question regarding special education especially in light of current changes at Dept. of Education. Answer: Had no new information; details are still unfolding. He gets his information as a member of the public and has no information to add.

Kirk Miller: will Council request that commissioners and agency administrators hold their salaries and also increase their own productivity? It is not fair for civil service to have to suffer alone.

RJ: Will be making alternative proposed cuts. Kirk Miller also asked regarding residency requirements for Corporation Counsel's office.

RJ personal position is that people should live where they want.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: Intro 160 regarding DPR request to have a permitting process for artists selling in parks. RJ: hearing went all day and is supported by the Mayor, DPR and friends of parks groups; opposed by arts groups. Has not taken a stand because win or lose, this will spend time in courts – he advocates finding a compromise acceptable to both sides.

Community member asked about parent participation in schools. Answer: I wish I knew!. Mayor and Chancellor are not giving information out to public or City Council. That determination will be made by NYS Legislation.

Councilman Miguel Martinez – Mayor's budget is optimistic because it assures that proposed taxes will be approved and that federal aid will continue to flow. There will be a housing committee hearing at the Council regarding access to waterfront, but there is not much access to it, especially on the eastside. Spoke about need for using 421-A tax incentives north of 96th Street particularly affordable housing on the waterfront in the Sherman Creek area. Mayor coming to community breakfast 2/18 or 2/20 at Isabella. Spoke regarding Amtrak building and echoed Assemblyman's comments. Monies were made available to make the building available to people, not for parks usage, and there should be a bidding process.

Jim Berlin: building is very small – is it really big enough or appropriate for a cultural center specifically? This should be an open process. The Councilman agreed.

Steve Simon: concerned with use of 421-A tax incentives for housing, as it is a program for luxury housing, not affordable housing. Answer: right; this is an opportunity to change the use of these incentives for affordable housing.

Walther Delgado: we have lost 1500 units in the last decade and we have to look at ways.

Traffic on 181st Street. Something must be done and is looking to resolve. The Chair reiterated that EMS station should not be built on 181st Street.

Gregorio Luperon High School expansion to Verizon building on 178th Street is not available or appropriate for school – but Mayor has made clear no new school construction.

Luis Facundo: This is how 197A plans evolve as Boards begin to look at vision for future.

Carlos Rodriguez, Manhattan Borough President's Office – MTA hearing on Wednesday 2/5 from 4pm to 7pm at Hotel Roosevelt (45th and Madison) regarding proposed fare hike and token booth closings (157th 1 line, 168th A line, 175th A line, 207th A line). This is a security problem and CB 12 members and residents should testify. Read Borough President's comments against Mayor's proposed budget.

Lilliam Perez, Senator Schneiderman's Office – echoed concerns regarding subway. Eric Schneiderman is new State Senate deputy minority leader. Leads debate and assists the leader with developing floor strategy.

Zead Ramadan introduced the Executive Committee resolution regarding the distribution of maps of Upper Manhattan, which passed unanimously (27 in favor and one not voting due to conflict) with no discussion.

He spoke regarding attendance and indicated that he will ask By-laws committee to address lateness, leaving early and to define what constitutes "attendance" as this is a real problem on the board.

Committee Reports

Health & Environment Committee, Steve Simon, Chair – Congratulated Ben Mantell and his wife for the new baby. Air quality monitoring by NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation finds that our air quality is poor, though better than midtown. Working with gentlemen who came to last general meeting regarding car alarms. Noise control code in process of being amended, so this is an opportunity to change law in this regard, and also to amend NYS insurance law to remove incentives for having car alarms, which are ineffective. Also writing letter to support northern Manhattan and children — project, a consortium including NYPH. In NYC, currently an epidemic doubled in less than a decade. Spoke regarding Diabetes, and resources in this community, especially at Russ Berrie Institute.

Milagros Vicente: Diabetes is a disability covered by APA.

Traffic & Transportation Committee, James Berlin, Chair – described DOT's proposal regarding making 155th St. a 2 way street. Hearing next week.

Public Safety Committee – Zead Ramadan announced for Dr. Palanque North that the next meeting will be on Thursday, 2/13; representatives from Entergy, which owns/operates Indian Point will be attending.

Economic Development Committee, Martin Collins, Chair – Public hearing on Tuesday, 2/4 regarding an application for an enclosed sidewalk café at 4139 Broadway (s/w corner of W. 175th St.). Spoke about meeting at the Manhattan Borough President's office regarding borough wide problem with the State Liquor Authority ignoring Community Boards by not waiting for input in issuing licenses. Working on resolution to be passed either jointly by the Borough Board or individually by each Community Board in Manhattan. Also working with Ortiz Funeral Home; they are willing to develop proposal for overnight parking availability. 184th Street garage – met with developer who will make a presentation to CB 12 on Thursday, 3/20 at 7:30 in CB office. Steve suggested having the meeting in community instead; Herbert Harwitt offered use of Mt. Sinai ; Martin Collins will look into having the meeting in the community.

Land Use Committee –Zead Ramadan reported for Maria Luna who is sick. Spoke of 197A planning process and exciting vision of NYC Planning Commission.

Housing & Human Services Committee, Beatrice Hall, Chair – Committee looking at Project Renewal. Also HPD Assistant Commissioner supposed to attend next meeting to explain why units lost to NEP.

Youth & Education Committee, Sandra Wachspress, Chair- This month there was a presentation by Baked in the Hood, a vocational rehabilitation program and a presentation by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. For the next meeting there will be presentations from Mark Levine from Teach for America and Loren Silbur from Jumel Mansion.

Robert Jackson offered clarification regarding education lawsuits. Also indicated that he may lead a 160-mile walk to Albany, May 3rd to May 8th, for beginning of opening arguments of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Circuit Court appeal.

Committee for the Aging, Herbert Harwitt, Chair - Commissioner from the Dept. for the Aging attended his meeting. It was his first visit to a community board. Thanked Councilman Martinez and Jackson for attending. Over 70 people attended. Perhaps this influenced Mayor and Governor decision to take Senior Centers off the chopping block.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee – no report; read minutes.

New York Presbyterian Task Force, Fredericka Cuenca, Chair – Committee should be renamed as it deals only with NYPH's construction projects. Patients will move in November. Heart center and kitchen construction taken off the table so when Babies is finished. That's it for a little while.

Zead Ramadan: meeting soon with Manhattan Borough President and will be taking attendance seriously. Will be clear about who is not attending, or who is coming late and /or leaving early. We are doing serious work here and we need people who take the work seriously. Has also asked By-laws Committee for guidance in defining lateness, as coming very late +/or leaving very early is different than attending an entire meeting. Martin Collins suggested that people who already left need to hear this. Can we reach out to them?

Beatrice Hall: Can we start meetings on time? When we start late, it punishes people who are on time, not people who are late.

Zead Ramadan: we can modify agenda to have items not requiring quorum earlier in meeting; if people come late, they can't speak to those items.

Rafael Beaumont: Can we limit time or items?

Zead Ramadan: we need also to keep our questions on point.

Joyce Holland: this should be discussed at Executive committee and instituted as soon as possible.

Zead Ramadan invited Raphael Beaumont to attend the Executive Committee in February.

Multiple motions and seconds to adjourn at 10:15pm

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

James Berlin, Chair
Anita Barberis
Joyce T. Holland

Zead Ramadan, Chairman
Deborah Blow, Community Assistant
Miguel Reyes, Community Service Aide

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING

Steve Simon
Maria Luna

GUESTS

Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Dept of Transportation, Josie Alvarez, Highway Design, NYCDOT, Randall Bailey, Planning Division, NYCDOT, John Kinney, Inwood Patrol, Julio Batista, NYPH, Richard Stempel, NYSDOT, Region-II, Design, Kumud R. Roy, NYSDOT, Region-II, Design, Anthony E. Gregory, Pres. Ysrael A. Seinuk, P.C.

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm

Opening remarks, James Berlin, Chair

Margaret Forgione, Manhattan borough Commissioner of NYC Dept. of Transportation presented a plan to change the direction of traffic on 155th Street west of Broadway where the upper level would be made one-way westbound. The lower level of 155th St, south of the wall, which accesses DOT yard for trucks, would become a two-way street (east/west). Discussion ensued to involve the community in this area about these changes in traffic direction. It was felt that an Informational Meeting in the area (either Boricua College or Church of the Intercession) was needed to inform the surrounding community of this modification in traffic flow and seek their input. A DOT rep will attend this meeting in February and explain the proposed changes. It was also recommended that both the north and south side of 155th Street from the separating wall east to Broadway contain parallel parking for vehicles.

The second presentation by NY State DOT regarding the planned work on the northbound Major Deegan ramp construction at W. Fordham Road. Richard Stempel, explained, with charts, that the ramp leading northbound on to the Major Deegan at Fordham was only fifteen(15) meters long and did not permit access to the flow of traffic without coming to a full stop first. There have been eight accidents per one million vehicle cars at this entrance. That is double the amount of the norm, which is four (4). The national standard for a ramp is 255 meters for safe acceleration into traffic. The NYS DOT plans to extend this ramp from 15 meters to 210 meters – much closer to the national standard. This extension will be constructed on highway land(in the Bronx) and will proceed with a minimum of traffic disruption. Work will be done at nights and on weekends, and not during the business days. In fact, they are investigating new construction technology of new pavement castings instead of paving cement (which takes 28 days to set). NYSDOT will also be replacing almost 600 trees based on the "Basile formula" for planting in the Fordham Park (west of the ramp wall).

There will be extensive signage in Manhattan and the Bronx around this area which will be checked daily. The detour route in Manhattan will be to take 10th Avenue and access the northbound Deegan at 230th Street. Timeframe for construction will be Spring of 2004 and be completed before the winter of the same year. NYSDOT will forward definitive plans and timeframe to our community board as they determine the actual specs.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Respectively submitted by Anita Barberis

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – January 13, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Beatrice Hall, Chair
Ron Peterson
Steve Simon
Barbara Smith Ramos
Jose Lopez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jacqueline Aristy

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

Miguel Reyes, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Lynette Parker, Attorney-HPD-Litigation Dept., Katie Appel, Special Assistant, Dept of Homeless Services, Lorie Burnett, Senior Policy Analyst, Dept of Homeless Services, Monika Szymurska, Housing Coordinator-Audubon Partnership Economic Development

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Meeting convened at 7:15 pm.

Opening remarks, Ms. Beatrice Hall, Chair, welcomed guests and introduced the committee members.

Our presenters were: Ms. Lynette Parker, Attorney for HPD-Litigation Dept., Ms. Katie Appel, Dept of Homeless Services. Ms. Parker gave an overview of the Litigation Dept for example: She said that her Dept deals with Five (5) Actions:

1. **Tenant Action**: This action is initiated by the tenant against the landlord/owners(s). An Attorney from HPD must also appear in court to make sure the tenants violations are corrected. The Litigation Dept is in court about three(3) times per week.
2. **False Certification Cases**: The owner/managing agent must submit a sworn statement that the violations(s) have been corrected. If these statements turn out to be false, then HPD can bring a case against the owner.
3. **Order to Correct**: This Action is initiated by HPD, i.e. if a building has a lot of violations then HPD will bring action to compel the owner to correct the violations.
4. **Fail to Register a Building**: HPD will bring a case to compel the owner(s) to register a building.
5. **Heat & Hot Water Violations**: The heat seasons is October 1st thru May 31. Once HPD receives a complaint an inspector is usually sent out within 24 hours to investigate the complaint. Temperature is taken inside and outside of the apartment. If the building is in violation a fine is issued. **Lead Paint Violation**: If an owner/landlord receives a lead paint complaint then HPD will come aboard to compel the landlord to correct the situation.

Ms. Parker stated that HPD processes three classes of violations: **Violation A**: Less serious violation Owner/Landlord must correct the violation in 90 days. **Violation B**: Violations must be corrected within 30 days. **Violation C**: Most serious violations, i.e. lead paint, leaks, heat/hot water. The owners/landlord must correct the complaint in 24 hours.

Violation C

Q: If a "C" violation is not corrected in a timely fashion, what options does the tenant have?

A: The tenant can request a re-inspection.

Q: Does HPD keep statistics on actions for CB12?

A: Maybe Elizabeth Bolden, Assistant Commissioner of HPD - Housing Litigation could supply this information.

Q: What if a tenant calls HPD with complaints of no hot water?

A: HPD will send an inspector to the site within 24 hours to check out the complaint. If the water is below 123 degrees the inspector will go to the boiler room to see if it's lock and in that case a violation is usually issued. HPD only handles violations that deal with maintenance code issues.

Our next guests provided us with information from the Dept of Homeless Services, Katie Appel and Lorie Burnett from the DHS came to CB12 to let the community know that they would be conducting a street survey of Manhattan Homeless on Feb 24, 2003 from midnight to 4am in an effort to get a better count of the Homeless. Statistics. DHS is asking for 1,000 volunteers to help them conduct this survey. The purpose of this outreach is create new programs to alleviate Homelessness in NYC.

DHS said that the teams would not disturb sleeping homeless people, unless we are under a winter alert (If the temperature is below 32 degrees) then DHS can forcefully remove the homeless from the streets.

Ms. Katie Appel said that hopefully each team will be made up of 3-4 persons and in areas considered dangerous. A policeman will be a part of those teams. DHS plan to recruit volunteers from social work schools, MTA, DHS contract agencies, NY Cares, NYPD Homeless Outreach and the general public. DHS would like to come back to CB12 after the count to discuss their findings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted by : Beatrice Hall

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 9, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Emilia Cardona, Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Ass't Chair
Rafael Escano
Venecia Fernandez (8:50)
Marcos Navarro

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Glenda Swanson-Massa
Kirk Miller (Excused)

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT

Miguel A. Reyes, Community
Service Aide

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Zead Ramadan, Chair, CB12

GUESTS

Phyllis Smizaski, 802 W 190th St.
Fausto Espinosa, New Leaf Café
Nicole Smith, Partnership for Parks.

- I. Emilia Cardona called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.
- II. Ms. Cardona gave a summary on **Fort Tryon Park/Cloisters Safety Committee** in December. Capt. Kehoe from the 34th Precinct will bring data on crimes in the park from summer through 1/17/03. Metropolitan Museum will investigate cost of cameras. Committee will meet at the end of January.
- III. **McKenna Square:** Parks has withdrawn plans for renovation of the square due to the acquisition from 33rd Precinct by School Board District #6 for use as a school. Chair proposed that a representative of School Board District #6 report to the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee regarding the school.
- IV. **Fort Tryon Park:** re dirt bikes: fence soldered to protect public from steep grade and to protect grade from erosion and pedestrian traffic. District Director is aware of problem with dirt bikers. Ms. Smizaski noted installation of wooden fencing as a barrier. She also commented on run-off. DPR is aware of these issues.

As an immediate solution, Chair proposed that Sanitation look into storm drainage throughout parks. Ms. Lorris Ritter pointed out that a comprehensive corridor management plan for the Henry Hudson Parkway and adjacent areas would help solve problem related to runoff and ecology in context, rather than a piecemeal solution.

Ms. Smizaski also raised issue of lack of signage in Fort Tryon Park, as well as the potential fire hazard of DPR disposal of flammable plant trimmings proximate to shrubbery. Mr. Fausto Espinosa of the New Leaf Café/ NYRP noted that they are meeting with DPR re: plant trimmings.

Also complaints re: snow removal along paths in and sidewalks adjacent to Fort Tryon, Isham, Inwood and other parks. There is no snow removal equipment and gardeners have to chop ice by hand and remove with a wheelbarrow. Part of the problems is the lack of equipment and storage space for equipment. Other possibility is for DPR to have plows on their trucks to plow parks paths. There was some discussion of maintenance of sidewalks near parks and paths during snow and winter weather. Chair will write a letter to DPR.

- V. Revenue contacting RFP's and DPR licensed food vendors. In lieu of a letter, the Chair proposed inviting Richard Sedlisky, Project Manager for Northern Manhattan Parks Vendors, to attend the next meeting. Ms. Lorris Ritter proposed also inviting community members who have complained at past meetings about food vendors.
- VI. Resolution Re: building on Dyckman. Mr. Escano proposed a resolution to convert the building to a cultural center. The vision is to build a cultural center, although there is no concrete plan or source of funding. The request is for DPR to give the building to El Instituto Duarteano for development. Mr. Escano, who is on El Instituto's Board, stated that Assemblyman Espaillat and Councilman Martinez have promised unspecified funds to support this proposal. There is a capital project through Councilman Jackson's office to bring in sewer lines and bathrooms into the building, for public and Parks Department use. Mr. Escano's proposal is predicated in the DPR/ sewer project's completion. Ms. Cardona proposed that someone from El Instituto attend the next meeting and make a presentation with specifics of the plan, including programming and revenue base, and that local elected officials (Councilman Martinez and Assemblyman Espaillat, in addition to Assemblyman Farrell and Councilman Jackson, in whose districts the building is actually located) be invited as well. Mr. Escano noted that he will be away next meeting, but will send another representative from El Instituto.
- VII. New Business: Some discussion of the Henry Hudson Parkway Scenic Byways designation and creation of comprehensive corridor management plan with the support and input of the community. Some preliminary language for a possible resolution was distributed for the consideration, and discussion at the March meeting.

Adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Assistant Chair.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Maria Luna, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
James Berlin
Martin Collins
Fredericka Cuenca
Walther G. Delgado

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Luis Facundo
Jerry Marie Saunders (ill-excused)

GUESTS

Joshua White, Community Resident
Edwin Marshall, Dept. of City Planning

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Kathy Olivo, Assistant District Manager

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM.
2. Edwin Marshall from the Dept. of City Planning explained to us about the "Planning Policy Document 197-A, which is a provision in the New York City Charter to do a study of a particular community and recommend its needs and do planning in conjunction with the residents and merchants in a consensus effort to improve the area. Various questions were posed to Mr. Marshall on how to best do this or if it is wise for CB 12 to do a 197-A Plan. He recommends that we contact other community boards in the city that have done this and get their feedback. Also there are other community boards that are in the process of embarking on this venture and maybe we should also contact them.

Zead Ramadan: Recommends that Mr. Marshall attends a future General Board meeting to explain to the rest of the members what a 197-A plan is and also that we set up a committee to start working on a 197-A.

James Berlin: He does not think setting up a new committee now is necessary. This is the time for us to continue with our plans of the Audubon Avenue Survey and our efforts should be to continue with our survey first.

Mr. Marshall also said that the 197-A plan is costly and various ideas come forth on how to raise money to do this plan including asking elected officials, and applying for grants and also asking universities or colleges to lend students to help us out. He also said that CB #4 Manhattan in Chelsea is the only board to have had a successful 197-A plan.

Walther Delgado: In the Giuliani administration the 197-A plans were merely pieces of paper that did not mean anything, but maybe this new administration will be more amiable to accept recommendations or help in this type of plan.

Martin Collins: We must contact elected officials to get support for our future 197-A plan.

3. Back to the original agenda: Martin Collins reviewed the proposed Residents Audubon Survey and many suggestions and recommendations were made by Anita, Fredericka, Jim and Maria Luna. The review of the Commercial Survey will be done at our next Land Use meeting.

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Luna

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES –JANUARY 7, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon, Chair
Ben Mantell, Asst. Chair
Sybil R. Dodson
Ivelisse Fairchild
Herbert Harwitt
Julio Peguero
Barbara Smith-Ramos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Abby Belkin
Helen Morik

PUBLIC MEMBER

Basilia Gomez

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jose Lopez

Zead Ramadan, Chairman
Miguel Reyes, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Robert Elburn, Chief-Southern Monitoring Operations, Division of Air Resources, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Rick Muller, Man. Borough President's Office; Swati Prakash, Environmental Health Director, WEACTION; Aaron Friedman, Bob Isaac.

Meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

Opening Remarks – Steve Simon, Chair:

- Introduced new committee members, Ivelisse Fairchild, Julio Peguero and Barbara Smith-Ramos.
- Reported that the City Council passed Int. 70-A, a bill that increased fines for repeated littering and distributed copies of bill. Increased fine schedules \$50-\$250, 2nd violation within 12 months will be \$250-\$400. If person doesn't show up at ECB hearing (a common practice by violators in CB 12 area), fine raised to \$450 from \$50.
- Reported that Dept. of Health called him with answers to questions raised at last month's meeting when Nancy Miller, Assistant Commissioner, Tobacco Control was guest speaker. Regarding enforcement of new smoking law, 83 inspectors are empowered to issue summonses and some of them will be sent out at night, from 2:30pm – 11pm. Regarding the availability of smoking cessation programs, there are two in our community, based at the Medical Center. The one at the Psychiatric Institute is free of charge, but the one at the Dental School charges a \$475 fee.

Discussion of Air Quality in Washington Heights – presentation by Robert Elburn, Chief-Southern Monitoring Operations, Division of Air Resources, New York State of Environmental Conservation.

Air monitor placed at IS 143, W. 182nd St. & Amsterdam Ave., is part of overall state monitoring program for PM (Particulate Matter) 2.5. Mr. Elburn is responsible for NYC, Long Island and Westchester. Particulates used to be measured in a pickle jar. One could not discern if there were small or large particles. HIVOL – High Volume Air Samples sucked air thru filter for 24 hours. Weigh filter before and after 24-hour period once every 6 days. We are more interested in small particles rather than larger ones. PM 10 was previous standard. Technology did not exist for measuring 2.5 particles (15 micrograms/cubic meter), which are unstable and more hazardous. Microns of 2.5 and below do significantly more damage than 10 and below. These particulates are end product of vehicles, particularly diesel emissions. Problem also from emissions from factories and power plants in Midwest. U.S. EPA wants entire country to use same method of measurement. Federal Reference Method (FRM) developed by EPA allowed everyone to measure 2.5 in a comparable way.

Simon: Are we mandated by Feds to do this testing?

Elburn: NYS has gone above and beyond mandate. Entire country mandated to start 2.5 program at same time. 2,500 monitors throughout country. NY has 50-100 monitors. Program began in 1999. First sites to come on line used FRM, but there's now a new instrument without FRM. NY given permission by Feds to utilize Tapered Elemental Oscillation Microbalance (TEOM), which is used at IS 143.

New York has never met Clean Air Act standards. We are hovering above standards. State/Feds have to come up with State Implementation Plan (SIP) to deal with problem. By having continuous 2.5 measurements, meteorologists expect to be able to do forecasting. Needed 25/26 monitoring stations in NYC. Communities like having monitoring stations. Mandated to bring the dirtiest station into compliance and the dirtiest stations

are in midtown and lower Manhattan. EPA looks at 3 years of data to determine compliance. It's OK to be exposed to a greater amount for a short period of time, but not for longer periods. According to data distributed by Mr. Elburn, there was a very high "maximum 60 minute avg." on July 7, 2002, which he attributed to pollution from Canadian fires. Standards: 15 = annual avg., 65 = daily avg. Anything under 65 is below standard. IS 143 station does not meet standard. Avg "daily avg" for station is about 17.2. Madison Ave. 57th is worst station.

Simon: Why did DEC choose IS 143 site? There are probably worse locations in community, at the Bridge Apartments or the George Washington Bridge bus station.

Elburn: In addition to comparable equipment, you also have to use EPA's siting criteria. You want to measure ambient air that most of the neighborhood (avg. person) is breathing. Also need to locate monitors in public buildings. With help of John Culpepper, of the Lower Washington Heights Neighborhood Assn., DEC went out to locate a site in the community. Monitor will remain at IS 143 indefinitely. Entire program is open-ended. Looking to close monitors that report lower levels or meet compliance.

Timeline: 2003-2004, states will recommend areas not meeting standards; 2004-2005, EPA designates areas; 2007-2008, states submit implementation plans with control strategies; 2010-2015 states to attain standards. Compliance comes from EPA designation. Not clear if attainment will be measured borough by borough or citywide. State must petition EPA to obtain attainment. SIPs will require public comment period. Each state will have its own SIP.

MTA buses at cutting edge of technology for use of alternate-fuel vehicles (AFV).

Simon: almost all buses that transverse our neighborhood are not AFV. MTA mostly using dirty diesel fuel.

Sati Prakash: WEACTION plans to monitor diesel-related pollutants at various schools in northern Manhattan in collaboration with Columbia Univ. School of Public Health. Will also develop web-site to give info on the state's monitoring stations.

Simon suggested Ms. Prakash contact Juan Villar, principal at Gregorio Luperon Preparatory High School for study.

Discussion of Proposed Ban on Car Alarms – Aaron Friedman, who spoke at general board meeting in November in favor of a ban on car alarms, reported on his research: Impact on crime rates is minimal, according to insurance industry. There is no difference in theft rate for cars with or without alarms. Two types of alarms: door jam sensor and impact sensor. Door jam alarms don't usually make as much noise. Impact sensors disallowed in New York City under 1993 local law but are still being installed. Urges board to pass a resolution to help ease problem by calling for an amendment to State Insurance Law that currently allows insurance companies to give discounts to car owners for use of any anti-theft devices, including alarms.

Simon: Kirk Miller, CB 12 member, has proposed amending the law by carving out an exemption for NYC so that audible alarms would not receive discount here.

Dodson: We should get other community boards to sign on and take resolution to Borough Board.

Fairchild: Just addressing State Insurance Law does not solve problem. You also have to address the use of the alarms themselves.

Simon asked Mr. Friedman for names of companies that he knows of that sell and install alarms were declared illegal by 1993 local law.

It was agreed by committee members that we should draft a resolution to amend State Insurance Law and seek better enforcement of existing law by Police & Department of Environmental Protection.

Topics for Next Meeting – it was agreed that February meeting would deal with diabetes and Project Liberty, and March meeting would deal with Pre-natal Care and HIPAA.

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Respectively submitted by Ivelisse Fairchild

YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Wachspress, Chair
Maria Luna
Norma Nadien

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Elouise Whitehurst
Jerry Marie Saunders, A. Chair (excused)
Milagros Vicente
Emilia Cardona (excused)

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Rodriguez
Michael Alvarez
Deborah Cardona

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Olivo, Assistant District Manager
Miguel A. Reyes, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Kpoene' Kofi-Bruce, Baked in the 'Hood, Jessica Garcia, Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Jane Jackson, NYRP.

Chairperson, Sandra Wachspress convened meeting at 7:35 PM.

Presentations:

Kpoene' Kofi-Bruce, Outreach Coordinator for Baked in the "Hood.

Baked in the 'Hood is a free 6-month job readiness skills and job training program in the art of baking and pastry making. They offer a 3-month training in the baking arts and a 3-month internship in a professional kitchen of bakery and a 1-week paid course to get a NYC Department of Health Food Handler's License and up to 1 year of job placement assistance for graduates of the program.

The students train for 25 hours a week from 9am - 3:30pm and produce 3 products a day – the fund product being a wedding cake. This is a program funded by HUD and has received funds from the Empowerment Zone.

There are 28 students per class with one instructor. Students must be over 18, fluent in spoken and written English, low income, homeless or formerly homeless, living in supportive housing or on public assistance.

Maria Luna: Do you have plans to become a culinary school?

Deborah Cardona: Do you make referrals to culinary schools?

Norma Nadien: Do you encourage any managerial work?

Kpoene' Kofi-Bruce: The ultimate goal is for the students to gain employment quickly.

The program is located at 237 East 123rd Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, (212) 289-4558. There will be an open house February 24th, 2003. Kpoene' brought delicious cookies for all to taste.

Jessica Garcia, Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc.

Ms. Garcia gave the committee a brief history, overview and update on the CFE. The CFE is a non-profit organization started at School Board District #6 by our own Councilman Robert Jackson challenging the constitutionality of NYS education funding system. The issue was that the funds were not fairly distributed- with city school children not getting a "sound basic education".

May 1993: CFE file lawsuit in State Supreme Court

June 1995: NYS Court of Appeals gave CFE the green light to pursue a constitutional challenge to NY education finance system on the grounds that it denies thousands of students the opportunity to a "sound basic education"

Jan. 10, 2001: The State Supreme Court ruled in favor of CFE declaring the states school funding system unconstitutional. Justice Leland De Grasse ordered the state to reform the school funding system by 9/15/01.

The Justice gave the state guiding parameters to ensure students become productive citizens capable of civic engagements and sustaining competitive employment.

1. Sufficient number of qualified teachers, principal and other personnel
2. Appropriate class size
3. Adequate and accessible school buildings with sufficient space for appropriate class size
4. Sufficient and up to date books, supplies, libraries, educational technology and labs
5. Suitable curricula, including program to help at risk students
6. Adequate resource for students wit extraordinary needs
7. A safe orderly environment

Feb. 2001: The State of New York appealed and received an automatic stay. Gov. Pataki agreed that education finance reform is the business of the legislature not the court.

June 2002: The State Supreme Court, the Appellate Division rejected the courts ruling and held that students in NYS are only entitled to an 8th grade level of education and preparation for low-level job

July 2002: CFE filed its notice of appeal to bring the case to the Court of Appeals, NY State's highest court.

Sept. 2002: The Court of Appeals formally accepted jurisdiction of CFE vs. State.

Jan.- Apr. 2003: CFE and State of New York to submit briefs to Court of Appeals.

May 8, 2003: Oral arguments before the Court of Appeals with a final decision in June or July 2003

There will be buses organized to go to Albany for the court case.

Deborah Cardona: Looking into developing a Youth Council for the 33rd Police Precinct and asked for Mrs. Garcia's Assistance.

Judith Rodriguez, Librarian Inwood Branch Public Library

Ms. Rodriquez read "Special Delivery" by Bridgette Weniger, a special book with a surprise inside.

Budget cuts may eliminate the CLASP Program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by: Deborah Cardona

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
January 14, 2003

Committee Members Present

Herbert Harwitt, Chair
Glenda Swanson Massa
Leslie Foster
Beatrice Hall

CB 12 Member Attending

Rafael Escaño

Committee Members Absent

Msgr. Gerald Walsh (excused)

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Kathy Olivo, Asst. Dist. Mgr.

GUESTS

Verna Arthur, Dept. for the Aging; Sharon Asherman, Y Senior Ctr; Susan Bendor, Yeshiva University; Milagros Bisono, Seniors Helping Seniors; Doris Brown, Community League of W. 159th St.; Rebecca Carel, Ft. Wash. Houses Senior Center; Brenda Carpenter, Seniors Helping Seniors; Genie Clarke, RENA COA; Kitty Clarke, WHICOA; Rosemary Cortez, Health Outreach Allen Pavilion; Alex Costley, Columbia University; David Currier, Ft. Wash. Houses Senior Center; Olnia De Moya, St. Elizabeth Parish; Vivian Dennis, Community League of W. 159th St.; Kathy Fink, Club Isabella; Mike Fitelson, Manhattan Times; Cari Goldberg, Selfhelp; Ianthe Gillette, Bethune Senior Center; Aida Gonzalez, Community Resident; Ana Maria Grullon, Assemblyman Farrell's Office; Fern Hertzberg, ARC XVI Ft. Wash.; Adeena Horowitz, Selfhelp; Robert Jackson, NYC City Council; David Johnson, STAR Senior Center; Mary E. Jones-Springer, Robin Kahane, Jewish Community Council; Walter Kehr, Y Senior Center; Betty Lehmann, Isabella; P.O. Emily Lopez, 33rd Pct; Florence Margott, Community Resident; Miguel Martinez, NYC City Council; Pat McCullogh, Councilman Jackson's Office; Consuelo McLaughlin, NOMASS; Edwin Mendez Santiago, Commissioner, DFTA; Mary Merriweather, RENA COA; Kathy Moran, MBIAC; Betty Monoker, Moriah; Julio Morel, Seniors Helping Seniors; Sara Muniratnan, Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center; Sara Nearpass, DFTA; Nora Negron, ARC XVI Ft. Wash.; Andres Nieto, NYPH ANC; Allison Noyer, RENA COA; Diane Ortiz, Neighborhood Shopp; Rita Palter, WHIRP; Nelson Peralta, CALME; Edith Prentiss, MBIAC; Juan Ramirez, Manhattan District Attorney's Off; Laura Rodriguez, Seniors Helping Seniors; A. Romero, Seniors Helping Seniors; Jane Ruddy, Church on the Hill; Wendell Satterthwait, Hudson View Gardens, Seniors Group; Zamira Setaro, Con Edison; Jenny Socorro, Seniors Helping Seniors; Joselyn Soto, VNS Choice; Robert Sboto, Con Edison; Ethel Stoll, Community Resident; Michael Stoll, Community Resident; Roberta Toumour, Seniors Helping Seniors; Gloria Vanterpool, Wash. Heights Neighborhood Assoc.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Herbert Harwitt at 10:40 AM.

Herbert Harwitt then introduced all members of the Aging Committee of CB 12 and made his opening statement addressing Commissioner Mendez-Santiago and the Council Members. "Services for seniors have always been a top priority and must continue to be very high on any list of entitlements. The older population is snowballing by leaps and bounds all across the nation and especially here in Washington Heights and Inwood. We have an estimate of approximately 10% of all residents being 65 years and over. (As with all recent census figures this is probably a gross understatement)

Senior Centers, Food Pantries, Social Services Providers, Religious Institutions are bursting at the seams trying to cope with the ever increasing needs of the elderly citizens and the homebound. Draconian cuts to Senior Centers are counterproductive. It will surely result in advanced clinical depression of thousands of seniors, increase their social isolation, reduce dramatically social support now available at the centers, in the form of transportation, meals on wheels, pro bono legal assistance and many other areas which make life bearable for us old folks, last but not least, cuts to Senior Centers will be taking away the livelihood and health benefits of beleaguered, underpaid Senior staff members.

As an appointed member of Community Board 12, Manhattan, I like to believe that I speak for all the citizens of our catchment area and beg you to take our urgent message to the Mayor. It is imperative that he is aware of our needs and, as an aside; most of us will come out in large numbers when it comes time to vote in the next mayoral election. In the last priority budget consultation of CB 12, I deferred only to one other agency for the top spot, and that was regarding safety factors (represented by the Police Department)."

The Chair then called on the two Council Members present to make a brief statement.

Council Members Robert Jackson and Miguel Martinez:

They have told the Commissioner that they need to meet with him to express their concerns about DFTA's proposed FY'04 Budget and how it will affect senior centers and services in Washington Heights and Inwood. They both remarked upon the turnout for the meeting and stated it showed that seniors are a priority of theirs as well as the community. They need not let

their guard down during the impending budget negotiations. They both are concerned that there is presently no chair for the City Council's Aging Committee. The Committee needs a vocal and strong Chair to keep the Council aware that there are no sacred cows and everyone has to bleed. But seniors should not have to bleed more than others!

Guest Speaker: Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, Dept. for the Aging

He had no prepared speech, as he came to hear what we had to say. We are the first Community Board to invite him to an Aging Committee meeting. The number of people attending showed the concern of the community for aging issues. He too is equally concerned. He agrees that the City Council needs a strong and vocal Chair for the Aging Committee when it comes to the Budget Reallocation process.

His goal is to get beyond the budget. His goal is to return DFTA to what it was in the past, an advocate for older people. The Department's role is schizophrenic, as the largest AOA (Area on Aging Agency in the nation) it has an oversight role to funding sources as well as a service provider. He has tried to re-energize the Department. Through the retreat process, they have a new Mission Statement (with fighting ageism as a core) and redeveloped their web site (www.nyc.gov/aging).

In January '02 the site had 9,000 hits. They are now up to 30,000 a month. Older adults are the fastest growing age cohorts using the Internet. On the site, an older person can find benefits to which they are eligible (Food Stamps, Medicaid, SCRIE, and EPIC etc). In partnership with the new Caregivers' Initiative programs, they are presently developing a Caregivers' chat room to offer support to Caregivers who because of their caregiving responsibilities may be unable to get out and attend a support group.

DFTA has achieved the budget cuts ordered before and since the election internally. They have left open 60 positions (from attrition). They are cutting their internal bureaucracy. They have reorganized the Bureau of Community Services (monitoring, community organizing and technical assistance), doing away with the Bureau borough units. Program Officers will now be the liaison for all DFTA staff. The monitoring staff will rotate to increase objectivity. We are no longer Contact Agencies but Partners. The department is looking for opportunities for improvement. They don't want to be viewed as the "bad cops" but rather viewed as "more friendly and flexible".

But as we look forward to FY'04, the situation is quite alarming. DFTA is facing a 22.5% cut in tax levy money. One of the proposals is to cut 30 senior centers that are small, or underutilized, or poorly managed or which have negative reports. Another proposal is to furlough senior centers and program workers 1 day a week (save \$7.8 million). DFTA hopes the furlough plan will allow them to protect the infrastructure for the future, if and when the City financial situation improves. They are already worrying about the FY '06 budget, as the economic indicators released that morning look bad.

Cutting Safe Streets was a decision not made lightly. The Commissioner suggested cutting the 6th meal program to save Safe Streets but no one picked it up. Hopefully the new Elder Abuse programs (that began in October '02) as well as existent agencies and programs will pick up these clients. There was little if any press coverage of cutting Safe Streets versus the uproar about the 6th meal. We need to get the word out.

It is important to remember that DFTA has cut their budget and saved money with cutting programs excepting Safe Streets. They are continuing to look for ways to save money. Citywide, 21,000 hot Meals on Wheels (MOW) are delivered daily. All other cities use a combination of frozen and hot meals. They would depend on good case management to separate out the recipients unable to heat a frozen meal and reserve hot meals for them. A MOW Task Force is looking for additional savings.

Citywide, 30,000 meals are served in senior centers daily at the average cost of \$8. Frozen meals cost \$2.50. They could give 2 meals a day and still save money. Meals have always included milk in the belief that milk is required. But in reviewing the regulations they discovered they must "meet calcium requirement". Serving fortified orange juice instead of milk would save \$6 million.

92% of DFTA's funding is tax levy the present economic indicators do not bode well for the future. DFTA was to have received a 9% increase from Washington, but it looks like that money might be used for the Homeland Security programs. The State provides some funding for EISEP and congregate meals. With the State facing an \$8-10 budget deficit, we can't expect much from Albany. Aging in New York is DFTA's, in partnership with CSCS, not-for-profit arm. They are developing a new program Adopt a Senior Center, in which donations are made to fund a particular senior center.

A question was raised about housing and SCRIE. DFTA administers the SCRIE, but it is regulated by the State. DFTA supports legislation to expand SCRIE. They are also looking to program development from other funding sources, for example HUD. HUD could fund programs in their buildings. The Commissioner is concerned that not all seniors are applying for and receiving all the benefits for which they are eligible.

Fern Hertzberg: The problem with the furlough proposal is that rather than protecting the infrastructure (the staff), furloughs will decimate the staff. Senior centers and programs employ a great number of part-time workers. Cutting a day a week will make them ineligible for medical insurance. Salaries are so low, that people will not be able to support their families on 80%. We need to increase tax levy rather than cut workers salaries 20%.

Sharon Asherman: She is willing to give up the 6th meal. Commissioner: Proposed cutting the 6th meal to save Safe Streets but no one picked it up.

Susan Bendor: To increase tax levy, we need the commuter tax reinstated. She is quite ready to pay again. She asked how could we work with DFTA to improve the situation?

Commissioner: If we get cuts from Washington, it will be devastating. We all need to look for other funding for example getting HUD to share funding for centers in their apartment buildings. We need to put the cuts in human terms.

Brenda Carpenter: She is not willing to take a 20% cut under any circumstances. Workers are overworked and underpaid. SHS holds contracts with several agencies. DFTA is 23% of their budget. Their contract states that they cannot turn away clients. They need to increase their budget not cut it. The City may save \$7.8 million from DFTA but they will pay it in increased EMS, hospital and police costs.

Commissioner: They, with DOH/MH, applied to the Samuels Foundation for and received a grant to promote mental health services to seniors in their homes and centers. They are presently applying for 3 other grants. There are 31 case management agencies in the City. DFTA is looking to see if they could save money by consolidating them saving rent and administrative costs. He is committed to protecting homebound services and home delivered meals.

Becky Carel: How would hot meals be delivered if the senior center preparing the meal were furloughed that day?

Commissioner: They might consolidate meals at the meal agency. It will mean less staff.

Commissioner Mendez-Santiago closed the question and answer period again commending us for being the first Community Board in the City to invite him to a committee meeting and thereby creating a public forum for the Board Members, the public and the politicians to discuss with him the many problems facing the senior citizens of our area.

Mr. Harwitt then profusely thanked the Commissioner for taking time out from his busy schedule to be with us this morning. We look forward to continuous collaboration with DFTA and its staff.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 AM

Respectfully submitted by:

Glenda Swanson Massa, Edith Prentiss and Herbert Harwitt

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JANUARY 9, 2003
MINUTES

Members Present

Martin Collins, Chair
Rafael Beaumont
Mireya Cruz
William Garcia
Renato Mena
Kirk Miller

Members Absent

Luis Facundo, A. Chair

CB 12 Members Attending

Barbara Smith Ramos

CB12 Chair: Zead Ramadan

CB12 Staff: Kathy Olivo, Miguel Reyes

Guests: Approximately 50 members of the public

The meeting started at 6:30 p.m. Opening remarks regarding CB role in the license process.

Lamarch International Restaurant (4959 Broadway)

The three owners Albania Lamarche, Zaida Morales, and Benjamin Lamarche were present. Seeking Restaurant Wine License for this new business. Spanish and Latin American food. Open 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. daily. Restaurant seats 90. Approx. six to eight employees. Opening next week. Jukebox music. The manager, Jose Rodriguez has previous managerial experience in the community. Lamarch adjacent Good Shepherd Church. Committee reviewed several items w/ owners. Committee recommended Lamarch for a RW license.

Yulli Restaurant (84-86 Nagle Avenue)

The owner Ana Santiago was present along with James Young, Esq. In the ground floor of three-story building. Serving Dominican food at inexpensive prices. Open 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. daily. Seats 110. Ten employees. Yulli a new applicant for an On-Premise Liquor License. Has jukebox music. No adverse history on file. Committee recommended Yulli for the OPL license.

601 Restaurant Inc. (1261-1263 St. Nicholas Avenue)

The owners Juan & Maria Jimenez were present. New applicant for Restaurant Wine License. Large restaurant seats 90-plus. Has 25 employees. In ground floor of a mixed-use building. Spanish-American food. Jukebox music. Open 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. daily. Opened in December 2002. Went through checklist of items including Operation Dumpster. The committee recommended 601 Restaurant for a RW license.

Mexican Restaurant & Tacos Neza (1455 St. Nicholas Avenue)

The owner, Raul Velez, was present. Open three months. Applied for Restaurant Wine License. Seats 45 people. Has four employees. Open 7 a.m. – 3 a.m. daily. Jukebox music. Expressed possible interest in pursuing a sidewalk café license. No adverse history. Committee recommended the business for a RW license.

Ven y Ven Corp. (1004 St. Nicholas Avenue)

The owner, Alipina Reynoso, attended along with Charles Gonzalez, Esq. Business has a Public Assembly License. Open daily from 7 PM until 3 AM. Dominican cuisine. Capacity is 100-plus. She is seeking transfer of the On-Premise Liquor License for this location held by Las Delicias Restaurant. Ms. Reynoso described her previous restaurant experience. After a thorough discussion we recommended Ven y Ven for an OPL license.

El Malecon Restaurant (4141 Broadway)

A representative, Pablo Gomez, attended. This is a renewal of a Restaurant Wine License. Open 24 hours. Large restaurant that seats approx. 110. Family-owned and operated for the past two years. Has 30-35 employees. Plays low-level background music. No jukebox. Solid community reputation. Several spoke in their support. The committee recommended El Malecon Restaurant for renewal of their RW license.

First Class Car & Limo Service (4980 Broadway)

Damian Rodriguez, owner, attended. After a thorough discussion the committee recommended renewal of the For Hire Base Station License for First Class. Committee thanked Mr. Rodriguez for efforts last August to maintain quiet in the base's surrounding area.

Kennedy Radio Dispatch (3760 Broadway)

The owners Juan Fermin and Quemi Fermin attended. After a very thorough discussion the committee recommended renewal of Kennedy's license. The owners were reminded that since the business operates in a residential area measures should be taken to assure quiet during nighttime hours. The mechanism that First Class has in place was presented.

Tubby Hook Assoc. LLC (348 Dyckman Street)

Peter Shallek, one of the owners, attended. The committee recommended renewing their On-Premise Liquor License with the following stipulations:

- The capacity of Tubby Hook must be clearly posted on the premises.
- A visible form of drinking-age identification such as a wristband or hand-stamp must be administered patrons.
- Owners will have in place during all hours of operation, effective security personnel, patron-control and traffic-control plans such that the operation will not disturb the neighborhood. All security personnel must be equipped with a wand and counter. Bartenders must also check ID before serving any customer.
- Speakers and stage will be repositioned and Tubby Hook will install non-override limiters on the sound system for use at all times. This will limit the ambient noise heard on Riverside Drive and Dyckman Street.
- Control of this venue will not be given to any outside promoter at any time.

Mirage Restaurant (185 Dyckman Street)

This is a fait accompli. The Mirage Restaurant received their On-Premise Liquor License renewal October 1, 2002 for two years ending September 30, 2004. The Community Board was not contacted for a recommendation beforehand. The Mirage was invited to our December meeting but did not attend. At this meeting, the owner, Pablo Jimenez, attended along with the general manager, Rogelio Diaz. Also present was attorney Michael Weisberg. Mirage is three businesses in one with a restaurant, piano bar, and catering hall. Accommodates more than 370 patrons in these three venues. Employees 50 people, mostly locals. Open 23 hours daily. Closed from 6:00-7:00 a.m. The police report numerous problems over the past year-plus at this location, some very serious. The committee tabled corresponding with the SLA pending further inquiry and a meeting with the owners.

The committee greeted J. Antonio Rodriguez, Director, Washington Heights-Inwood Empire State Development Corporation. Mr. Rodriguez outlined the programs, grants, and benefits offered through ESDC. He was invited to attend our general meeting, January 28, to speak during public session. Brochures were left at the CB12 office.

Following the regularly scheduled committee meeting a **Public Hearing** was held to consider the **Cabaret With Patron Dancing License** submitted by **Oleaga Corp.** for the **Umbrella Bar & Lounge**, 440 West 202nd Street.

A crowd of 30-plus attended the Public Hearing. Umbrella has been in operation for seven months. The owner Dario Oleaga and his business partners attended. Martin Collins gave background on the CB role in the process and remarks on the business. Jose Pena gave the presentation for Oleaga Corp. He detailed the history of Umbrella and satisfied the committee's query regarding the efficacy of recommending Oleaga Corp. for the license. Several testimonies were heard from the audience in support of Umbrella for the Cabaret License. The Economic

Development Committee recommended Oleaga Corp. for the license with the following stipulations:

- 1) Effective security personnel on-premises at all times will check ID of all patrons. Minimum age 21.
- 2) Patron-control plans will engaged such that operation will not disturb the neighborhood.
- 3) All security will be equipped with a wand and counter. The capacity (160) will be strictly observed.
- 4) Security detail must include female personnel.
- 5) Patron queuing outside will be kept to a minimum.
- 6) Additional parking for special events was strongly encouraged.
- 7) Closing time is 4:00 a.m. To minimize ambient noise all music will be turned off by 4:00 a.m.
- 8) Control of this venue will not be given to any outside promoter at any time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. Submitted by Martin Collins.