

**Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2005 (Columbia University Hammer HSB Auditorium)**

Members Present:

Dora Maria Abreu	Sybil Dodson-Lucas
Mason Almeida	Leslie Foster
Jacqueline Aristy	Beatrice Hall
Anita Barberis	Joyce F. Holland
Rafael Beaumont	José Lopez
Wayne Benjamin	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
James Berlin	Maria Luna
Aidee Camacho	Glenda Swanson Massa
Kotie Cannon	Jay D. Mazur
Martin Collins	Renato Mena

Helen Morik
Julio Peguero
Julio Rodriguez
Nelson Rojas
Rose M. Santo
Cleofis C. Sarete
Llewellyn Seaborn
Steve Simon
Dago Suarez
Gloria Vanterpool

Members Absent:

Emmanuel Barrientos
Emilia G. Cardona
Luis Facundo
Mark Levine
Bienvenido Toribio
Sandra Wachspress

Members Excused:

Jackie Rowe Adams
Peter Ferrara
Fern Hertzberg
Pamela Palanque North
Zead Ramadan
Barbara Smith Ramos
Milagros Vicente
Bishop Gerald Walsh

7:31pm **Quorum and call to order.**

7:31pm Motion by Sybil Dodson-Lucas to **adopt the agenda**; seconded by Helen Morik. No objection.

7:32pm Motion by S. Dodson-Lucas to **accept minutes of 12/21/04 general meeting**; seconded by Bea Hall. Approved as corrected.

7:34pm Motion by Julio Peguero to **accept minutes of 1/20/05 special meeting**; seconded by Dago Suarez. No objection.

7:35pm **Chair's report**, Martin Collins: see report; particular mention is made of the following items:

- Noted the recent passing of former Board member, Elouise Whitehurst: a woman of passion and purpose, a power broker for the area, and a lady of class and dignity. The Board observed a moment of silence in Ms. Whitehurst's honor.
- Pablo Santos has resigned; we thank him for his service to CB12 and wish him well in his future endeavors.
- Welcomed our new DM, Renee Tirado, and noted her impressive background and extensive experience in many matters related to the Board's work. Ms. Tirado made brief introductory remarks and was warmly greeted by the Board.
- Thanked Search Committee members for their hard work the last 7 months; especially grateful to Dr. North, who is out-of-town on business.
- Introduced Jeffrey Laufer, our new Community Assistant.
- Also, special thanks to Deborah Blow for holding down the fort while we had no other staff. Ms. Blow received enthusiastic applause.
- MTA estimating 3-5 year timetable to complete repairs after Sunday's fire to a switching station on the A/C lines. MTA is working on solutions – perhaps shuttle buses or other solutions. We cannot let this cripple our community. More info available after MTA's press conference sometime this evening. On a positive note, thanks to MTA for finally agreeing to end skip-stop service on the #1 line. Commended Steve Simon and Aidee Camacho for their work on this issue.
- Sherman Creek meeting last Friday was attended by both Councilmembers. They plan to meet w/ City Planning Commission Chair Amanda Burden to demonstrate what has been accomplished to date, even as we go forward.
- Met w/ Aidee Camacho and Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre & Broadcasting regarding film companies' practices such as demanding that diners in restaurants move during filming. Unacceptable. There is a new 15% tax credit in effect for companies that film in NYC, but there are requirements, such as stricter adherence to permits. This is an important part of NYC revenue stream, but there must be balance with community need. We will be working on putting together a digital catalogue of locations in the community to provide to MOFTB.
- Rat problem in lower Heights. Continuing to work w/ Mayor's rodent task force for stepped-up abatement efforts. Thanks to the Manhattan Times for its recent coverage of this issue.
- Announcements of upcoming meetings/programs: MBP State of the Borough address 1/26; CLOTH town hall, 1/26; Morris-Jumel mansion horticultural program 1/31; Coogan's 5k race 3/6 – CB12 will be opening at 6:30 for children's registration (adults will register at the Armory); fundraiser for Isabella McFadden scholarship dinner 5/18.

7:44pm **Presentation on the recently completed study of Audubon/Amsterdam Avenues** by Ethel Sheffer, Planner, Insight Associates, and Edwin Marshall, Dept. of City Planning (DCP). Looking to achieve a balance between the housing and retail/commercial uses of the area. For the most part, the commercial properties are not in compliance with current zoning, since Audubon originally was conceived as a residential street, with shopping elsewhere. The scope of the study was not as far as 190th St., but from 168th to 181st Streets, encompassing three census tracts described in an accompanying handout. Even though stores are not in conformity, should the community advocate for inclusion of these businesses in a new zoning plan? In comparison to the rest of the City and CB12, the poverty rate in the study area is higher, with almost a third of the tenants paying more than half of their income for rent, and almost 20% living in severely crowded conditions. Almost 200 businesses on the two avenues and mid-blocks, representing a variety of commercial uses, e.g. bodegas, hair salons, retail stores, services, etc. There are many awnings, lending a "chock-a-block" appearance. There was an attempt in the early 30's to document the usage of buildings, and it was interesting to compare "then" and "now" photographs, demonstrating the commercial use of some of these sites for more than 60 years. Survey data responses spoke to issues of cleanliness and sanitation, and also veered into issues of public safety, as well as specific complaints about particular stores, and the service deficits that exist. Her final report will include next steps and an action plan.

Mr. Marshall gave a history of DCP's involvement in these two streets, in terms of the underlying mismatch between zoning and actual use. Zoning covers not only use, but also building heights, setbacks, etc. The issue has less to do with development than use. Currently zoned R7, moderately dense residential (what was info re height, set-back, etc...?) Commercial activity is permitted at 181st St., and some businesses use the sidewalk to display

merchandise at the curb line. North of 181st Street, ground floor retail use is intermittent, and clustered. Questions to consider: should commercial activity be on both avenues? Is the existing commercial character appropriate, or should there be greater (or lesser) variety? Should area be rezoned to legalize existing businesses, or to encourage more retail activity? How can the local residential and business community benefit, so that a new plan is a win-win for everybody? Essentially there are four options: (1) rezone all to legalize everything; (2) rezone in a targeted way to accommodate greatest clusters; (3) rezone to accommodate commercial activity at corners, and leave mid-block as residential; (4) leave things as they are and wait to see how things develop on their own. Any re-zoning would have to go through a rigorous public review, including environmental assessment and ULURP.

Wayne Benjamin noted that this was a status update consistent with the information provided at the December 1st workshop, of which there will be more in the future. He also pointed out that many of the public comments related to items that should be addressed in the District Service Cabinet, such as enforcement.

H. Morik: What are safety issues, given that many conversions are illegal? A: This is a serious issue, relating to entrances, egress, fire enforcement, etc.

Rose Santo: This concern about illegal conversion was one of the things that kicked off our interest in this issue in the first place. A: Dept. of Buildings (DOB) is a "complaint-driven" agency, and it does not have a lot of complaints about zoning code violations in this area. Also, there is the question of fairness – how were conversions done, and what is basis of support for business? The goal is not to put people out of business, but to make businesses and the community safe *and to preserve housing*. Also, this can benefit the businesses themselves, because it is impossible to get financing and other benefits without a Certificate of Occupancy.

Maria Luna challenged the assertion that there are not a lot of complaints about businesses within CB12, rather DOB has ignored these complaints. Mr. Collins expressed surprise as well, supporting Ms. Luna's remarks. Ms. Sheffer noted DOB's contradictory behavior in that it will issue permits for construction of stores, even though this use violates zoning.

Jacqueline Aristy noted that the Housing Committee also is looking into this issue at an informational meeting on February 7th.

Cleofis Sarete: what happens to businesses if zoning changes? A: Unless there is a determination with regard to health +/- safety, then the business would be brought into compliance, which is a benefit to the business itself for the reasons stated previously.

8:17pm Public Session

Eileen Hunter, former employee, Manhattan Comprehensive Night & Day High School: a public high school dedicated to students 17-21, who have had their educations interrupted for one reason or another. It is an NYC public school, which receives much supplemental private and grant funding, with dedicated staff and great outcomes. Program recently featured in NY Times and by Bill Moyers. It is a great opportunity for those who need it. Gave information re: upcoming placement exam. There were several recommendations for networking within the community.

Karen Hill, Per Scholas: a not-for-profit that aims to bring technology to the community at low-cost. It destroys or recycles technology in accordance with EPA standards. Companies and individuals donate old computer equipment, and Per Scholas either destroys or reconditions. Those that are reconditioned are loaded with latest software and made available for sale at low cost to low-income people who would not otherwise be able to afford computers. Also offer training programs in information technology, helping find placement with industry-standardized skills for graduates, who are qualified for entry-level jobs that pay 3-times the minimum wage. Gave contact information.

Venice Anglero, TAG Services, Inc.: schedule RN, LPN and NA in nursing homes and in private homes for those who need personal care, shopping, errands, etc. Fully licensed, insured, bonded and certified by relevant agencies. Gave contact info for those looking for nursing services or for a job in the nursing field.

Jose Adames, Community Resident: Explained why he was a candidate for the 10th Council district. Claimed that he is the rightful winner of the 2001 race and that Miguel Martinez is an imposter. Made several pointed observations about the political process and his alleged disenfranchisement by the Board of Elections and the courts. Said he is the "Arnold Benedict of the Republican Party." At the conclusion of his three minutes, repeatedly solicited questions, "so that I may speak longer to you," but there were none.

Edward Daniels, Veterans Task Force: Thanked Board for its recent resolution against the closure of the Manhattan VA Hospital or any cutback of services. Gave an update on developments at the VA, including appointment of new Secretary for VA Affairs, and also recent news of cutbacks and the lack of services provided to vets and even active-duty soldiers involved in the intensifying conflict in Iraq. It is looking as if the Manhattan VA may close anyway, pursuant to a study being commissioned by the VA, but he is trying to galvanize public support for VA hospitals and veterans generally. Joyce Holland: How can we help? A: Keep talking to as many people who will listen as to how this will adversely affect everybody, not only because there are so many vets, but because vets would overly burden the civilian medical healthcare system. Glenda Swanson-Massa: Is this not also an issue for Aging Committee? A: Yes. Jay Mazur: Is there outreach to homeless vets, and how this affects them, given that almost a third of homeless are vets? A: yes, it does affect the homeless, but the VA is not currently doing a lot of homeless outreach. The closure of the Manhattan facility would have a devastating effect on the homeless vets who already are plugged into the VA system.

8:49pm Public Officials & Representatives

Robert Jackson, NYC Council, 7th District: Distributed written report; highlights follow:

- Expressed outrage against HOT97 "tsunami song", demanding that people be fired, and requested FCC take action. These broadcasts weren't merely in poor taste; there was general concurrence as to their being egregiously offensive.
- Community must join together to put massive pressure on the MTA to take responsibility to fix the repairs due to Sunday's fire.

- Praised Manhattan Comprehensive Night & Day High School; he has worked with this school, and it is terrific; urged our support.
- City Council released today a report on disparities in letting of City contracts, noting that black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and women contractors have been shut out of the system. They must be let in; this is a question of economic justice. Capacity for African-American males is 16%, but only got 1% of the jobs; ~40% of white males get 70% of construction dollars. This is unacceptable.

S. Dodson: Are you also looking at changes in safety within the construction industry, particularly as established firms are leaving, and being replaced with less skilled construction workers. A: This study looked at who is receiving prime contracts and sub-contracts, not necessarily at operational practices within the construction industry.

M. Luna: This report should be required reading for the union heads. A: We will have hearings, and submit legislation to try to change these practices.

9:01pm Miguel Martinez, NYC Council, 10th District:

- Echoed Councilmember Jackson's comments with regard to the MTA. This will have a tremendous impact on our community; we must demand that the Mayor step up to the plate for our community.
- Sherman Creek & Inwood rezoning meeting – it's not just 9th & 10th Ave., but it affects all over Inwood, Dyckman, Broadway, 204th, 207th Streets. At this meeting, we wanted the City agencies to listen to the community people, and their thoughts and concerns. Most important issue is affordability and inclusionary zoning. As a result of that meeting, we received a call from Deputy Mayor Doctoroff, who has convened a study by DCP, HPD and DED EDC? with regard to the feasibility of an inclusionary zoning study and an assessment of affordable housing, with "affordable" being defined as affordable to the people who currently are in the neighborhood, given their current resources. Also discussed a proposal to establish a fund to give tenants the first option to buy when they lose their Section 8 housing – this would ensure that tenants have right to remain instead of allowing housing to be converted by private developers into luxury or non-affordable housing.
- Deportation: people are being deported and separated from their families, not for serious crimes, but for minor infractions, even misdemeanors. Defendants must be warned that a guilty plea for even minor crimes may result in deportation; if defendants do not know this, they risk an unknowing violation of due process.
- Urged all to approve Traffic & Transportation resolution re: abolishing skip-stop – this is not a "done deal" yet.
- Urged people to vote against Bylaws resolution switching voting cycle back to a calendar year – new members are capable of making good decisions on elections, even though they don't know who the players are yet. You were all new members once, and you made good choices.

W. Benjamin: The A and D run on the same tracks – why not add a shuttle bus north of where the C-train terminates?

J. Berlin: It is outrageous that MTA cannot remove homeless people from the tracks and that it was unable to prevent this fire. How could its equipment have been so vulnerable?

H. Morik: How can they run 12 trains, or 15 trains, and not 30 trains? Can we find out what MTA is talking about, because this makes no sense? And, how can NYPH help. Willing to provide conference rooms for community meeting, and MTA officials should take the subway up. A: The signals are not automatic. It's not the power, it's the signal capacity. I don't buy it either, but it is a sad statement on the lack of trust in the MTA that there is so little credibility.

Mason Almeida: Why would you object to the Bylaws resolution? It is not a bad statement that new members should have some more time to get to know the people on the Board before they have to vote on officers. A: The current system works.

Mr. Adames badgered several Board members in an attempt to have them ask on his behalf a question of the Councilmember, but no one was willing to do so. After several minutes of disturbance, Mr. Adames was advised that if he did not stop disrupting the proceedings, he would be asked to leave.

9:17pm: Lilliam Perez for NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman:

- Attempted to change Senate rules, but Majority Leader Joe Bruno did not consider most of the proposed amendments, only the one eliminating the practice of absentee voting.
- Thanks for CB12 and public members who attended the recent Public Safety Committee forum where Senator Schneiderman spoke about the changes to the Rockefeller drug laws, with special thanks to Mr. Almeida and Dr. North for their work in coordinating the event. It was a successful meeting, but there is more work to be done.
- Gun control: Council and Mayor approved recent changes in law to hold manufacturers responsible for indiscriminate sale of weapons used in crimes. We are working to do the same at the state level.
- Re deportation: we will be introducing this legislation in the Senate; Assemblyman Espaillat will introduce in the Assembly.
- Thank you for screaming out about 1 & 9 skip stops. Also working with other electeds with regard to recent A-train disaster.

9:20pm: Frank Hess for NYS Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.: MTA does not yet know scope of damage or what it will take to get back to normal. As the MTA tells us what is going on, then we as a community and the electeds can work on counter-proposals that may be needed, if the MTA proposals are unacceptable. Also remaining question as to how it is possible that this vital equipment was not better protected. But it doesn't make sense to come up w/ solutions now, in the absence of information in these first few days.

9:24pm Rafael Escaño for NYC Comptroller William Thompson: wished everyone a happy and peaceful new year. Comptroller's Office has just issued a report regarding the inability of hospitals throughout the city to provide translation services to immigrant patients. Reports are available in hard copy or

on-line. This refers to both the Health and Hospitals Corp. system, as well as private hospitals. Helen Morik pointed out that while this is a problem, NY-Presbyterian Hospital consistently has been ranked high on seven of the eight criteria examined.

9:31 Committee Reports

Executive Committee - for the Bylaws Task Force (Martin Collins): presentation of resolution to switch the terms of officers to a calendar year (Jan-Dec) from the recent current practice of a fiscal year (July-June), with related changes to the timing of the nominating process and elections. The draft resolution contained two options to resolve the operational impact of changing the cycle: (A) extend current officers' terms by six months, to 12/31/05; or (B) hold elections in June for a six-month term.

S. Simon proposed the addition of "Option C," an 18-month election held in June, with terms running to 12/31/06, arguing that the "ground rules" for the last election should not be changed after the fact. As this amendment was not accepted as friendly, it was seconded by E. Lorris Ritter. J. Berlin spoke in favor of returning to elections based on the calendar year and said that "Option C" doesn't satisfy this goal. S. Dodson echoed these sentiments. There being no further discussion on this point, a vote was taken. The motion failed, 4-29-0-0.

J. Berlin pointed out that the Borough President does not have an official position on whether the election cycle should coincide with the fiscal year. M. Collins clarified that about half of Manhattan Boards do it that way, and half don't; either approach seems to work.

The preliminary vote of the draft proposals favored option "A" (extending existing terms by 6 months) over option "B" (having an interim 6-month election) by a vote of 19-10. A final resolution including the "Option A" provision in the "Be it Further Resolved" passed, 18-10-1-0.

9:53pm **Traffic & Transportation** (Aidee Camacho): new resolution re disruption of A-Train service, calling on MTA to fix the situation quickly and completely on an emergency basis, to provide additional express bus service and train service on the IRT lines in the meantime and to protect against this sort of thing in the future. The Board considered draft language prepared by S. Simon. H. Morik, J. Berlin, D.M. Abreu, M. Luna, E. Lorris Ritter and W. Benjamin suggested changes as to grammar, form and content, as well as offering specific proposals for temporary solutions to alleviate the inconvenience during repairs, all of which were accepted as friendly. H. Morik: Add another whereas w/ regard to the negative impact of this inconvenience on the patients of the Hospital. The resolution passed unanimously (29 votes).

A second resolution opposed to the re-routing of M101 bus passed unanimously (29 votes) with no discussion.

A third resolution addressed the establishment of standards for renaming streets. Several amendments were accepted as friendly. There was some discussion as to whether the requirement that an honoree be deceased is an understanding, or a requirement per NYC law. The committee chair stated that it was the latter and that she confirmed this with both Councilmembers, who were attendant at the meeting earlier this evening. W. Benjamin asked for clarification about what we mean by "connection to the community" and "level of distinction." Ms. Camacho responded that this language was cleared by NYC Council legal counsel. R. Santo suggested that the resolution speak of "co-naming" rather than "renaming"; this change will be made throughout. M. Almeida stated his concern with the subjectivity of the wording, as did D. Suarez and S. Dodson. Kotie Cannon's suggestion to remove "in a field" and add "and" to the 5th whereas to resolve this concern was accepted as friendly. J. Aristy pointed out that all co-namings are accompanied by a brief bio, so this is established by these guidelines. M. Collins called the question; D. Suarez seconded. As H. Morik objected, there was a vote; the motion to call the question carried, 24-2-1-0, and the resolution passed 22-5-1-0.

A fourth resolution in support of abolishing "skip-stop" service on the 1/9 line passed unanimously (28 votes) with no discussion.

10:27pm **Parks & Cultural Affairs** (Martin Collins for Zead Ramadan): resolution supporting NYC Council Intro 470, to amend the administrative code to require the NYPD to compile separate statistics for crimes in parks. There was one friendly amendment to include the Borough President in the reporting. The resolution passed unanimously (25 votes, and 1 not voting due to conflict) with no discussion.

In the interests of time, all other Committee Chairs waived their reports and encouraged all Board members to read the Committee meeting minutes.

10:34pm **Motion to adjourn** by J. Rodriguez; seconded by A. Barberis; no objection.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes January 4, 2005

Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan- Chair
Emilia Cardona- Asst. Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Sybil Dodson Lucas

Guests- A. Ginsberg, Safe Haven, Jean Bonner, Safe Haven, Phyllis Smizaski, Resident, Susan Ryan, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Joseph Sanchez, High Bridge Project, NYC Parks, Kimberly Chin, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Karin Dando-Haenisch, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Martha Granger, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Zoya Kocur, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Shannon Park, Friends of Indian Rd. Playground, Susan De Vries, Resident.

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

The agenda was amended to include a presentation by members of Safe Haven

1. Mr. Ginsberg, of Safe Haven, addressed the need to improve access to Fort Washington Park at 175 street and Haven Avenue. He showed pictures of the site. The Park acknowledged some responsible for the site. Mr. Ginsberg has gotten people from the nearby co-ops interested and involved. He would like a letter from this committee to get Parks and the police to maintain and monitor the area keeping it clean and safe: no garbage, drug dealings and using, homeless, etc.

A resident requested something be done about the tunnel in that area. Could it be lighted or could an overpass be constructed. The tunnel is extremely dangerous. Perhaps more lights and a camera could be installed. The tunnel provides access to the Park at that point.

The following suggestions were made for possible action on this matter:

- A. CB12 and this committee find out who's responsible for the site; is it a Parks or DOT issue?
- B. Write asking for help cleaning the site
- C. Contact the New York Restoration to assist
- D. Make it a communal project Mr. Ginsberg has gotten volunteers to work on Save My Park Day.

As for the tunnel, that is a different problem. Columbia U has spoken about creating a passage from 165 streets down to the park.

We can write a letter to support the effort requesting action for City agencies, and the group can get collaboration with other organizations.

2. A petition for the rehabilitation of Indian Road Playground was presented. The parents got the signature of residents who use the park two or three times a day. During the summer another nearby playground was closed because of an accident. As a result, Indian Road Playground became overcrowded and over utilized. The parents find the equipment antiquated and the configuration does not meet the needs of the different age groups.

Jane Schachat, from Parks, spoke with the representatives and gave them background information of the playground. The last time it was worked on was at least 10 years ago. She told the group that the playground falls in

Councilman Jackson's district. He, as well as the Borough President can be contacted for assistance. Reconstruction could be as much run nearly \$750,000.

The ranking of priorities was explained to the representatives so that they had a clearer understanding of how needs are addressed by the Board.

It was agreed that a committee member would visit the playground and if possible the committee would write a letter to the councilman alerting him to the problem.

It was recommended a member of the group attend committee meetings regularly as well as other committees so they can get an idea of what other issues, needs and priorities exist in this community.

Questions were asked about the involvement of private individuals or local businesses to fund some of the work. The best thing to do is to get the politicians involved. Start an organization that will get you the attention you want.

3. Intro 470 was discussed. It calls for regular reporting by the police on crime in the parks. A resolution to formally request this is needed. We will work on one that reflects the exact needs of our Board. The vote was taken, 13 members of the public and the committee voted in favor. The resolution will be presented at the January General Meeting.
4. Jane Schachat gave an overview of the Mountain Bike Trail proposed at High Bridge Park around the Fort George -George Washington High School area. Several miles of trail designed so that the park is not disrupted or compromised. NMBA (The National Mountain Bike Association) has proposed this and designed the paths. There is a group of youths that would benefit from this activity while at the same time keeping the park in use and discouraging illegal activity. This organization is about getting kids involved and teaching them skills that will assist them in their growth and development. We will write a letter of support.

The next agenda item was postponed.

The mail was reviewed. The production company for "Rescue Me" gave \$750 to start a walking program in Inwood Park and \$250 to the Ring Garden. State Senator Schneiderman has provided support and assistance in getting two more PEP officers for Fort Tryon Park. Point of information: there are only 50 Parks Peace Officers and they do not carry guns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Emilia G. Cardona

HOUSINGS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy, Chair
Julio Rodriguez, Asst. Chair
Jay Mazur
Barbara Smith-Ramos
Steve Simon
Martin Collins, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyce F. Holland (excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Beatrice Hall
Llewellyn Seaborn
Pamela P. North

GUESTS

Luvenia Sharpe, Thelma Bryant, Phyllis Lennon, Elbert Green, Curtis Tibbs -Residents of 157-10 Riverside Drive West, West, Everson Gibson and Rose Jones-Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families, Faye Ramos-GAP, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the Chair, Jacqueline Aristy.

Mr. Everson Gibson, Associate Executive Director of Programs at Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families presented the agency's proposal to establish community residences for mentally and developmentally disabled adults, two New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) licensed Individual Residential Alternatives (IRA's) at 157-10 Riverside Drive West, Apartments #2V and #13V, New York, New York 10032. The property, named River Terrace, is a 13-story Mitchell Llama Housing development. The two proposed residential facility sites, apartments #2V and #13V, are 3-bedroom apartments with 2 baths, a living room, and dining room.

Since 1974, Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families has operated two New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) sponsored group homes at the above referenced addresses. The presentation was regarding Edwin Gould 's conversion of these existing group homes for adolescent girls to two NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) licensed IRA's, each certified for up-to four (4) developmentally disabled adults. Mr. Everson indicated that the residents will participate in programs like Life Skill Training, Day Treatment, and Vocational Training. The IRA's will be 24-hour supervised "home-like" residences, each with four people covering the 24-hr day.

Mr. Everson acknowledge that the previous ACS group homes created problems for other shareholders on the 2nd and 13th Floors of 157-10 Riverside Drive West. However, Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families will establish a neighborhood advisory committee for each residence to help address concerns. And, the primary caregivers will participate in the adjustment by providing emotional and other support to the residents.

Curtis Tibbs and other residents of River Terrace, 157-10 Riverside Drive West, voiced complaints regarding the poor management practices at Edwin Gould, including a lack of communication with the Board of Directors and Building Manager at River Terrace and a lack of follow-up on building problems previously brought to the attention of both, Ms. Rose Jones, the Director of Residential Services, and Mr. Everson Gibson. Residents of 157-10 Riverside Drive West also indicated that complaints include vandalism, noise, stealing, loitering, smoking in the hallways and stairwells, and

drug use and sexual activity in the public areas by allegedly, poorly supervised clients served by Edwin Gould.

In September 2004, Mr. Gibson and Ms. Jones met with the Board of Directors at River Terrace to discuss the community residence proposal. According to residents, the Board was not given an adequate presentation. In particular, they indicated that the Board's questions regarding the management of the new residences were unanswered. And, Edwin Gould did not respond to questions regarding on-going program complaints. At the time, the Board of Directors requested that Edwin Gould schedule a follow-up meeting to address the questions and concerns with the Building Manager and tenants/residents of 157-10 Riverside Drive West. Even though this follow-up meeting had not occurred, Edwin Gould proceeded with plans and formally notified Community Board #12 on December 22, 2004 of the site selection.

In response to the complaints raised by River Terrace residents and the concern of Housing Committee members, Edwin Gould agreed to meet with the Board of Directors and shareholders of River Terrace at an upcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, January 20, 2005. Mr. Gibson and Ms. Jones indicated that they would address a number of unanswered questions including:

- Does Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families currently operate an IRA? If so, please provide information regarding the current program and location.
- Please provide an outline of the Independent Living Skills program that will be provided to clients at the IRA.
- What are the NYS OMRR training requirements for staff and supervisors at an Individual Residential Alternative (IRA)?
- How will Edwin Gould structure services and schedule staff to work at the IRA's, apartments #2V & #13V?
- Will residents have a curfew?
- Will the IRA's have a formal "No Smoking" policy?
- What is the IRA's policy on drug use?
- In terms of assisting clients with adjusting to the new residential setting, what programs/services will be provided by the staff?
- What is the structure of the proposed IRA's Community Advisory Board? How often will the Board meet?
- Given the history of building complaints regarding the clients served by Edwin Gould Services at 157-10 Riverside Drive West, #2V & #13V, what improvements will Edwin Gould implement to current complaint resolution process?
- Please outline client behavior and/or activities that merit removal from the IRA.

Respectfully submitted by: Jacqueline Aristy

Special meeting of CB12 – 1/20/05 – Russ Berrie Medical Pavilion

Members Present:

Jackie Rowe Adams
Mason Almeida
Jacqueline Aristy
Anita Barberis
Rafael Beaumont
Wayne Benjamin
James Berlin
Emilia G. Cardona
Martin Collins

Sybil Dodson-Lucas

Peter Ferrara

Fern Hertzberg

Joyce F. Holland

Mark Levine

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Jay D. Mazur

Helen Morik

Pamela Palanque North

Julio Peguero

Julio Rodriguez

Rose M. Santo

Cleofis C. Sarete

Llewellyn Seaborn

Steve Simon

Gloria Vanterpool

Milagros Vicente

Members Excused:

Beatrice Hall

Glenda Swanson Massa

Zead Ramadan

Barbara Smith Ramos

Dago Suarez

Members Absent:

Dora Maria Abreu

Emmanuel Barrientos

Aidee Camacho

Kotie Cannon

Luis Facundo

Leslie Foster

José Lopez

Maria Luna

Renato Mena

Nelson Rojas

Pablo Santos

Bienvenido Toribio

Sandra Wachspress

Bishop Gerald Walsh

Members began arriving at 6:45, and began to read the applicants' resumes and other materials.

Call to order and quorum @ 7:28pm by Chair, Martin Collins, who explained in brief the responsibilities of the District Manager, and the importance of the position, describing it as "the quarterback" of our office. As there were no members of the public present and wishing to speak, he accepted a motion by Jim Berlin (seconded by Sybil Dodson) to go into Executive Session for the purpose of meeting and questioning the three finalists for the position of District Manager. The vote was unanimous (24 votes).

Mr. Collins turned the meeting over to Pamela Palanque North, Search Committee Chair, who briefly described the process which led to the selection of this evening's three finalists. Each candidate in succession will, have ten minutes to give a presentation, which followed by a brief Q&A. After the last candidate has concluded, there will be a discussion amongst the Board members, followed by a ballot vote.

Ms. North noted that all finalists' references were checked by herself and Mr. Collins, and whichever candidate we select also will go through a rigorous background check through the Borough President's Office as part of the formal hiring process. Ms. North thanked the members of the Search Committee (Dora Maria Abreu, Mason Almeida, Anita Barberis, Julio Peguero, Zead Ramadan, Julio Rodriguez, Cleofis Sarete and Dago Suarez, as well as Martin Collins, ex-officio member, and James Berlin, Sybil Dodson and Maria Luna, advisors.)

At 7:43pm we heard from the first candidate, YR, who concluded at 7:50pm. A Q&A followed, concluding at 8:06pm, whereupon YR was escorted from the room and from the building.

The second candidate, MS, began at 8:08pm, and concluded at 8:17pm. A Q&A followed, concluding at 8:34pm, whereupon MS was escorted from the room and from the building.

There was a brief break.

The third candidate, RT, began at 8:45pm, and concluded at 8:52pm. A Q&A followed, concluding at 9:10pm, whereupon RT was escorted from the room and from the building.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was a clear consensus that it was an impressive field of candidates from which to choose. Board members took turns stating specific impressions of the candidates, sometimes specifying a preference for a particular candidate, and sometimes keeping a final opinion to themselves. There was significant discussion as to the relevance, significance and importance of political connection; whether the role of DM is more of an administrative "office manager" position, or a more substantial policy and outreach role; and whether bilingual ability was a requirement or merely a "plus".

At 9:58pm it was established that none of the Board members present knew any of the candidates personally or otherwise was required to refrain from voting due to conflict. Board members were called individually by name, asked to return all three resumes, and given a ballot in exchange.

At 10:10pm the results were announced: YR, 6; MS, 7; RT, 13; no abstentions. As no one received the required majority of 14 votes – 50%-plus-one of 26 votes cast – a run-off was required.

While the ballots were being counted, Mr. Collins announced that our new Community Associate, Jeffrey Laufer, a community resident and graduate of John J. College of Criminal Justice, started on Tuesday.

At 10:16pm results of the second round vote were announced: René Tirado received 16 of the votes cast, with 10 for MS and no abstentions. Dr. North called Ms. Tirado to share this result.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17, by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2005

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
James Berlin
Jay Mazur
Julio Rodríguez

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu(excused)
Mark Levine (excused)
Peter Ferrara

Board Members Present

Jackie Aristy (TF)

TF – Planning Task Force

Guests: Edwin Marshall-Department of City Planning, Brad Lander and Mercedes Narcisco - Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.
2. Representatives from the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (“PICCED”) and the NYC Department of City Planning (“DCP”) were present to discuss 197-a Plans, the process involved with undertaking a 197-a Plan as well as other planning tools that Community Boards can utilize to address neighborhood and district-wide planning needs. Betty Mackintosh, Director, DCP Planning Coordination and Support outlined a menu of tools available to address planning issues. The tools outlined included: i) 197-a Plan for comprehensive, long range issues that do not need to be solved now (Community Board must expend funds to complete a study acceptable to DCP); ii) a Local Plan / a 197-c Plan in which the community and DCP collaborate to study a specific issue such as rezoning (Community Board is not required to expend funds on a Study); iii) a Community-initiated report / White Paper on a particular topic (e.g. CB 9 and the Harlem Piers-area); and iv) an Action Strategy to deal with a particular issues (e.g.: cleanliness of streets in Flushing, illegal auto repair establishments in Corona). Ms. Mackintosh also noted that 197-a Plans take a lot of time and money to complete. On average, per a study undertaken by the Municipal Arts Society, it takes seven (7) years to prepare a 197-a plan and two (2) years for the City to review. As part of the process of preparing a 197-a plan the Community Board must first issue a Letter of Intent which must be coherent, state goals and provide a rationale for the state goals. Among the tasks that a 197-a Plan must achieve include providing general recommendations, ensuring public participation, documenting communication to appropriate City agencies, considering long-range consequences and keeping to City jurisdiction.
3. Brad Lander and Mercedes Narcisco (PICCED) indicated that they agreed with comments made by Ms. Mackintosh and added that a down-side of 197-a plans is that after all of the time and money required to create the plan and get it approved, it is only an advisory document. A 197-a plan does not implement its recommendations and implementation of the recommendations may not exactly track the recommendations as contained in the plan. Mr. Lander and Ms. Narisco recommended disaggregating what you know you want to do, i.e.: rezoning, contextual zoning, landmark designation, etc. and go about doing it. This approach, a Local Plan, is quicker and less expensive than a 197-a plan. While DCP has more control of the process and there is greater reliance on the availability of DCP resources, the Community Board can establish a working relationship with DCP to ensure that its voice is heard and can also supplement DCP resources with outside consultants. Mr. Lander and Ms. Narisco cautioned against putting “everything and the kitchen sink” in a 197-a Plan as experience has shown that plans of this nature tend not to be as effected as more targeted plans focused on land use, transportation, parks etc. It was noted that 197-a plans can help a Community Board to set priorities to target its advocacy, build a civic infrastructure and focus on pieces of community action. Undertaking a district-wide planning survey /inventory which identifies trends,

areas of interest, opportunity and concern, etc. and then sets out to address the issues identified was also discussed as an alternative to a formal 197-a Plan.

4. Edwin Marshall, DCP augmented Betty Mackintosh's comments on planning tools. Mr. Marshall indicated that additional planning tools available for our use include: a) Community District Needs Statement (Mr. Marshall noted that some CB's write very detailed District Needs Statements); b) the Budget Consultation Process; and c) the District Service Cabinet meetings, which can be used to address and track pressing matters. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin added that during the December 1st Audubon Avenue Workshop Ethel Sheffer noted that the District Service Cabinet can be used to pursue many of the non-land use enforcement and compliance issues raised.
5. LU Committee Member Jim Berlin made the observation that it seems CB 12 has been working backwards heretofore as it pertains to planning but that the discussion has helped him to better understand the process. He further observed that instead of deciding on a 197-a plan or some other planning tool we (CB 12) first need to understand what the problems are and what we want to do and then decide which planning tool or tools can be used to best addresses the problem. The DCP and PICCED representatives concurred.
6. Planning Task Force Member Jackie Aristy raised the issue of inclusionary zoning as a tool for ensuring the development of permanently-affordable housing, i.e. not like Mitchell Lama developments which are affordable for a set period of time but allow the developer to buy-out of the program once the compliance period has elapsed. Mandatory vs. discretionary inclusionary zoning was also discussed as part of this conversation.
7. The DCP and PICCED representatives ended their comments with the observation that based on their understanding of the brainstorming the LU Committee has done heretofore to identify potential planning goals and objectives it appears that CB 12 may wish to proceed with a combination of contextual zoning and historic preservation as initial action items.
8. The meeting/workshop was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES

January 11, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Leslie Foster
Nelson Rojas
Gloria Vanterpool

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair(excused)
Glenda Massa (excused)
Fern Hertzberg (excused)
Bishop Gerald Walsh(excused)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Collins, Chair, CB12

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

GUESTS

Norma De Candido-Resident, Mary Jones Springer-Resident, Cecil Levinson-Resident,

Gloria Vanterpool, Committee member, meeting convened at 10:15am.

Guest Speaker, Ms. Alana Bontelle, Public Health Educator, was unable to come and rescheduled for the next month's meeting.

Leslie Foster discussed the scheduled meeting for Wednesday, January 12 at 7pm. at Isabella Geriatric Center called by New York City MTA with the Board's Traffic and Transportation Committee. Plans are being made to adjust the M101 Amsterdam Avenue bus route. All were encouraged to come and also to inform others so that views could be shared.

Our draft resolution (Meals on Wheels / Frozen Meals) - a sentence was reworded to include all senior citizens. Draft resolution sponsored by Assembly K. Wright was discussed (free MTA service for seniors between hours - 10am -4pm) and it was agreed that this would be difficult to introduce at this time.

Social Security Issue - Follow-up will be made with Martin Collins for a Forum in Spring.

Medicaid Issue - Leslie will speak with Fern to schedule a speaker on this topic for a future meeting.

Postal Service - A discussion was started by two persons speaking of the poor service in the community (10032-33)

- a) late deliveries
- b) long lines in the postal office
- c) mail placed in the wrong boxes
- d) non client-friendly exchange at the postal office
- e) training program inquiry for new carriers

It was finally agreed that this should be discussed with the District Chairperson and the complete board at our general meeting with a follow-up meeting with the postal master at our local post office with specific complaints. Those present at this meeting would monitor the distribution service in their building and observe the procedures at their post office. The date, time and negative action noted and called into the Board's office.

Suggested issues and topics for Future Meetings

- Mailing invitations to senior centers for scheduled meetings
- Appeal to Advisory Council (senior centers) to assign an individual to attend committee meetings
- Request Con Ed representative to give update on services
- Verizon representative to give update on benefits
- Distribute ½ yr calendar with proposed topics in mailing - Motivates attendance

Fort Tryon Long-Term Care Representative - Vernon Thomas 212-740-6200—New Director would be interested in doing a presentation of her program's services.

Meeting adjourned 11:30am by Gloria Vanterpool

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING-January 19, 2005

Committee Members Present

Dr. Pamela Palanque North- Chair
Mason Almeida
Kotie Cannon
Wayne Benjamin

Committee Members Absent

Bienvenido Toribio- Asst Chair

Committee Members Attending

Sybil Dodson Lucas
Dago Suarez
Elizabeth Lorriss Ritter
Steve Simon
Renato Mena
Chairman Martin Collins

Public Members

Ernest McNamee

Special Guest Speaker

State Senator Eric Schneiderman

Guest

Elbert Garcia-Manhattan Times; Francisco Diaz, Nerissa Rivers, Holland Cotter, Richard McWright Aldrin Bonilla, Bill Kelly-Neighbor; P.O. Tony Trinidad, P.O. Haybee, Det. Billy Hughes, Deputy Inspector. James Kehoe-34 PCT; Deputy Inspector Jason Wilcox, Alexandra Sanchez-33 PCT; Dennis Torres, Luis Costa, Luis Costa Jr. NY Guardian Angels; Mike Hughes-Inwood Patrol; Marlene Urbaez, Ariel Ferrera, Mariamy Perez, Manuela Nunez, Erika Tavaréz, Sebastian Rodriguez- Alianza Dominicana; Raysa Soriano- office of Council Member Miguel Martinez; Elaine Bartlett- Life on the Outside; Raquel Batista- Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Lilliam Perez, Adam Connolly, Matt Drum- office of State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Joselinne Minaya- NY County D.A's office;

Meeting opened at approximately 7:10 pm.

Introductions were made.

Public session occurred first. There was concern about shots fired on Sherman Ave. and 186th Street and the killings at 550 West 158th Street.

Deputy Inspector Kehoe of the 34th Precinct gave his report.

It appears that the shootings that occurred on Sherman Ave. were narcotics related. Two victims were shot. Both have records and one confessed to a number of burglaries that have occurred in the precinct.

The end of the year finds crime down 5% in the 34th Precinct. Arrests were up 47%, narcotics arrest were up 56%. There has been a rise in burglaries.

Inspector Wilcox of the 33rd Precinct gave his report.

A female, aged 45, and male, aged 65, were killed in an apartment at 550 West 158th Street. He feels the shootings were narcotic related and the Narcotics Division is involved with the investigation. Search warrants have been issued and enforced on 159th Street, but that is all the information that could be given at this time because the crime is still under investigation.

At year's end major crime went down 5-6%. The precinct did best in violent crimes. Arrests were up in gun and narcotic charges. The precinct will continue to address narcotic problems in Southern

Washington Heights. There have been slight increases in burglaries. There has also been an increase in identity, credit card and cell phone thefts. The inspector says this seems to be the new problem in the community. However, in all there has been a 3% reduction in crime.

There are 3 additional officers serving the 34th precinct right now. The Deputy Inspector is hoping for 4 more officers. Neither the 33rd or 34th Precincts are in the Impact Zone and, therefore, do not expect to receive any academy graduates.

Officers serving in the War are not replaced, temporarily or otherwise.

Dago Suarez of the Auxiliary Squad of the 33rd Precinct was present at the 158th Street shooting that occurred on January 17. He explained that if one is interested in joining the squad they should sign up at their precinct. There is a 16 week training session. The squad is often a stepping stone for young people wishing to get into law enforcement.

Ernie McNamee brought several handouts which spoke about how to recognize the signs of drug abuse in children. The drugs included marijuana and cocaine. The handouts also gave advice on how to treat marijuana dependency. Mr. McNamee also spoke of a new gun on the market: a 57 automatic, manufactured in Belgium. The bullets used for this gun can penetrate bullet proof vests and more. Mr. McNamee explained that admittance of this gun to the US market could change law enforcement tactics.

State Senator Eric Schneiderman, our special guest, made an eye-opening presentation.

He explained the success story of the beginning of the Rockefeller Drug Laws reformation. They found that upstate prisoners are counted as residents for census purposes and that there are economic reasons for not changing the laws as they stand now. 7 upstate districts would not have qualified as a district, were it not for the prison population. A coalition was put together and they found serious findings. Advocates of the Rockefeller laws state that there has been an improvement in drug crime because of the laws. But a survey of all 50 states found that states without these types of penalties also had improvement. After a debate was held, DA Morgenthau finally agreed that the Rockefeller drug laws should be changed. 17,000 people are affected by these laws, 38% are prisoners. 94% of these prisoners that are affected by the Rockefeller drug laws are Black and Latino. 30% of the upstate prison population is from New York City.

This has become a large issue in the recent state elections. In a special session held in December the process has begun to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws. There would be a savings of \$150 million per year.

A film was shown which showed how upstate prisons have become a major industry in New York State.

Elaine Bartlett, a victim of the Rockefeller Drug Law, spoke about life on the outside of prison after serving so much time in a non-rehabilitation atmosphere. Not a pretty picture.

For more information, sign on to realreform2004.com.

Meeting closed at approximately 9:30 pm.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is being held on February 2 in partnership with the T&T Committee to discuss assaults on MTA workers and enforcement of restricted parking on West 181st Street at the end of the minutes.