

**Community Board 12, Information
Committee of the Whole Meeting – July 14, 2010– Community Board 12M
711 W. 168th Street**

PRESENT (37)

Richard Allman
Juan Carlos Alonzo
Frank Alvarez
James Berlin
Cynthia Carrión
Rolando Cespedes
Mireya Cruz-Diaz
George Fernandez
Fé Florimon

Nicole Foster
Julissa Gomez
Melanie Hidalgo
David Ernst Kach
Tony Lopez
Elizabeth Lorrin Ritter
Ángelo Ortiz
Cheryl Pahaham
Pam Palanque - North

Elizabeth Pepin
Zead Ramadan
Angela Sanchez
Steve Simon
Alyce Smith
Raybbin Vargas

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jackie Rowe Adams
Wayne Benjamin
Anita Barberis
Isaiah Bing
Leonardo Blackman
Emilia Cardona
George Cruz
Martin Collins

Manny De Los Santos
George Espinal
Rafael Lugo
Maria Luna
Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky
Glenda Swanson Massa
Helen Morik
Jasmine Moy
Carole Mulligan

Edgard Nau
George Nelson Preston
Edith Prentiss
Audrey Perez
Andria Reyes
Tamara Rivera
Julio Tejada
Joe Wojak
Gloria Vanterpool

I. Call To Order / Llamado Al Orden

Motion to call the meeting by Pam Palanque North and seconded by Steve Simon, at 7:15pm.

II. Chair's Report / Informe del Presidente: Pamela Palanque - North, Chair (7:18PM)

Welcomed everyone and thanked Coogan's for catering the meeting. Discussed highlighted events and issues: Resolutions being discussed at the Borough Board Meeting – Denouncing Arizona's New Immigration Law; Opposition to Intro 58 Biological, Chemical and Radiological Detectors Legislation; and Marriage Equality New York, vote will take place in September. Steve Simon noted that Health & Environment Committee looked into Intro 58 and it was very complicated. James Berlin stated citizens should be able to measure whatever they want. Update on the WaHi BID Search Committee: Received 52 resumes, held interviews throughout the summer, Job description on the website. NYS Liquor Authority meeting with CB chairs will take place on July 21 to discuss 30 comments window with liquor applications; other boards are having the same issue. Pam will send information out. Many Thanks to Yosef, Paola, Ebenezer, Cynthia, Liz, Steve and others who organized and/or attended the CB12M Summer Picnic. It was fun and to be continued in the fall. Asked members to keep Vice Chair, Emilia Cardona and Treasurer, Edith Prentiss in your thoughts and prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

III. Special Presentations:

Topic: CBO "Play streets" in CB12M

Community League of the Heights – Yvonne Stennett, Executive Director.

59th year of the organization and 40th year of the Play streets. This year working with 30 SYEP youth to coordinate many recreational and educational activities on 159th Street. SYEP participants are also educated during the program –have gang violence workshop, resume writing, and career exposure. At PS 4 (160th St) CLOTH is working with 100 student grades 1 – 5th to have full educational curriculum with enrichment in the afternoon, as well as workshops with parents which has 60 – 65 parents come out to the workshops such as managing your budget, navigating landlord issues, etc. In addition, has a food pantry, need has been growing (attributes increase to recently unemployed, indication of how we are doing economically in the city). Receives food from City Harvest and Amsterdam but the food resources is running low, food pantry runs all year. Huge portfolio of housing, working on the various buildings including 552 Academy renovations and relief to families and working to clean up mounting illegal drug activity.

Steve Simon: Summer program has a health component? Yes, Wednesday, August 11th Health and Cultural Fair from 11am – 3pm (stage activities and Jumbotron). Doctors and Pediatricians donate their time for preliminary health screenings. In addition, 32 health agencies will be donating their time from 9am – 9pm. Celebrating our 59th year on 159th Amsterdam to Broadway – Theme Stop the violence including youth. Also is the community partner for 6th – 12th Community Health Academy of the Heights currently on 157th Amsterdam, but school will be relocating to 183rd St. and will have a grand opening. This is not a charter school. New Visions, Columbia, health themed CLOTH will be moving to the school and community health care clinic will also be moving full service school until 10pm on weekdays and will be open on Saturdays. CLOTH owns and manages 40 building properties.

Inwood Community Services – Angelo Ortiz, CSW.

Supervises three play streets, PAL supplies structure and staff. Wanted to start a Play street on Post Ave. (Dyckman and 207) 5 – 6 years ago. 1st year did a pilot with parents to build capacity. Project Post parents now help facilitate Play Street. Has raised \$18,000 through Summer Initiative Dept. of Health grant we are able to expand to Monday – Saturday \$24,000. Parent leaders and youth leaders are also able to staff area, in addition to SYEP. Additional activities include pumpkins on Post carving / Mother's Day / Literacy Inc. –reading programs in the lobby of buildings. Tree gardens - Inwood Green Team taught community members how to create birdhouses, and feeders. Because of success on Post to replicate on Vermilya. Doing a ribbon cutting on Monday at 12pm, volunteer driven no registration needed, but sign in (not day camp, parents must be with the children). In addition to the play street we have a day camp. Has Sprinkler Caps issued by NYPD, there is someone there to supervise play. Connecting with additional educational and teachable moments to discuss the hydrant issues. Other issues that ICS will be taking on include underage drinking, Youth Council – District 6 has a high report of bring drinking (5 or more drinks on more occasion). More info will available about in the coming months

NYPD Summer Safety Updates 33rd & 34th Precincts

Precinct Commander Captain Dowling of the 33rd Precinct: 8:05PM

Thanks Yvonne Stennett and CLOTH for all they are doing.

Slightly up on crime – looking at the start of the year we knew it would be a tough year. More cops on the street to include Impact zone – Broadway – Amsterdam 164th St. – 165th St. to Edgecombe. Increase in Robbery – identified individuals, made some arrests on them – clear up issues. Targeting

iPhones and iPods "Asks What time it is" Be protective of your surroundings and possessions. Issues at the pool – Highbridge – groping girls at the pool – 6 arrests were made. Meet with lifeguards and park personnel regarding signs and safety. Girls are from the area; ages of victims and perpetrator are 11 – 18 yrs old 15- 19 yr old. Two rapes committed by stranger within the last 4 years.

Julissa Gomez: Arrests in the pool is a big issue of sexual assault and supports the arrests of groupers. Issues should be raised in our sub-committee. Larger issue of under reporting of the sexual assaults – educating our children and reinforcing the respect

Cynthia Carrion: Can we put signage around the pool to reinforce that sexual assault is crime and you cannot come back to the pool.

Heat wave issues with Hydrant – DEP and NYPD are closing them. FDNY – shut off the value not NYPD Morgan and 157th shut one off. Shutting off speaker magnets issues summons and arrest have been made in the past. Community Affairs event on Saturday Fort Wash on 175th and Washington 11am – 7pm. Gang taken down along Audubon Ave. looking 15 years, Head Trinitario of the – Bronx Gang many guns, conspiracy on federal

Sergeant Zuerner of the 34th Precinct: 8:25PM

July 4th went well over 50 officers throughout the precinct, Overall precinct we are down in crime, murder, rape and stolen vehicles and property.

Recognized the great work of officers and noted that school safety units have been redeployed until September. Updates include Federal firearm recovered 165th and Sherman; 552 Academy – CLOTH has done such a wonderful job. Success story return on the investment

Dyckman Corridor, have any gains been made? Block traffic between Staff and High School, Some of the restaurants – Mamajuana all we can do is keep on top of them to do the right stuff, a lot of summons, and arrests. We do not have foot portal in the parks, bikes, and sunset and sunrise uniform and plain clothes. Many of our officers have been redeployed to other areas.

Raybylinn Vargas: June 20th – Machete by McDonalds 181st was it a hate crimes or gang crime? Will look into it further.

Protocol for Quality of Life issues – For noise call 311; Results are scattered Washington Heights is filled with cabaret and driving through with very loud music. Summons 8 fire works 71 for noise. Options are also to seize car or summons – we do what we can

Gang Unit is not part of percent. 40 Sherman (and Arden) Tenant loitering in the empty apartments; Trespass vigilance

IV. Public Session / Sesión pública (8:40PM)

No Public Session (no one signed in)

V. Committee Reports / Reporte de los Comités:

We do not have a quorum so we cannot vote but will do updates from each committee

Health & Environment: Steve Simon, Chair (8:41 PM)

Encouraging meeting with NYPH – EMS crew must stay with patient directly into the ER with nurses. Committee believes this is a priority

Encouraging ConEd substation should be finished in the fall at 220th Street, some members will take tour. September looking forward to still dealing with Spring Issues – clinical drug trial, 155th St Gas Station request to air monitoring continued - gas spill 15 yrs ago impacts adjacent building

Housing & Human Services: George Fernandez (8:45 PM)

Communication and distribution want to be more intergraded in the community. Going out to the August 7th – we will be collecting basic data on the housing issues. Educated community about resources and surveying housing and human services. Delivery service individuals budget priorities.

Community resources fair. Looking at the service delivery providers – what's out there and who needs our support, want to foster relationship with providers and make connections with community. City Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez would like to do a town hall Vantage Manage buildings possible do in the class action

Landlord Taskforce.

Parks & Cultural Affairs: Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter, Chair

Presentations on J Hood Wright Park, Opening of new green market. Would like to write a letter to MT editor about unilateral response regarding the

Highbridge Park Daily News article written by Tina Moore. James Berlin – wrote letter to author. Zead Ramadan we should also put in the

Glenda: We want to personally thank Zead and your wife for eradicating the "izms" as President of the Board of CAIR, defending the attack on our first Amendment Right for worship.

Economic Development: Nicole Foster, Chair

6 establishments 3 were new and did not show up. Please read through the resolutions for our vote in September

Julissa Gomes: Can we have a discussion on how we can address the issue of NYSLA and our input?

Tony Lopez: To get a license in WaHI just wait for the summer, everyone knows that we need to change our bylaws so that, we have our voice heard

James Berlin: We are not required not to meet in the summer. The city would listen to our recommendations.

Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter: Not prohibited from meeting during the summer, outside of our scope for this meeting.

Steve Simon: If an establishment is illegally conducting cabaret then we need to bring it our attention.

Mr. Lopez: Maramjauana – this is not just a summer issue. By the time we voted on it. Tracking need for hot issue establishments so we do not forfeit our input.

Zead Ramadan: Inform SLA that EDC meeting during the summer – July and August to catch all applications – not to be ratified until September

Julissa Gomez: We only have on establishment in CB 12 with a cabaret license. Our approach should be different

Tony Lopez: Need to figure something out for next year. If we tabling something, know that we need to inform SLA

Ms. North: SLA was aware of these issues, in spite of Assemblyman Farrell advocacy and NYPD 34th to not recommend; they still approved it because no summons were issued. Ms. North to send letter to SLA supporting the EDC committee, will be considered for ratification in September. We can create another committee for liquor licenses?

Steve: Can we have of EDC meeting later in the month closer to deadline?

George Fernandez: Can the EDC take on the issue of so many empty storefronts?

Mr. Lopez: We should have a protocol for that the chair sends letter to SLA about our concerns.

Ms. North: Laws say 30 days, to consider the resolutions to not recommend.

Mr. Lopez: SLA could do anything, looking to the committee to pass resolution advocating to change the process

David Ernst Kach: Despite the process should be streamlined to 60-day common change the mechanism

Mr. Fernandez: Multiple Quality Life issue – work cohesively to address issues

Ms. North: Closing out this discussion

Youth & Education: Fé Florimon, Chair

Committee is restructuring, Fe Florimon is the new Chair and Elizabeth Pepín is assistant Chair. George Espinal resigned from CB 12.M Will be taking on issues of Gangs. Cynthia Carrion: Would like to acknowledge George Espinal's work and recommended that we encourage the BP and CCM should be proactively seeking business owners, youth, and those in the education field to join the board and the Youth and Education Committee as public members.

Following Committees did not have an update:

Traffic & Transportation
Public Safety
Street Activities Permit TF
Concerns of the Aging
Land Use

VI. New Business/ Adjournment – Asuntos Nuevos / Clausura (9:15PM)

New Business: Steve Simon gave an update on Emilia Cardona health.

Ms. North: Everyone should be receiving a letter to select which committee they would like to be assigned. Debra passed out the forms.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm

Respectfully submitted: Cynthia Carrión