

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**General Meeting – March 24-2008 – 711 West 168<sup>th</sup> Street**

**PRESENT**

Dora Maria Abreu	Vivian Ducat	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Julio Peguero
Jackie Rowe Adams	George Espinal	Maria Luna	Edith Prentiss
Jennifer Araujo	James Freeman	Glenda Swanson Massa	Zead Ramadan
Anita Barberis	Julissa Gomez	Rita McKee	Nelson Rojas
James Berlin	Ramona Gomez	Helen Morik	Ruddy Santana
Isaiah Bing	Francisco Guzman	Carole Mulligan	Steve Simon
Kotie Cannon	Bea Hall	Pam Palanque North	Gloria Vanterpool
Rolando Cespedes	Mark Levine	Ines Saldana Olesen	Manny Velazquez
Martin Collins	Tony Lopez	Rafael Osoria	
Sybil Dodson-Lucas	Albania Lopez Jimenez	Cheryl Pahaham	

**EXCUSED**

Wayne Benjamin  
Emilia Cardona  
Cleofis Sarete

**ABSENT**

Aidee Camacho  
Joyce Humber-Faison  
Rolando Rodriguez  
Jonathan Tasini

The meeting was called to order at 7:16pm by Chair Manny Velazquez, who opened w/ the Chair's report in the absence of a quorum.

- Reminded all members to keep the office and the Secretary advised of any excused *and* unexcused absences.
- Re: rodent abatement initiative, noted NYS Senator Perkins' flyer, "411 on rats". This is an important initiative to get the word out. Please share with your CBOs, etc.
- MBP established a borough-wide construction watch initiative to focus on safety issues in the wake of several recent disasters. If you have information or requests for follow-up, contact the District Manager or Board member Obie Bing, who is working on this task force.
- Renaissance Health Care Network is looking for members for its advisory board.

In the continued absence of a quorum, Ebenezer Smith gave the **District Manager's Report** (7:23pm):

- Re the DOT study of the 181<sup>st</sup> Street corridor: scope of study will emphasize bus delays, mitigation of congestion and other traffic issues, with particular attention to the intersections at Broadway, Amsterdam, Saint Nicholas and Fort Washington Avenues.
- SLA license for Bianco night club has been suspended. We will continue to monitor this site.
- 150+ participated in an informative Q&A with DFTA's Deputy Commissioner at CB 12's March 13<sup>th</sup> public forum regarding changes to Meals on Wheels.
- DSNY ticketed for 26 violations throughout CD12 this month.
- Ongoing complaints re: poor service at local postal branches. Continuing to be in contact and meet with local supervisors to resolve these issues. Also working with Congressman Rangel's staff, as this is a federal agency; the Congressman is willing to seek sanctions from the Postmaster General if services do not improve.
- Last year DEP piloted the HEAT (Hydrant Education Action Team) program – peer training on not wasting water in our district. Very successful, according to FDNY and DEP; looking to double participation this summer.
- Urged all members of Board and public to continue to work with Board staff and 311 to resolve complaints.

Mr. Velasquez echoed the importance of calling 311: the level of complaints is monitored to give a sense of what problems exist in our district. Aggregated 311 data also can be used to deploy resources. A brief discussion of the efficacy of the 311 system ensued. Noted that reports of calls to 311 can be e-mailed to callers if they provide e-mail, rather than having to write down the complaint number. This aids in tracking.

There was a question regarding a fire on 157<sup>th</sup> Street. Pam North gave some information on behalf of CERT. There were no fatalities, though some people were displaced and housed through the Red Cross.

A quorum having been obtained, George Espinal made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Sybil Dodson and passed with no objection. (7:30pm) Approval of the minutes was deferred, to give people a chance to read them.

**CBO Presenters:** Andel Nicasio and Elizabeth Siantz, **NYS Psychiatric Institute's Center for Excellence & Cultural Competence community project associates** (7:32pm) The project includes community-based observation of Washington Heights, Inwood and Harlem to understand more about local health priorities and concerns. There is significant unmet need for patients with severe mental illness. The Center is designing a research project in five phases, with the hopes of identifying and strengthening a network of community-based mental health organizations and providers to enhance the availability of culturally competent services. Helen Morik: there currently are very few services in this community, and they're not culturally competent; part of your advocacy should be to argue for more funding. A: Agreed. Edith Prentiss: have to have accessibility, and many cultural issues that address needs other than Spanish language. There are many, many other ethnicities, languages and other cultural issues. A: Agreed. Maria Luna: how are you doing outreach? What are qualifications of volunteers? A: willingness to speak with us and to share cultural experience w/ local MH system.

**Reports of Representatives of Elected Officials (7:47pm)**

**Lilliam Perez for NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman:** expressed concern about budget cuts. Praised City Council and Mayor for approving the housing anti-harassment legislation. Reminded Northern Manhattan residents about the Sosua exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Also working on tackling problem of illegal guns. The Senate is going back into session following Easter break. Noted that the new Governor is from northern Manhattan, which can only be beneficial for NYC. Highlighted last night's hearing on Mamajuana Café; spoke in favor of the restaurant and of the well-run meeting. Encouraged people to be open. Questions: Ms. Morik noted that health care cuts are a serious problem.

**Socrates Solano for Congressman Rangel:** The Congressman is doing better following his recent hospitalization for viral meningitis. He will be returning to work April 1 and appreciated everyone's thoughts, prayers and letters. With regard to economy, three of four Americans believe we are in a recession, and many fear a depression. This is a clear expression of Americans' lack of support for the President's failed economic policy. Noted tax rebates and a variety of tax incentives. Also, on a local level, we've been getting a lot of complaints for many years about the Postal Service, and they just come up w/ excuses – hiring freeze, unions, "nothing they can do". Congressman Rangel has reached out to the Regional Director and demanded that he either resolve these problems locally or there will be Congressional hearings as to why uptown isn't getting same level of services as downtown.

**Frank Hess for Assemblymember Herman "Denny" Farrell:** referred to written report, including items on the budget and congestion pricing. Also noted that the Assembly passed a bill that allows Community Boards to negotiate with individuals who come before Boards for the purpose of getting a liquor license and to negotiate over specific problems with regard to that establishment. That can go into an application and a prospective license holder would sign an addendum with public agreement that SLA then can take into consideration (or not). But if the licensee/applicant refuses to comply with these requests, that is also noted in the application. It is unclear how much weight the SLA will give to this, but it potentially gives some more teeth to the community input aspect of the licensing process and may have a real impact in the way that the SLA works with the Board in the future. Rita McKee: when will this pass into law? A: The Senate's timeframe is not clear; hopefully this session. Zead Ramadan: supports this strengthening of CB voice; the Borough Board should pass a resolution in support. Tony Lopez: do we have a sponsor in the Senate? Ms. Perez: call us.

**Lolita Jackson for Mayor Bloomberg:** Described the "Green Carts" initiative to make healthful foods available to people in underserved neighborhoods throughout the City, including Washington Heights-Inwood, with limited access to fresh produce. One thousand carts will be licensed, of which 150 will be in Manhattan. A waiting-list has been compiled for all people who want to apply, with first priority given to people who are on the waitlist for other kinds of food carts, then for disabled veterans, disabled non-vets, non-disabled vets, and everyone else. Only one food vending license of any kind will be granted per applicant. Green carts will look different from other carts and will have permits clearly showing where they are permitted to sell. Ms. Morik: Great idea, but concerned about rat problem – make sure vendors clean up after themselves. A: This will be actively monitored. Ms. Luna: People can't afford high-priced produce; this will not help poor people. A: This program will make low-priced produce available to people who do not otherwise have much access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Ms. Prentiss: asked about accessibility issues. A: Haven't seen final design of carts, but I shared that feedback on your behalf, and it is being taken into consideration. Ms. North (on behalf of a community member): What do you think of the demonstrations that have been going on for the last two weeks regarding school overcrowding? A: I can't give my personal opinion on this or any other matter. Mr. Espinal: What is happening with the 191<sup>st</sup> Street 1-train tunnel? A: We are trying to put together a project to have a mural in the tunnel. Working with City agencies to power-wash and paint the area, and will have more information at the April or May meeting. Working on finding community partners for this initiative. Also trying to solve financing and other issues. Ms. McKee: Can the Mayor also do something about 181<sup>st</sup> Street A-train escalators, which often are out? A: MTA is a state agency, so we should raise this issue with Sen. Schneiderman's and Assemblymen Farrell's & Espinal's staffs, and other State representatives.

**Gustavo Rojas for Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat:** Even if you don't usually file taxes, everyone should file to get the rebate that is part of the federal economic stimulus package. Improvements to Inwood Hill Park tennis and basketball courts will be paid for through multi-modal funding. Also gave \$5k for lighting and security improvements at the 168<sup>th</sup> Street IRT/IND stations. Rat patrol is working with community residents and DoH and other agencies for rodent abatement: taking addresses and noting location of rodent problems. Announced then-upcoming "Nos Quedamos" forum on tenant/housing problems, at ARC Senior Center (4111 B'way @ 174<sup>th</sup> Street).

**Annamaria Jones for Councilmember Miguel Martinez:** reported on recent and upcoming town hall meetings. Mayor has announced a 4% budget cut; Councilmember Martinez is working with Councilmember Robert Jackson to ensure that changes don't translate into decreased constituent services. Discussed anti-harassment housing legislation, which allows tenants to take landlords to court, and announced upcoming congestion pricing hearing.

**Rafael Escaño for Comptroller William Thompson:** Referred to written report. Announced upcoming press conference on the steps of City Hall regarding the Mayor's budget cuts, which will have a detrimental impact on NYC residents especially senior citizens. Spoke in support of Meals on Wheels including hot meals, not frozen food. Gave contact information.

**Simeon Bannister for Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum:** Referred to report. Spoke with great passion on the importance of education and the Department of Education, as well as DFTA and Meals on Wheels. Announced upcoming women's history event.

**Wendy Garcia for Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer:** offering immigration services on Fridays from 10-5; contact me for referrals. Spoke about Construction Watch Task Force: we have high number of building code problems in this borough. Announced an upcoming women's history month event. MBP came out in favor of paid family leave, to extend beyond two months. Also gave an update regarding CB12 appointments, which they are finalizing this week; will report to Mr. Velasquez by Monday so that people know whether or not to show up for April 1<sup>st</sup> meetings.

Ms. Luna urged that the Board take some official action to express condolences to the family of Leslie Foster, who died last month. Mr. Velasquez advised that a letter is being prepared to the family and a memorial service is being planned at Isabella, in which the Board will participate. Jim Berlin noted in principle that these comments were out of order and should have come under "New Business."

Ms. McKee's motion by to adopt minutes was seconded by Glenda Swanson-Massa, and was passed with no objections following the acceptance of a correction by Steve Simon. (8:33pm)

#### **Public Speakers' Session (8:30pm)**

Drs. Lourdes Hernandez & Mindy Fullilove, CLIMB: spoke on behalf of Highbridge trails as well as their "double-take" photo project, directing attention to enlarged photographs hanging on the walls. Announced "Hike the Heights" event and potluck on June 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as walking meetings, and other events. Mr. Ramadan: you mention that trails are not in best of condition; do you have specific recommendations and have you been to the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee? A: We have. DPR puts a lot of love and resources into the trails, but it's not enough. We all need to encourage people to engage in stewardship and to come to the parks. People think of community service as punishment, but it's a way of showing your love for your community and your parks. Steve Simon took exception to the speaker's characterization of parks as abandoned, noting millions of dollars in improvements. Ms. Fullilove insisted that the parks had been abandoned and that with DPR's many projects this is changing.

Martha Ma, Food for Thought Film Festival: to increase community awareness/consciousness of where food comes from, and of various aspects of the food industry. Requested donations to support this free event. [www.foodfilmfest.com](http://www.foodfilmfest.com). Gave a schedule of April's upcoming events.

Jose Adames, Community Resident: spoke of his assertion that he is the rightful Mayor of NYC. Made a variety of egregiously anti-Semitic remarks. Several members objected to the content of the remarks, calling them offensive. Mr. Berlin noted that the First Amendment and the City Charter enable Mr. Adames to speak for three minutes, no matter how objectionable the content may be. The matter was referred to the MBPO's counsel for follow-up as to how to proceed in the event of any such future tirades by Mr. Adames.

Aaron Friedman, Make Music NY: A free outdoor festival will be held Saturday, June 21, in parks, plazas, closed-off blocks and other outdoor spaces citywide, with more than 560 performances ranging from high school bands to the Metropolitan Opera. It's like a spontaneous holiday and is celebrated all over the world. He spoke with excitement and enthusiasm about this event. His organization works with artists and venues to list events and to get appropriate permits. For more info: [www.makemusicNY.org](http://www.makemusicNY.org); matching site is at [www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic](http://www.timeoutnewyork.com/makemusic).

Pam Palanque North, Metropolitan Museum: update on new exhibits at the Met and Cloisters, as well as upcoming festivals, events and programs.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Cornerstone Chorale: looking for singers, especially male voices (tenor/bass). Gave contact info.

**Councilmember Robert Jackson (8:56pm)**: Spoke about congestion pricing hearing. City Council Chamber was packed. Remains undecided; expressed concerns for Northern Manhattan: "I am expecting that in some of the areas I represent there is up to \$354M at stake, so we have to pass this, but there are issues." (1) GWB has hundreds of thousands of trucks and cars; we need rail tunnel as long-term solution; we need the Mayor's commitment on this. (2) Parking in our neighborhoods is a nightmare, with drivers from NJ, the Bronx and upstate circling our streets; argued for residential parking permits at no cost, in a continuous area, no more than ¼ mile; this has worked in Boston, San Francisco and other cities. (3) #1 train is already at peak capacity, as is the M98. There are so many other public transit issues which must be included in the plan. Bottom line, I would vote yes because we can't afford to lose the federal funding, but there still are serious problems with this current plan. As to the budget situation, it is terrible and getting worse; a billion dollars are being cut from education operations budget, and another \$1.5 billion that we stand to lose in capital funding. If we continue to give \$1.2 billion to property owners while we are cutting education, I will vote "NO" on the budget. Ms. Swanson-Massa: Re: congestion pricing, the federal government requires us to pass a plan, not necessarily that plan; can't you propose another plan. It is deceptive for you to propose this as the only plan. A: Due to the deadline, and this being the only plan on the table, if it is not passed (either in its current or an amended form), there will not be enough time to come up with another plan to consider. Bea Hall: What is the Council going to do about Madison Square Garden's tax breaks? A: The only corporate tax break written into state law is MSG's; we voted to have that taken away. Mr. Velasquez: I saw you in action at City Hall, and we are lucky to have you as an advocate for our children and our schools.

#### **Committee Reports (please note in addition to Committee minutes) (9:08pm):**

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter for Parks & Cultural Affairs: please refer to minutes for important updates regarding partnership with NoMAA for CB12's art gallery; Juan Bosch & Sugar Hill parks co-namings; the Take Me to the River Project; capital & expense priorities for FY'10; and various DPR projects throughout CB12. No update on Dyckman Marina/Café RFPs; City still doing due diligence with Department of Investigation. Noted that DPR will have to remove some trees from J Hood Wright near the retaining wall in order to reconstruct the badly-damaged wall. Also noted recent spate of "arboricide" in Inwood Hill Park: several dozen small trees were cut down and left on-site; this appears to be an act of vandalism, not theft. There is a \$2k reward for information leading to arrests.

#### **Zead Ramadan for Economic Development (9:11pm):**

There was a discussion of the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, which the Parliamentarian ruled out of order. Mr. Ramadan then introduced several resolutions which passed with no discussion, as follows:

- #1 offering no objections to SLA renewal of On-premises Liquor license for 601 Restaurant Inc., Mi Millenium Restaurant, Pupuseria Ranchito Restaurant Corp. and 4716 Restaurant Corp. Passed 33-2-0-0.
- #2 offering no objection to SLA renewal of Restaurant Wine license for Emilou, Inc. Passed 33-2-0-0.
- #3 offering no objection to SLA renewal of Restaurant Wine license for AKM Restaurant, Inc. Passed 33-2-0-0.
- #4 offering no objection to SLA renewal of a Grocery Store Beer license for Mariano Perez, Inc. Passed 33-2-0-0.

- #5 OBJECTING to SLA granting a new On-premises Liquor license for Jaya Restaurant, Inc., and recommending that this application be REJECTED. Passed unanimously (35 votes).
- #6 offering no objection to SLA granting a new Restaurant Wine license for Restaurant 101, Inc. Passed 26-9-0-0.
- #7 offering no objection to SLA granting a new Liquor Store license for A & T Wine & Liquor Corp. Passed 25-10-0-0.
- #8 offering no objection to renewal and expansion of sidewalk café license for Mamajuana. Chair made a brief recap of the previous evening's public hearing, attended by 30+ members of the community and several CB members in addition to the committee. Proprietors agreed to modify their proposal to SLA for outdoor café to eliminate the seating on Seaman Ave. which would have wrapped around the corner and to work with the community to resolve some of the ongoing complaints with regard to noise, sanitation and parking. A meeting which started w/ significant opposition to the proposal ended in favor (get info from EcoDev minutes). At the end of the meeting everyone shook hands, etc. Steve Simon raised concern about potential noise etc. issues for building residents resulting from doubling the size of the unenclosed café. A: Residents were comfortable w/ it. Anita: It's close to a church. A: Not an issue, more than 500 ft. away. Resolution passed 26-7-2-0.

Cheryl Pahaham for Housing & Human Services (9:45pm): Please refer to minutes. The Committee heard from like the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp regarding a proposed housing project at Centro Evangelistico's property on Fort George Hill. The project would require a zoning variance, and SOBRO will be submitting a ULURP application to the Board of Standards & Appeals. Since there is nothing yet on which to base a resolution, a letter of support was suggested. Jim Berlin stated that the Board only speaks in the format of resolutions of the full Board, not letters of support from committees. Ms. Pahaham suggested that the Board would not be taking action, merely stating that having seen the preliminary proposal, we look forward to reviewing the BSA variance request. It eventually was agreed that it would be appropriate to confirm only that SOBRO came to the Committee and not to comment on the content of the presentation, and that the DM should write such a letter as it is of a ministerial nature.

Sybil Dodson for Aging (9:51pm): acknowledged the passing of Leslie Foster. Sybil and Aging Committee are drafting a letter to the family. The Committee is continuing to respond to DFTA's proposed cuts to Meals on Wheels and other aging services; Ms. Dodson thanked the committee members as well as the DM and other Board staff for their efforts. Gloria Vanterpool stated that she felt proud to be a member of the CB during the forum earlier this month, which was a great example of community participation.

Francisco Guzman for Public Safety (9:56pm): Last meeting was held jointly with the Youth & Education Committee and featured a lengthy discussion of DYCD funding, including where does money go, and how effective is it in achieving the agency's and the community's goals and objectives? Is it preventing youth from engaging in violence? The DYCD representative agreed to return to CB12, in particular to the Youth & Education Committee. The Public Safety Committee still working on survey and will be doing extensive outreach in April and May.

Mark Levine for Traffic & Transportation (9:57pm): 181<sup>st</sup> St is most congested corridor in Manhattan; at long last DOT is undertaking study. There will be a big meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> here at CB12 offices to get community input. DOT has already started data collection, but they need to hear from the community; please come and participate. Ms. North: what about the study three years ago by Ketchum & Associates? A: I assume it's being taken into account, but this is going deeper and wider; Ketchum only looked at pedestrian issues. With regard to the MTA, they have never come to a meeting in the 18 months I've chaired, but they're coming in April; please come to next monthly meeting! Ms. North: what is the status of our trains in CB12 with respect to the Straphangers recent report on cleanliness?

Steve Simon for Health & Environment (10pm): Please refer to minutes. Next meeting will look more deeply at the issues covered by our CBO presenters earlier in the meeting, namely cultural barriers to health and mental health service delivery. Also echoed Ms. Lorris Ritter's earlier comments about the recent arborcide in Inwood Hill Park.

George Espinal for Youth & Education (10:02pm): The Committee Chair, Albania Lopez Jimenez, apologizes for her absences, due to classes through May. Mr. Guzman mostly covered the content of our joint meeting. Also we spoke about the school at Sherman & West 204<sup>th</sup> being underfunded; \$5.22million is needed to complete construction so it will open by the September '10 target. At its next meeting, the Committee will be looking at possible new sites for school construction.

**Motion to adjourn (10:03pm)** by Mr. Berlin was approved by acclamation following multiple seconds.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Jennifer Araujo; Emilia Cardona; Francisco Guzmán; Inés Saldaña Olsen (No other CB12 members or staff were present.)

GUESTS: Odessa Starke, President, 150-155 Edgecombe Block Assn.; Paimaan Lodhi, MBPO; Laura Gabby, CLIMB; Jacob Morris, Harlem Historical Society; Jennifer Hoppa, NYC DPR, Yekaterina Gluzberg NYC Partnership for Parks.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter at 7:36pm.

**NoMAA Update:** Due to recent health issues, the Committee Chair has been unable to meet with NoMAA and Columbia University further to discuss issues related to using the CB12 offices as a gallery space. Ms. Ritter will be following up with NoMAA and CU later this month. The Union of Dominican Visual Artists has also inquired about using the space for an art exhibit in May 2008. Francisco Guzman will contact them and follow up with more details.

**155<sup>th</sup> Street & Edgecombe parks triangle co-naming:** Ms. Starke and Mr. Morris were prepared with additional information in support of a proposed Sugar Hill co-naming, but this proposal has been much discussed in previous meetings, and there is no new information. Since there is no information yet from the group interested in co-naming this spot after Juan Bosch, Emilia Cardona suggested that we put this discussion on the agenda for the next month's committee meeting. Ms. Ritter will reach out to the Juan Bosch Foundation and invite them to the April Committee meeting.

**Take me to the River:** Presentation by Paimaan Lodhi, MBPO Urban Planner, on "Take me to the River Project" 135<sup>th</sup> to 157<sup>th</sup>. Success of the project is based on improving access to Riverside Park and strengthening the cultural resources that surround the area. A recent survey of the Broadway commercial corridor discovered an 18% vacancy rate around the area. There were 13 proposals for an implementation plan; Nodules International was chosen. One of the things they seek to do is improve the appearance of Broadway by various means: improve signage, façade improvements or complete rehabilitation. They are also working with the consulting company which is working on the design and renovation of Fort Washington Park. One of the first things they did was to gather information from community, including an on-line survey available at <http://mbpo.org/land-use/tmtr>. The plan should be finished within the next 6-7 months (i.e., this sometime this Fall) then it will be taken to the city for funding. Ms. Cardona will represent CB12 at the MBPO's next "Take Me to the River" planning meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. All are encouraged to complete a survey, and to share the link with friends and neighbors who use these parks. The concern of safety in the parks also was raised, and is addressed in the survey.

**Parks Department Report from Jennifer Hoppa, DPR's Administrator for Northern Manhattan Parks:**

- Scoping meeting for the re-design of Inwood Hill Park's Indian Road Playground on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- Pathway improvement construction around tennis courts in Inwood will start in around 3 months
- DPR is looking to create an entrance to Isham Park
- The Mayor has provided additional funds to complete the 204<sup>th</sup> & 205<sup>th</sup> Street-end parks
- DPR is working with several corporate groups of volunteers to improve southern end of Highbridge Park
- Fort Tryon Park will be getting some path reconstruction near the dog run
- DPR also is looking to improve programs which help create park stewardships, as well as to promote family fitness program
- J. Hood Wright playground "Tot Lot" project will begin construction soon
- Hike the Heights / Happy Birthday Highbridge event on June 7<sup>th</sup>

**CLIMB ("City Life is Moving Bodies") & "Hike the Heights":** Laura Gabby described the goals of her organization – to get New Yorkers more active, and to encourage active recreational use of local parks – and talked about plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Hike the Heights" event on June 7<sup>th</sup>, which once again will feature sculpted giraffes along the path, in homage to the approximate shape of a schematic map of upper Manhattan. CLIMB is looking to involve as many local groups as possible in this event. She also introduced the group's "double-take" photography project of local parks, which she would like to display at the next CB12 meeting. The Committee agreed this is a good idea; Ms. Ritter referred Ms. Gabby to District Manager for follow up.

**Response to Fiscal Year 2009 preliminary budget register:** Brief discussion of FY '09 Capital & Expense priorities and OMB's report of agency responses.

There was no relevant new mail and no announcements of upcoming events in addition to those already mentioned.

**Partnership for Parks:** Kate Gluzberg ([yekaterina.gluzberg@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:yekaterina.gluzberg@parks.nyc.gov); 212-408-0283) introduced herself as the new Outreach Coordinator and announced two upcoming events: "New York Cares Day", April 12<sup>th</sup> and "It's My Park Day", May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Member raised questions about restoration of Landmarks.** CB12 member Steve Simon (who also is Chief of Staff to DPR's Manhattan Borough Commissioner) had stopped by the meeting and reported that a repair to the historic fountain at 155<sup>th</sup> Street received an emergency repair following a leak, and will be fully restored within the next few months. In the future, efforts will be made to post explanatory signage regarding repairs, where practicable. The temporary-fix was never intended to have been the complete repair, and any assumptions to that effect are completely erroneous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Minutes taken by Francisco Guzman, typed by Paola Garcia, and edited by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter



**Economic Development Committee - Minutes**  
**March 4, 2008**

**Committee Members Present:** Zead Ramadan, Chair; Julio Peguero; Nelson Rojas, Tony Lopez, Ruddy Santana,

**Absent:** Janifer Wilson, Rita McKee (excused), Rafael Osorio (excused)

**Board Members Present:** Manny Velasquez-CB12 Chair, George Espinal, Martin Collins, Edith Prentiss, Rolando Rodriguez

**Public Members:** Humberto Taveras (A&T Liquor Store) Mitchell Arias and Mike Leuck (VIDA Café-Mamajuana) Olga Garcia (4799 Caridad Rest Inc.) Tamara Shron (89 Fairview), Elizabeth Cichon (3920 Broadway), Officers Danello and Kelly (34<sup>th</sup> Pct.).

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Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the residents neighboring establishments Parilla and Bianco, for having confidence in the committee to help address the quality of life issues threatened by those establishments. He asked for an update on Bianco from the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Officer Danello stated that as of March 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2008, Bianco's liquor license was suspended. Neighboring tenants asked if that would improve their quality of life. The chair stated he believed it would, but that the committee would send a strong letter listing the neighbors' grievances, requesting that these issues be corrected and propose a meeting for clarification (letter was sent). The chair also stated that their SLA license would be up for renewal soon and the response to their neighbors' request would greatly affect the committee's opinion.

Neighbors of Parilla (several residents present but weren't signed in) stated that their conditions had improved but were far from satisfied. The chair said that he instructed the DM to request to have SLA investigators visit Parilla again, and that the DM hand delivered 2 letters to the restaurant requesting a meeting with them, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct, their buildings tenant association and CB12 in order to immediately address their neighbors' unresolved outstanding quality of life issues. He stated that Insp. Dowling of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct visited the establishment and requested their cooperation, but they have not responded sufficiently to requests. Their renewal request due in April will suffer in committee due to their long history of lack of cooperation and sensitivity towards their neighbors.

**M29 Transmission line update**

Martin Collins was asked to give an update re: the Con ED M29 transmission line. He clarified the construction route and told the audience to expect many disturbances and a long period of construction from Con Ed. Mayra Linares at 5000 Broadway (212<sup>th</sup> St.) is the point person for complaints re this project and can be reached at (800)799-1083. CB member Edith P. asked about a "tire guy" (flat fixed shop) that does work on the sidewalk along this route and if this was the proper committee to address this issue. The chair suggested emailing himself and T&T chair Mark Levine for guidance.

### **Renewals:**

Regarding the below listed establishments: there were no objections to the requests for SLA renewals from the committee, the local precinct or the public. SLA website also indicated that these establishments were in good standings.

1. Vida Café, inc. dba: Mamajuana 247-9 Dyckman St. (corner Seaman Ave.)– On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 4-0-0, PM 11-0-1 <ERRONEOUSLY CONSIDERED – OMITTED>.
2. Mariano Pérez dba: Mi Esfuerzo – 123 Dyckman St. (SE corner of Post Ave.) – Grocery Store Beer – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 4-0-0, PM 8-0-3
3. 601 Restaurant dba: La Nueva Espana – 1261-3 St Nicholas Ave. St Nicholas Ave. (Corner of 173<sup>rd</sup> St) –On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 3-0-1, PM 7-0-3
4. Emilou Inc. -dba: Emilou's –829 W. 181 St. (Bet. Pinehurst & Cabrini) –Restaurant Beer and Wine – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 3-0-1, PM 5-0-0
- \*5. Mi Millenium Restaurant – 220 Nagle Ave. (Between Dyckman and Academy) - On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 1-0-3, PM 5-0-0
6. Pupuseria Ranchito Rest Corp. – 4129 Broadway (bet 174&5<sup>th</sup> Sts) - On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 3-0-1, PM 7-0-3
7. AKM Rest Inc. dba: Park View Café – 4716 Broadway (NW corner of Dyckman) Restaurant wine - EDC 5-0-0, CBM 4-0-0, PM 6-0-0
8. 4716 Rest Corp. dba: Irish Brigade (Arden Ave.) - On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 3-1-0, PM 9-0-0
- \*9. Jaya Restaurant Inc. – 79-81 Audubon Ave. (bet. 169-170 Sts.) - On-premises Liquor – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 5-0-0, PM 7-0-0

### **New Applications:**

Regarding the below listed establishments: there were no objections to the requests for SLA renewals from the committee, the local precinct or the public.

1. Restaurant 101 Inc. dba: Dyckman Express – 101B Dyckman St (bet. Nagle & Post) – On premises Beer and Wine – EDC 5-0-0, CBM 4-0-0, PM 6-0-0
2. A&T Wine & Liquor Corp. (Humberto Taveras) dba: A&T Wine and Liquor – 188 Audubon (bet. 174-5<sup>th</sup> Sts) – Liquor Store - EDC 5-0-0, CBM 3-0-1, PM 4-0-0

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\* These votes will be conditional on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct's confirming there are no issues w/business.

**VIDA CAFÉ INC. (Mamajuana) Outdoor Café Renewal:**

Representatives of Vida Café Inc. (Mamajuana) informed us that they were present to discuss their Outdoor Café renewal (amended) application. The committee was not informed of any outdoor café applications for consideration, the item was not placed on the agenda, yet the file was found on the committee meeting table (stamped "received" by CB12 on Feb 20, 2008). On the agenda was Vida Café Inc.'s SLA On Premises Liquor License renewal (actually due in June 2008). It became clear that a new staff member unfamiliar with this process received the application documents and drawings on Feb 20, 2008 but had not informed anyone, until the committee discovered the file at this meeting. Since this omission was caused by a CB12M staff error due to inexperience and there is only a 45 day period for CB's to respond, the committee decided to discuss the application. It is important to note that the committee also considered Vida Café's SLA liquor license (needlessly), not knowing at that point that the only thing to be considered was the outdoor café license, which was due to the agenda item error by staff – the staff who could have addressed the question of the error were not present at the meeting.

The outdoor café review: The drawings reflected seating along Dyckman Street and Seaman Avenue. M. Collins expressed concern re any seating on Seaman Ave. and said he felt that Mamajuana had enough on Dyckman St. (their drawings had proposed to increase seating in front of their newly acquired expansion on Dyckman St. by 36 seats and 36 on Seaman Ave). After hearing concerns re: Seaman Ave, the Mamajuana reps said that they were willing to cut 2/3 of the seating area on the Seaman side, allowing only 3 rows and approximately 14 feet in on Seaman Ave. The ED chair then asked if Mamajuana would also agree to close the shortened Seaman Ave. end at 10pm nightly (2-3 hours before City requirements) - they agreed. M. Collins expressed concern that there should be posting in applicant's surrounding area and that a public hearing did not take place – the committee agreed and stated that there will be postings 2 weeks prior the general meeting to allow the public voice to be heard before any official action is taken by CB12, but did not want to defer this issue to the April meeting because we would have exceeded the 45 day period allowed by City process to respond to this application, and because the business which was not at fault would suffer by potentially losing more than one month of outdoor café business which they stated whose process is at a cost of nearly \$14,000, annually.

The ED chair requested a DOB and SLA inquiry printouts from staff to determine if the establishment had outstanding violations, such as noise complaints, 311 complaints (there were none); he asked the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct reps if they had any issue w/Mamajuana (Officers Danello and Kelly said they had no objections and had no knowledge of any issues); asked the public and committee members if they had any issues with the establishment and there were none (comments were made complimenting the establishment by CB members M. Collins and T. Lopez). *Given the information at hand, the ED chair asked his committee to vote on whether to consider this application item at this time and post a "PUBLIC NOTICE" to the affected community to voice their concerns at the general meeting re: the application - or to attempt to pursue a 30 day waiver from DCA and table the item until the April 8 meeting. The committee voted unanimously (5-0) to consider the application at this time, given that no official CB12 action results from their consideration.*

CB member G. Espinal expressed concern over cars parked across the street on the sidewalk in front of a gas station, and stated he assumed they were attributable to Mamajuana clientele – ED chair commented that was the responsibility of the gas station – Mamajuana rep stated the restaurant had nothing to do with that, nor do they encourage people to park illegally. Edith P. asked whether they had an accessible bathroom, the manager confirmed, but Edith stated that there was a slight step to enter into the space – the mgr. stated he was not conscience of that but will speak with ownership to address that issue. M. Collins again requested to table the item, including the revisions agreed to, for a month or pending a public hearing and esp. because there were no



postings done for a public forum. He also noted that there were no Inwood residents on the ED committee. ED chair commented that he was surprised he knew where we all lived. With no further discussion, the committee voted to support the application (EDC -5-0-0, CBM 3-0-1, PM 8-0-3). Given the unfortunate circumstances (staff error) and the deadline (45 day period to respond), the committee felt its actions had not committed CB12 to any policy without public input, yet represented the community responsibly and negotiated a shortened outdoor café plan with a side that closes earlier than City requirements.

The committee agreed to post a PUBLIC NOTICE in the area on March 11 to surrounding neighbors on Dyckman St. and Seaman Ave., informing them that CB12M will be considering a resolution regarding the amended Outdoor Café Renewal application of Mamajuana Restaurant. M. Collins insisted that CM Robert Jackson's office be copied on correspondence re the foregoing (his office is copied on all resolutions affecting his district automatically).

<Subsequent to this Eco Dev Committee meeting, a new and separate Public Hearing date was established to consider this application, on Mon. March 24, 2008 at CB12 office.>

Representatives, Dario Oleaga and -(2<sup>nd</sup> guy -not signed in) - from 431 Café Inc. on W. 202<sup>nd</sup> St., stated that they were present to try to get support for an on-premises liquor license, and to correct the misunderstanding that the above address is *not* a "food truck," as the committee believed last month and voted to reject an SLA application request at that address. Mr. Oleaga explained that there is currently a vehicle repair shop which he'd like to make into a restaurant/lounge with a rear outdoor patio area, but first wanted to be sure the CB12 would support this idea prior to investing to reformat the space. M. Collins produced a DOB information document that confirmed the address as the current car repair shop in a building. M. Collins expressed concerns with Umbrella being nearby even though it has been closed since Christmas time. Chair, M. Velasquez stated that as per conversations w/DI Capul of the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct., Umbrella lounge was not expected to reopen. The committee requested renderings of how the site may be transformed, including menus, design, parking plans, and other detail that would allow them to better consider the request. ED chair mentioned that Dario is an artist who had designed and built attractive establishments in the community, which seemed not to do as well after he had sold them to others. *The matter was tabled* until the reps returned with detailed plans.

#### New Business:

M. Collins stated that the agenda for this committee's meeting should always be listed in Manhattan Times. ED chair stated that it was sent to them via e-mail by the newest staff member, but it was not included in the paper (it may have been submitted late). M. Collins reminded the committee that agendas were due by Tuesday mornings for Friday printing. M. Collins was thanked for his vigilant support of ED committee matters.

M. Collins also submitted to the committee a sheet with a list of 8 establishments within 500 feet of *Café Espresso of NY Inc.* that have liquor licenses, and that it should not be granted an on-premises liquor license (Ser # 1202965) *when* they apply -it is in Eco Dev Committee file for the March 4, 2008 meeting. ED chair stated that he and Chair Velasquez had already faxed a letter to the SLA in January, 2008 expressing strong objections to this anticipated application, and especially since they did not follow SLA procedure by informing our CB of their filing at any time.

The committee discussed ways to try to prevent staff errors, and other ideas to make meetings more efficient. We determined that we should train the new EDC staff member (incl. written instructions) to ensure work is completed on a timely basis, that SLA references are checked monthly, and that committee documentation is prepared correctly. We discussed creating a

meeting checklist and voting chart to more adequately record application discussion results (completed-will be utilized in Apr meeting). There was discussion re: range of requirements the committee should place on applicants - ED chair stated that unfortunately, the SLA law only requires applicants to inform the local CB with a certified letter of their intention to apply to them, and no more. ED chair stated that our letter to applicants is in fact aggressive in its requirements and that it states that we (1) require their presence, (2) ask them to post bilingual signs announcing their intent to apply to the SLA on their store front per SLA requirement (3) fill out a questionnaire that would answer most inquiries routinely made at committee meetings, and (4) insinuates that they will not be looked upon favorably if these items are satisfied. ED chair stated that per his experience, he believed that placing more demands or requirements on businesses for pre-meeting information may cause businesses to be less responsive, esp. since they are not required to follow any of our instructions except for posting of signs expressing their intention to apply for a SLA application.

## HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES - MINUTES

March 6, 2008

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Pahaham, Chair

Carole Mulligan

Edith Prentiss

Kotie Cannon

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Glenda Swanson-Massa, Asst. Chair

Rolando Rodriguez

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

George Espinal

**Staff Member Present:** Adolfo Cuevas, Community Service Aide

**Guests:** Elena Guzman-Resident, Jack Cohen-Resident, Anthony Parson-Resident, Natalie Erlich-Columbia University journalism student, Moises Cabrera-Pastor, Centro Evangelistico Church, Ismael Trinidad, Representative, Centro Evangelistico Church, Yoonie Cho-SOBRO, Neil Pariser-SOBRO, Shella Cadet-Body-Lawson Associates, Architects and Planners, Ricco Cox -Clinical Director, Fort Washington Men's Shelter, Unidentified Manhattan Times reporter

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

### SOBRO

Representatives of the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SOBRO) attended the Housing and Human Services Committee meeting to answer specific questions submitted by the committee on a proposed housing development that would be constructed in partnership with the Centro Evangelistico Church, a neighborhood church.

Neil Pariser explained that SOBRO requested a zoning variance from the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for the following reason: the block to be developed by SOBRO is near an easement onto Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) property and the MTA would not permit SOBRO to build on top of the easement because this would block light and air into the MTA tunnels. In addition, SOBRO also had to leave sufficient space (minimum 10 feet) around its property for the MTA to access its power supply cables. As a result, SOBRO determined that it would not be economically feasible to build unless it could narrow the base and also raise the height of the building.

SOBRO proposes to build 116 units of housing, a new church that includes a daycare center that will offer the neighboring community 22 new subsidized daycare slots, and 80 parking spaces, of which 46 would be reserved for residents and the rest available to neighborhood residents or church-goers.

The construction will be financed by any or all of the following sources: New York City Housing Development Corporation's Affordable Co-op Program; New York City Housing Preservation and Development's New Construction Participation Loan Program; and, New York State Housing Trust Fund for Affordable Housing. SOBRO staff stated that these programs are undergoing revision and their rules could change, which would affect the level of subsidy for the development.

SOBRO indicated that the units are intended to be affordable to households earning between 80 and 175 percent of the area median income (AMI). Households above 175 percent of the AMI would pay market rate. SOBRO anticipates that it will offer 45 1-bedroom units to households earning between \$45,350 and \$99,204; 60 2-bedroom units to households earning between \$51,050 and \$111,673; and 11 3-bedroom units to households earning between \$56,700 and \$124,031. SOBRO is not certain of the allocation of units by household income, however. Yoonie Cho and Neil Pariser stated that SOBRO was seeking to subsidize the majority, preferably 60 percent, of the units in the development, and that if the financing failed

or was delayed, which is not expected, the developer would go "conventional," meaning that SOBRO would sell the units at the market rate.

SOBRO was uncertain as to what specific resale restrictions would be imposed on the units in order to avoid the resale of units at highly inflated prices or to people whose incomes exceed limits allowed under the subsidy. Neil Pariser stated that the co-op board would determine the resale restriction, which would adhere to any regulations imposed by the development subsidies, and which typically include income limits for the new purchasers, a restriction on the sale of a unit for three years after purchase, and a requirement to share profits with the City or the co-op.

The daycare center would operate in a large 700 square foot hall in the church; Shella Cadet stated that the facility would meet all of the space requirements currently in effect for daycare centers. Centro Evangelistico now operates a daycare center at its current church at 5859 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue for about 20 children. The new center could accommodate 20 to 25 additional neighborhood children. In addition, Centro Evangelistico is applying for a grant and a license from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to open the new daycare center. The new center will accept New York City Administration for Children's Services daycare subsidies, and the new center slots would not be reserved for residents of the co-operative.

In a previous meeting, the architectural firm stated that the project would be "green" construction. When asked to elaborate, Neil Pariser stated that the construction would not be LEEDS-certified, but that the primary focus would be on energy efficiency. For example, the units would use high-efficiency lighting; the units would be V-TEK water-based heating and cooling system. The project is also considering the use of bamboo floors. All windows would be double-glazed; the rooftop would include insulated recreational space.

Regarding accessibility by the disabled, the project would have only 4 units that would be wheelchair accessible without further renovation at the purchaser's expense. The remaining units could be converted at purchaser's expense. When asked whether the building elevator would go up to the rooftop, Neil Pariser stated that the plans did not include that. Taking the elevator to the rooftop would make the recreational space on the rooftop wheelchair accessible. In addition, it was not clear whether public hallways in the proposed development were sufficiently wide.

Neil Pariser explained that the project would not use union labor, but that workers would receive a living wage, ranging from \$12 to \$14 per hour. SOBRO's contractor is also required to hire from SOBRO's job training program for high school dropouts, Youth Build.

Neil Pariser also stated that SOBRO hired an engineer approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to address any structural concerns regarding the retaining wall on the MTA's property. SOBRO plans to rebuild a retaining wall that would be owned by the co-op and that may or may not replace MTA's retaining wall.

Regarding construction noise mitigation, SOBRO promised to work with the community to address its concerns.

SOBRO, with a letter of support from CB 12, expects to obtain approval from the Board of Standards and Appeals for a zoning variance in 8 months, including the MTA review and approval period, followed by another 6 months to complete construction drawings and to obtain New York City Department of Buildings approval. The construction period could take 18 months, including 3 months of heavy construction to do excavation and foundation-laying.

The committee members discussed the project and considered a draft resolution expressing support for the project. An amended resolution was passed unanimously with the votes of 4 committee members, 1 board member, 1 public member, and 2 community residents. The SOBRO team and Centro Evangelistico representatives thanked the committee and left.

#### **Update Committee on Borough President's Construction Task Force Meeting**

Edith Prentiss prepared and discussed notes on the February 20, 2008 construction task force meeting organized by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, in addition to the minutes submitted to community board members by Martin Collins. (For an e-mailed copy of Edith's minutes, please ask Edith or Ebenezer Smith.) Edith did not recommend any action for the committee based on the information obtained at the meeting.

#### **Proposed 421-a Rule Change**

Committee members discussed the proposed rule change and noted that community board comments are due to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development on or before March 31, 2008. Committee members noted that one proposal would allow affordable units within a development to be much smaller than the market rate units (see the fourth page of the rule change document, regarding the amendment of § 8. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) of section 6-08 of chapter 6 of Title 28 of the Rules of the City of New York) and found this to be objectionable. Committee members agreed to review the proposed rule change further and submit any additional comments by email.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Pahaham, 03/17/08

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – March 6, 2008

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon, Isaiah Bing, Martin Collins, Beatrice Hall, Pamela Palanque North and Matt Chachere (Public Member).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Helen Morik

**STAFF:** Adolfo Cuevas.

**GUESTS:** Harry E. Mayer, DEP; Ana L. Parks, WEACT; Maria Lizardo, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation

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1. S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.
2. **Follow-up on Issues Raised at Last Month's Meeting** – Harry E. Mayer, Director of Technical Services, Bureau of Environmental Compliance, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), reported on the following matters:
  - Parrilla Restaurant, 3920 Broadway -- 2 violations for excessive noise issued 12/3/04 & 12/15/07. Another inspection on 2/15 found that music was not too loud. Will send another inspection team. Collins: tenants from building complained of loud noise 1-4 a.m. at Economic Development Committee meeting.
  - Bianco Restaurant, 4455 Broadway – couldn't gain entrance. Will send inspectors again. Collins: SLA revoked license, pending a hearing in two weeks, so liquor cannot be sold at this time. Simon: at last CB 12 meeting, neighboring residents complained that noise problem also occurs here late at night. Suggested that inspectors be sent to both locations after midnight.
  - Monkey Room, 589 Fort Washington Ave. – inspection on 1/30/08 found that it was close to noise limit but no violation. Committee suggested that inspectors check rear garden as well as street scene in front of bar.
  - Mayer agreed to coordinate future DEP enforcement actions with police.
  - Residential smoke – Committee had asked last month why CD 12 had highest # of such complaints (37) in Manhattan in December. Mayer reported that DEP took 176 samples from apartment building boilers to check on quality of oil and will have results of tests in a few weeks.
  - Open Tickets (complaints with no response) – In February, only nine of the 35 noise complaints had open tickets. Four complaints involved the construction project at 29 Overlook Terrace; DEP constantly sends inspectors and gets additional complaints. Received 7 complaints dealing with air problems; six were closed.

Bing: who monitors catch basins and sewers in this area? wants someone to talk to re: M29 transmission line.  
Mayer: I'll find out who's in charge for this district and report back.

3. **Lead Poisoning Prevention** – Ana L. Parks, Lead Outreach Project Manager, West Harlem Environmental Action (WEACT):
  - working with local groups in eight communities around the city
  - goal is to have 15-20 partners
  - have posters in buses
  - immigrants are afraid of landlords, don't report lead-paint hazards in their apartments
  - lead poisoning is permanent, irreversible
  - conducts workshops at day care centers, shelters, after-school programs, etc.
  - tells parents they can ask doctors for blood lead levels
  - CDC found that even low levels cause hyperactivity in Hispanic children
  - families don't know children have lead poisoning until they start school
  - stresses use of Local Law 1, the city's childhood lead poisoning prevention law, whereby landlords are responsible for making repairs to remove lead-paint hazards
  - works closely with DOHMH and HPD to make sure violations are removed



The committee suggested that she work with local CBOs, including the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. (NMIC), to reach WH-I residents and also participate in annual health fair organized by WH BID, others held by Columbia University, Metropolitan & Harlem Hospitals.

Chachere: suggested that she distribute less literature and emphasize Local Law 1 more. He said that the law is working insofar that the city is inspecting promptly and getting landlords to make repairs. Landlords are supposed to give out DOH brochures when leases are signed or renewed but are not doing it.

Simon read the DOHMH statistics on the declining rates of newly lead-poisoned children in NYC, Manhattan and Washington Heights-Inwood between 2001 and 2005. In NYC, among children between six months and six years, the rate per 1,000 tested fell from 15.1 to 8.5 (-43.7%). In Manhattan, it fell from 15.1 to 8.1 (-46.4%). In WH-I, it fell from 13.9 to 8.6 (-38.7%). Among all children under 18, the rate in NYC fell from 14.5 to 8.2 (-43.5%). In Manhattan, it fell from 14.2 to 7.9 (-44.4%). In WH-I, it fell from 12.4 to 8.1 (-35%).

**4. Manhattan's Lead-Safe House** – Maria Lizardo, Deputy Director of Client Services, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.:

The Lead-Safe House, 2183 Amsterdam Ave., has a total of 12 units – only two apartments funded by the State DOH currently provide temporary housing for families with lead-poisoned children from all over NYC. Average stay is 45-60 days; some have stayed as long as eight months. With Local Law 1 in force, the time span has been declining. Families pay rent on their old apartments. NMIC provides case management, works on housing issues, assists with transportation costs, etc. Many undocumented families living in deplorable conditions are helped by NMIC's legal services. Staff at the Lead-Safe House also work on asthma issues, train providers in family day care network, have meeting room available to community groups. As of July 1, the state funding runs out, and there no longer will be a Lead-Safe House.

Collins: suggests that the apartments in that case be used for tenants temporarily displaced by building rehabs

Lizardo: the building is already being used for that purpose; it is housing three families from buildings undergoing rehab. Six other apartments have been leased by Columbia for its students; it won't renew as of August because students don't want to live on Amsterdam Avenue. Super occupies 12<sup>th</sup> apartment.

Chachere: three apartments with displaced families were previously funded by the city for lead-poisoned children, but funding was withdrawn after passage of Local Law 1. No other Lead-Safe House provides as much comprehensive services.

**5. Old Business**

- **M29 Transmission Line Project** – Bing and Collins reported that Con Ed agreed to include a requirement for a rodent control plan, including the hiring of an exterminator, in the bid solicitation for a contractor. At the recent construction task force meeting, Bing told DEP to be proactive in checking out sewers and catch basins before, during and after construction. Con Ed announced that March 17 is the expected start of construction in Inwood. It has started outreach to businesses. Sanitation needs to "streamline" garbage collection so that it isn't hampered by construction. A small building, "the Bronx headhouse," is being built along the Harlem River at the tip of the island; don't believe it was previously discussed or included in the original PSC application. They will be seeking additional information about it; concerned about whether it can withstand Category III hurricanes, floods, etc. MTA has no idea how buses will be rerouted during construction; several lines affected – BxM1, Bx7, Bx12, Bx20, M100. Bing will talk to Louis Clarke, Con Ed's Environmental Health & Safety Director, for info on removal of hazardous substances from substation site.
- **Green Carts Law** – It was agreed that the committee needs more information as to whether the new permits being issued to vendors will designate specific sites or be valid within a certain precinct or borough.

**6. New Business**

- Collins: asked DM Ebenezer Smith to check on whether Per Scholas would be willing to conduct an electronics recycling event in WH-I. He suggested that it could be done in conjunction with the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development on W. 207<sup>th</sup> Street.

**7. Mail was reviewed.**

8. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.

# YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES

March 5, 2008

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jackie Rowe Adams  
George Espinal  
Carol Mulligan  
Cleofis Cabral-Sarete

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Albania Jimenez (Excused)  
Rolando Cespedes  
Jose Lopez  
Maria Luna (Excused)

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Collins

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

**Staff Member Present:** Ebenezer Smith, District Manager  
Adolfo Cuevas, Community Service Aide

**Guests:** Stanley Bridgeman-DYCD, Lynn Doherty Herndon, Community Coordinator-PS 366 Washington Heights Academy, Gladys R. Hechavarria-Parent, Roberto DeLa Rosa-Parent Coordinator, Phyllis Smizaski-Resident, Chris Jones-Washington Heights Academy, Joselinne Minaya-DA's Office, Lt. Nunez-NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct.

Meeting commenced at 7:05pm by Emilia Cardona, Chair of Public Safety Committee.  
Chair Cardona spoke briefly about the purpose for the Joint Committee meeting.

*(Please see Joint Committee Meeting Minutes Produced by the Public Safety Committee).*

## DYCD

Stanely Bridgeman spoke about the level of funding for Washington Heights and Inwood. The Community Advisory Board meets regularly to discuss funding allocations. DYCD has a Technical Assistance Unit to train individuals for the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Eight million dollars was invested in Washington Heights and Inwood for Youth Community Programs. Mr. Bridgeman provided a list of funding for Community Based Organizations. Community Based Organizations apply for a RFP to implement programs.

Board Member Martin Collins stated that there are no Youth in-take centers above 181<sup>st</sup> Street. Mr. Bridgeman asked the committee to write to him so he can follow-up with the Commissioner. For any questions, one can call the youth line at 311 in regards to youth programs, summer pools, etc.

Community Residents want to improve communication amongst schools, Community Board 12, and a different city agency's'. Chair Cardona recommends the Youth and Education Committee invite representatives from schools and DYCD to discuss information and concerns.

## Update: New School Construction

P.S. / I.S. 263 will be located at 200 Sherman Avenue.

The anticipated start of the construction of the proposed 600-seat school is April of 2008. The completion of the construction is scheduled for April 2010. The total construction cost is 66.93 million dollars with a current allotment of 61.40 million dollars towards the construction. An additional 5.22 million dollars is required to begin construction.

The Committee believes that we urgently need to fund the construction of this school so Washington Heights Academy can open their doors to students in September 2010. Delaying the construction of the new school would be detrimental.

A Citywide rally is to be held on March 19, 2008 at City Hall Park at 4pm to protest the budget cuts.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Espinal.

## **Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes**

### **March 3, 2008**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Mark Levine, Chair  
James Berlin  
Edith Prentiss

#### **Committee Members Excused**

Anita Barberis

#### **C.B. 12 Members Present**

Beatrice Hall

#### **Guests:**

Lars Klove 116 Pinehurst Ave #C34, Ann Alston 1380 Riverside Dr #11A, Carol Blagman 1380 Riverside Dr Tenant's Association.-

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Chair Mark Levine opened the meeting at 7:10 PM and welcomed the Committee and guests.

- DOT not at meeting – MTA to visit in April has not happened for 4 years.
- Discussion of Jumel Place 216<sup>th</sup> Street traffic study.
- Announcement of DOT traffic study meeting April 10<sup>th</sup> in the evening.
- Discussion of Dyckman St. And Broadway traffic study.
- Discussion of timetable for Riverside retaining wall repair committee went to precise timetable for restoration of Riverside ramp.
  - Sidewalks
  - Trees
  - Retaining Wall
- MTA report from Edith on A line and #1 line lack of service due to reopen work evenings and weekends is very disruptive
- M4 bus does not follow schedule due to 10<sup>th</sup> avenue construction more busses are parking up at 207<sup>th</sup> Street. Bronx bus congestion at around the 181<sup>st</sup> St. Corridor.
- Riverside Park signs near 155<sup>th</sup> St need constant replacement because the wind seems to blow them down resulting in great confusion.

Meeting adjourned at 8PM

**I. Response to Office of Management & Budget 2009 Capital Budget Priorities Request.**

The one issue which was discussed was the OMB reluctance to back the funding for repairs of our local fire house

**II. Traffic & Safety problem on Edgecomb Ave. W. 155<sup>th</sup> St. thru W. 167<sup>th</sup> Street**

It was suggested that we may want to consider a resolution to put a speed bump and some other traffic control in that area. Although this is more likely a traffic committee issue it falls into a potential public safety issue.

**III. Report from 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.**

Robbery is down 11% from last year. Burglary assaults are up 6% to the year.

There are still many people leaving property unattended. For example, people leaving things in car and getting out. Riverside Dr. is still a popular location for break ins.

- ❖ There was one shooting for the year at 565 W. 173<sup>rd</sup> Street during a robbery of drug dealer.
- ❖ No homicides for the year
- ❖ Rapes are up for the year, they have been mostly statutory rapes cases(4)

Public members raised concern about an increasing trend in kids, not in baseball uniforms, walking around with baseball bats. If the bat turns into a weapon, then it can be confiscated.

Last week during the Dominican Independence Day celebration, the NYPD was out in full force as a precaution to the potential of gang fighting. Some arrests were made, the number was not available at this time.  
Contact number (212) 927-3334.

Ms. Joselinne Minaya, DA's office reported that the Legal Bound Program for summer 2008 internship program deadline is coming up on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

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

**Joint Public Safety/Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2008**

Committee Member  
Emilia Cardona, Chair  
Francisco Guzman  
George Espinal  
Jennifer Araujo  
Committee Member – Y&E  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Carole Mulligan

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

Board Members Present

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

Guests:

Stanley Bridgeman-DYCD, Lynn Doherty Herndon, Community Coordinator-PS 366 Washington Heights Academy, Gladys R. Hechavarria-Parent, Roberto DeLa Rosa-Parent Coordinator, Phyllis Smizaski-Resident, Chris Jones-Washington Heights Academy, Joselinne Minaya-DA's Office, Lt. Nunez-NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct.

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Meeting convened at 7:07pm by Chair, Emilia Cardona

Guest speaker – Stanley Bridgeman, Dept of Youth & Community Development  
Discussion revolved around the 8 million dollars invested in Washington Heights. Mr. Bridgeman provided a list of all the organizations funded by DYCD in Washington Heights. Any school can apply for these programs.

- ❖ After school programs can operate out of "anywhere you can get a group of kids"
- ❖ Organizations can apply for RFP's and the DYCD can provide technical assistance

Public members showed concern over the level of information that comes from DYCD to parents. Mr. Bridgeman noted that he would put the information packets in the mail for parent coordinators. He added that the Community Advisory Board meets regularly to discuss funding allocations to CB12.

Committee members raised concerns over the way funds are spent as opposed to the results. Board member Jennifer commented that from her experience a majority of these funds go towards paying salaries. The remaining money is spent on getting resources and/or materials. Funds provided to these organizations are provided based on RFP's. The proposals are read by six different people.

- ❖ What programs are geared toward reducing crime among youths?
- ❖ Mr. Bridgeman believed that all the programs are suppose to deter youth from engaging in criminal activity

Chairperson Cardona commented what about the possibility of creating a program to deter youth crime? Response: Mr. Bridgeman proposed that such a request would have to come from the community and would have to be directed toward elected officials. It was also mentioned that anyone interested in getting funding for a program would have to be incorporated.

Mr. Bridgeman stated that the programs are available, it's just that not too many people know about these programs. His suggestion was that Community Board 12 can provide DYCD with a list of people who would like to get information about the programs DYCD funds and makes available. Mr. Bridgeman offered to return in the future and speak to Youth & Education committee. Concern was expressed over the lack of a DYCD in-take Center for SYEP above W. 181<sup>st</sup>. Street. Mr. Bridgeman asked the committee to write to him so that he can follow up with the Commissioner.