

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2000**

Members Present

Anita Barberis	Beatrice Hall	Marcos Navarro	Nelson Rojas
James Berlin	Herbert Harwitt	William C. Ortega	Maria Sierra
Ronald Botelho	Soledad Hiciano	Julio Peguero	Barbara Smith Ramos
Emilia G. Cardona	Maria Luna	Dr. Pamela Palanque North	Cheryl Tidwell
Laurie T. Cohen	Isidoro Martinez	Martha Pepin	Ricardo Ureña
A. Fredericka Cuenca	Miguel Martinez	Zead Ramadan	Juan Villar
Walther G. Delgado	Manuel J. Mendez	Bertie Ray, III	Sandra Wachspress
Sybil R. Dodson	Luis H. Minier	Julissa Reynoso	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Leslie Foster	Victor Morisete-Romero	Steven Rizick	Elouise Whitehurst
William A. García	Helen Morik	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	

Members Absent

Rafael Beaumont	Jack Fogle	Norma Nadien (excused)
Abby Belkin (excused)	Joyce F. Holland (excused)	George Sánchez (excused)
Isabel Evangelista	Robert C. Liebeskind (excused)	Laura Sterling

Ex-Officio Members, Public Officials and Guests

Council Member Guillermo Linares	Frank Hess, for Assemblyman Farrell
Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields	District Manager Gregoria Feliciano

The General Meeting of April 2000 was held at the Good Shepherd School Auditorium.

Community Board 12 was called to order at 7:25 p.m. to begin its Regular Session. The agenda was approved. The minutes of March and April 2000 were approved as presented. Nelson Rojas will be noted as present at the general meeting held on April 24, 2000.

Chair's Report – William A. García

Noted that holding CB 12's meeting in Inwood is part of an effort to involve residents of the various parts that make up the district. Tonight's presentation by Con Edison on electrical improvements should be of particular interest to the Inwood community. Introduced new members appointed to the Board: Beatrice Hall, Ronald Botelho, Soledad Hiciano, Manuel J. Mendez, Victor Morisete-Romero, Bertie Ray III, and Julissa Reynoso. New members provided background information on their work and areas of interest. Reported on the matters taken up by the Executive Committee, specifically a briefing on the plans of New York-Presbyterian Hospital for a new building for Babies Hospital and a commercial kitchen facility, both on W. 165 Street. The projects will be presented in fuller detail to the appropriate Board committees, to determine their impact on traffic and quality of life, and job and economic development opportunities for the community.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Summarized her written report, which was included in the meeting packet. Noted the numerous meetings attended during the report period. Received letter from the MTA of plans to establish a bus parking in a lot they recently purchased. The Port Authority announced new bus service to destinations in NJ from the bus station. District budget consultations will begin in June and will invite committee chairs to participate. Members expressed concerns regarding the MTA's plans. The need to track the volume and status of complaints received by the Board office was discussed and emphasized.

Discussion on the Energy Blackout – Sybil R. Dodson

Introduced representatives of Con Edison, who updated the community on the improvements made since last July.

Louis Rana, Con Edison Vice President reported on the various measures undertaken by the utility company to upgrade the area's electrical system. Charts were used to illustrate that approximately 15 miles of cable have been replaced along with 29 transformers. Sherman Creek has 25 one-mega watt diesel generators connected to the substation. This is a precaution, although he believes they will not be used. Con Ed voluntarily waived the \$1 million cap on damages and has since paid out \$7.4 million to local residents and businesses. Stated that Con Ed still needs to show cause before the Public Service Commission, with regard to the adequacy of reimbursement for damages and losses, specifically whether the reimbursement of damages should be adjusted. Experts and independent evaluations have noted that Con Ed took appropriate measures to maintain the local electrical system. In response to questions, noted the extraordinary circumstances that led to the energy blackout and the maintenance and improvements made since last year. Systems will be evaluated again at the end of the Summer. The random method of testing feeder cables was also questioned. Work was done to replace 13 of 14 feeder cables serving the area.

Public Session

Miriam Frank

Spoke about the disruption caused by the filming of a commercial on W. 187 St./Cabrini Blvd. for Proctor & Gamble. Filming caused a demonstration because of its non-union contracting. Event was disruptive; called on the city not to issue permits during labor disputes.

Marty Davey

Spoke of the disruption caused by the commercial filming. Urged community board to find out in advance whether the union sanctions the filming.

Ms. Feliciano acknowledged that a notice, though late, was received from the Mayor's office regarding this filming, but that our area was not designated as a hot spot under the procedures.

Jim Fitzpatrick

Urged the board to look further than the City's notice, since most non-union filming companies tend to give misleading information for their permits and deliberately change locations to circumvent union issues.

Frank Barry

Spoke on behalf of the NYC Campaign Finance Board. Major changes have been made to enable aspiring candidates for political office to get financial support through matching funds. Urged the public to take advantage of this program.

Abdulkarim Al-Rubaire

Complained of dog owners who failed to clean up after pets. Rules are not being enforced.

Tara Johnson

Represents the Inwood Library. Thanked the board for support and advocacy on behalf of librarians in the city's budget. A new construction company, after the prior one defaulted, will complete renovation of the Inwood branch.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Represents Beth Am – People's Temple. Underscored the success of, and the issues raised at, the Million Mom March. Urged opposition to the National Rifle Association's plans for a restaurant in Times Square.

Donna Shelley

Represents the NYC Dept. of Health's (DOH) initiative to counteract the tobacco industry's heightened marketing to minorities and women. DOH has a program to work with the community to get facts straight.

Homer Young-Kennedy

Community resident. Reaching out to expand arts and cultural activities in Inwood parks, beyond baseball. Asked organizations to notify the Board office of their activities.

Rafael Escaño

Community resident. His complaints have not been followed up.

Public Officials Report

Council Member Guillermo Linares

Welcomed new members. Noted the establishment of a new model block initiative by the 34th Police Precinct in Inwood. Reported on a meeting between Con Ed and community leaders on measures to prevent reoccurrence of a blackout. Lesson learned is that communication with the community needs to be improved. Reported on budget process and local service issues that are being addressed. Unfunded mandates by other levels of government are a key concern despite current surplus. Council will restore several cuts proposed in the Executive budget.

Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields

Borough President's request for proposals has been issued. Selection process of new members was arduous since there were more applicants to CB 12 than in other areas. Covered the requirements of the Borough Needs proposal process. Urged community groups to apply.

Committee Reports

All committee reports were referred to the minutes except for the following:

Parks and Cultural Affairs – Marcos Navarro, Acting Chair

E. Lorris Ritter addressed filming incident and presented a resolution on the City's permit process. A discussion followed regarding the resolution and the Board's procedures. After discussion, a motion to table the resolution was approved by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members present.

Mr. Garcia introduced Ms. Cheryl Tidwell, a newly appointed board member.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Walther Delgado, Secretary