

**Community Board 12, Manhattan-General Meeting Minutes**  
**5/23/06 (Malcolm X Museum, 3940 Broadway (bet W. 165 St. & W 166 St.))**

**Members Present**

Dora Maria Abreu  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Anita Barberis  
Wayne Benjamin  
James Berlin  
Isaiah Bing  
Aidee Camacho  
Emilia Cardona  
Martin Collins  
Vivian Ducat  
Adam Eggers  
George Espinal  
Joyce Humber-Faison

Leslie Foster  
Basilisa Gomez  
Beatrice Hall  
Andre Harris  
Fern Hertzberg  
Eduardo Hoepelman  
Albania Jiménez  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Maria A. Luna  
Glenda Swanson Massa  
Jay D. Mazur  
Renato Mena  
Helen Morik

Pamela P.-North  
Angelo Ortiz  
Julio Peguero  
Edith Prentiss  
Zead Ramadan  
Julio Rodriguez  
Nelson Rojas  
Gabriela Rosa  
Ruddy Santana  
Aaron Scott  
Steve Simon  
Bracha Statman  
Gloria Vanterpool

Manny Velazquez  
Janifer Wilson

**Members Excused**

Kotie Cannon  
Sybil Dodson-Lucas  
Julissa Gomez  
Mark Levine  
Jose Lopez  
Rita McKee  
Carole Mulligan  
Joseph Sanchez  
Cleofis C. Sarete

**Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm**

**III. Chair's Report: Martin Collins, Chair**

Chairman Collins distributed his report to the Board Members, Elected Officials and members of the public. Warmly welcomed back Helen Morik, and acknowledged the passing of Cleofis Sarete's grandmother and expressed condolences on behalf of CB12. Chair spoke about recent violent crimes in the neighborhood, including the murder of Jack Gerstle and the shooting of Leslie Bloom, and called for an increased number of police officers in both the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup>. There's one officer per 600 residents in the 33<sup>rd</sup> and one officer per 900 residents in the 34<sup>th</sup>. He discussed the Sherman Creek project and City Planning's forthcoming rezoning proposal for Inwood and Sherman Creek intended to foster development of new affordable housing opportunities and to revitalize the Harlem River waterfront. DOT is expected to start a traffic study this summer; meanwhile, the City continues talks with Con Edison who owns 30% of the waterfront property. Relocation of DOT, NYPD, and Con Ed vehicles remains outstanding. Chair urged everyone to attend the MTA Informational Meeting on Wednesday, May 31 at 6:00pm at the Allen Pavilion re: the four-year project to rehabilitate the 207<sup>th</sup> Street Overhaul Shop. The May 15<sup>th</sup> Pinnacle Forum hosted by public officials and CB9, 10, 12 spotlighted unscrupulous practices of tenant harassment, lack of repairs, and other problems. Pam North and Martin met with Etta Graham, Project Renewal, regarding much needed additional security guards and air conditioning, and they will testify next week at City Council in support of these items to Dept. Homeless Services. Zead Ramadan and Martin attended the Parks Dept. dedication of the new High Bridge Park ball field (W173rd Street) on May 6<sup>th</sup> along with MLB and Dept. Consumer Affairs. Uptown Arts Stroll resumes May 31<sup>st</sup> at the High Bridge Water Tower and continues through June 18<sup>th</sup>. Memorial Day Parade begins at 11:30am at Dyckman Street & Broadway. The Street Activity Permit Calendar is in everyone's folder. Forty-three events approved so far, thanks to Emilia Cardona and Fatima Johnson for their effort. See report for additional information.

**VI. CBO Presentation:** George Lewart, Program Director, Domestic and Other Violence Emergencies (DOVE) Website is [www.nypd.org/dove](http://www.nypd.org/dove). Mr. Lewart spoke about the full breath of services DOVE offers, described the relationship of DOVE and NYPD, including special victims unit. He discussed crisis intervention methods, counseling, support services, domestic abuse, physical violence, and DOVE's community outreach.

**Quorum was established**

**I. Adoption of the Agenda / Adopción de la Agenda**

Call for agenda approval – Liz Ritter, Second by Beatrice Hall. Agenda approved.

**II. Adoption of the Minutes / Adopción de los Minutos**

Will be voted on at next meeting.

**IV. District Manager's Report / Informe de la Director del Distrito:** Charles Defino, District Manager  
No report

**V. Recognition of District Historian James Renner:** Chair Collins spoke about James Renner's many contributions to the Washington Heights-Inwood community and his valued service as CB12 District



Historian. He thanked Mr. Renner for his assistance on several projects, including the Chamber of Commerce's book, "Discovering Northern Manhattan," and mentioned that Mr. Renner is an official NYC Tour Guide licensed by the Dept. Consumer Affairs. Chair presented Mr. Renner with a Certificate of Recognition from CB12.

**VII. Borough President's Report:** Carlos Polanco announced the new member orientations for CB members scheduled for June 21 and 26, and referred everyone to the Borough President's report, which was handed out. Carlos asked James Renner, CB12 District Historian, to the stage and presented him with a proclamation from Borough President Scott Stringer for all his work in the community and for his reappointment. Mr. Renner again thanked everyone in the community.

### **VIII. Public Session**

**Chris Gathos** – Green Market - Spoke about farmers' markets on Isham Street & Mitchell Square. There's strong community support for a year-round Isham St. market. He discussed the reasons for moving the 155<sup>th</sup> St. market to Mitchell Square and asked for support on both markets.

**Manuel Figueroa** –NYPL - Spoke about the Fort Washington Branch Library renovations, which he said will not be ADA-accessible. Chair requested follow-up on this matter since renovations were to include accessibility.

**Monte Calvaro / Jose Gomez** - Handed out June 10<sup>th</sup> Community Health Fair flyers: medical services available to all in the community

**Jeanie Dubanau** – Project Remain/Nos Quedamos spoke about the displacement of our residents & affordable housing. Project website is [www.projectremain.com](http://www.projectremain.com). Handed out information and flyers re: public hearings and June RGB meetings. Chair thanked them for their effort.

**Raquel Henriquez Pena** – Washington Hts. Tenants Association - spoke about landlords & developers buying buildings and getting residents out.

**Mike Fitelson** – Spoke about Human Bridge this past Sunday thanked everyone for another successful Arts Stroll event.

**Dago Suarez** - Spoke about the resolution for Il Sole Restaurant's unenclosed sidewalk café and encouraged the board to support it.

### **IX. Representatives of Elected Officials**

**State Senator Eric Schneiderman:** Lilliam Perez spoke about Senator's continued work on immigration, illegal guns, and importance of people attending the RGB hearings.

**Assemblyman Herman Farrell:** Frank Hess spoke about the budget, which they expect to pass on time or close to it. Spoke about trying to make all public meetings ADA compliant. Mentioned the Assemblyman's upcoming town halls and referred everyone to his report.

**Mayor Mike Bloomberg:** Lolita Jackson [ljackson@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:ljackson@cityhall.nyc.gov) – Spoke about the work with CB12 on MTA & Consumer Affairs issues. Chair thanked Ms. Jackson for her assistance to clean-up the 191<sup>st</sup> St. tunnel and other quality of life matters and the crowd applauded.

**Councilman Miguel Martinez** Office Representative: Annamaria Jones – Spoke about Councilmember calling for expansion of universal Pre-K program from half to full-day. Fresh Youth Initiative ribbon cutting for their new building on 171<sup>st</sup> St. Discussed importance of upcoming budget at City Hall and encouraged everyone to attend. Councilmember will hold his annual Senior Day Picnic on Friday, June 30.

**Councilman Robert Jackson:** Office Representative: Joe McNearney – Discussed the Councilmember's work as Education Committee Chair, upcoming budget hearings and importance of public participation in this process. Referred everyone to report, which he handed out.

### **VII. Committee Reports / Informe de Comités:**

#### **1. Economic Development Committee: Manny Velazquez, Chair**

Resolutions recommending TLC renew For-Hire Base licenses were passed:

- 1) Highbridge Car Service 34 in favor, 1 opposed
- 2) High Class Car Service 34 in favor, 1 opposed
- 3) Riverside Car Service 34 in favor, 1 opposed
- 4) Reyno Car Service 34 in favor, 1 opposed

A resolution recommending the SLA renews six On-Premises Liquor passed:

- 5) La Nueva Espana, Mi Pequena Espana, Mirage Steakhouse, El Presidente Restaurant, Piper's Kilt, Marisco Centro recommended for renewal with 32 in favor and 3 opposed.

A resolution recommending the SLA grant Eating Place Beer License passed:

- 6) That's Amore Pizza recommended with 31 in favor and 4 opposed.



A resolution not recommending the SLA grant an On-Premises Liquor license passed:

7) 3856 West Restaurant (d/b/a El Mirador) not recommended with 34 in favor and 1 opposed.

Resolutions recommending Consumer Affairs renew two enclosed sidewalk café licenses passed:

8) Javier & David Restaurant (d/b/a Caridad Restaurant) with 9 tables & 22 seats resolution passed 35-0

9) Il Sole Restaurant with 13 tables & 38 seats resolution passed 35-0

**2. Land Use: Wayne Benjamin, Chair**

Adopted and read for the record friendly amendments to the resolution, which passed 36-0 in support of developing 2142 Amsterdam Avenue for affordable housing.

**3. Parks & Cultural Affairs/UM EZ Report: Zead Ramadan, Chair**

Resolution recommending relocation of the Saturday Greenmarket from West 155<sup>th</sup> Street to Mitchell Square Park passed with 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions, and 1 not voting due to conflict. Friendly amendment accepted and the resolution recommending the Isham St. Greenmarket Operate Year-Round passed 30 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

**4. Traffic & Transportation: Jay Mazur, Chair**

He addressed the lack of cooperation from the MTA on many issues. M101 and M4 issued to be addressed by T&T. Next month they'll look at subway station conditions in the neighborhood. Anyone with input invited to the meeting. Responded to question about M4 bus and mentioned Anita Barberis' recommendation that it turn on to Ft. Washington Ave. at West 165<sup>th</sup> Street.

**5. Housing & Human Services: Julio Rodriguez, Chair**

Referred everyone to minutes from their last meeting.

**6. Public Safety Committee: Pamela Palanque North, Chair**

Pam provided updates on May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with DOVE and their considering a resolution about the amount of evidence that is collected from victims and will be back in June with their recommendations. Shooting on Amsterdam Ave. and 161<sup>st</sup> St. and arrest made by 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Arrest and arraignment made in the Bennett Ave. murder of Jack Gerstle in the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Perpetrator in the sexual assault/robbery on West 183<sup>rd</sup> St. turned himself into the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Complaints about gang activity and sexing in females in Inwood Park and many neighbors have been prevented from entering the park. Tomorrow night it will be addressed at the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council Meeting. The tire slashings on Payson Ave. and Park Terrace East resulted in more than 60 cars being vandalized in the past two weeks. It's been an ongoing problem in Inwood over the past 4-5 months and there have been episodes on Edgecombe Ave. and Riverside Drive too. 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct aggressively investigating. Fireworks a problem in both precincts and the 33/34 will be handing out flyers about the dangers of fireworks. Encouraged people to call 311. Board did not get the May meeting minutes out despite their May 3<sup>rd</sup> submission date. We'll get them to you as soon as possible.

**7. Health & Environment: Steve Simon, Chair**

Referred to the May to the May Minutes

**8. Youth & Education Committee: Cleofis Sarete, Chair**

Dora discussed Youth Empowerment Day, Saturday June 3 at High Bridge and invited everyone to participate. Committee will provide updates on school sites from the SCA at their next meeting.

**9. Committee for the Aging: Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair**

Fern referred everyone to the minutes. Last meeting was a final push to enroll seniors in Medicare Part D. Next month's meeting is a planning meeting to look at several issues including long-term care insurance. Invited everyone to their June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair encouraged everyone to attend the MTA's May 31<sup>st</sup> informational meeting re: the 4-year project to rehabilitate the 207<sup>th</sup> Overhaul Shop. The ARC Ft. Washington Senior Center will celebrate their 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see Fern Hertzberg for further information.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM**

**Respectfully submitted, Dora Maria Abreu, Secretary**



## **MINUTES OF HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**May 1, 2006**

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Comm. Members Absent</b>	<b>Board Members Attending</b>
Julio Rodriguez, Chair,	Steve Simon	Wayne A. Benjamin
Eduardo Hoppleman,		
Kotie Cannon.		

**Public Members Absent**  
Yvonne Stennet,  
Mason Almeida

**Guests:** Sundown L. West, Chairperson-South Washington Heights Resident Association, Charles DeFino, District Manager

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At 7:25 PM the Chair commenced an informal discussion with committee members present and guests attending insofar as there was not a quorum present. The chair pronounced the informal discussion ended at 8:30 PM.

During the informal discussions, the chair announced that the expected presenter, Dr. Klaus Jacob, a geophysicist from Columbia University, who was scheduled to speak on geological considerations with respect to upper Manhattan and the 29 Overlook Terrace project in particular, had called in sick and would not be attending this meeting. He expressed his intent to be present at the next meeting.

One of the guests, Ms. Sundown, indicated that she had come with the specific purpose of asking CB 12 to help with a problem in her "TIL" building. She indicated that there were competing factions among tenants in her building and that the consulting company officially charged with providing assistance to tenants, UHAB, Urban Housing Assistance Board, was in a potential conflict of interest because they were in position to take over ownership of the building themselves. During the discussion, the visitor asked that CB 12 look into the matter because it appeared the TIL program is not functioning as it should.

The chair stated that he would recommend to the Housing Committee, at it's next meeting, that the appropriate party from HPD be invited to come to a future Housing Comm. meeting to explain how the program is supposed to work and how it is in fact working.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Julio Rodriguez, Chair

