

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting Minutes - November 25, 2003

Members Present

Mason Almeida
Anita Barberis
Rafael Beaumont
Wayne Benjamin
James Berlin
Aidee Camacho
Emilia G. Cardona
Martin Collins
Walther G. Delgado

Sybil R. Dodson
Rafael Escaño
Luis Facundo
Leslie Foster
Joyce F. Holland
Jose Lopez
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Maria Luna
Jay D. Mazur
Benjamin Mantell

Renato Mena
Helen Morik
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Zead Ramadan
Rose Santo
Steve Simon
Socrates S. Solano
Dago Suarez
Bienvenido Toribio
Milagros Vicente

Sandra Wachspress
Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Homer Young-Kennedy III

Members Absent

Kotie Cannon
Nelson Castro
Mireya Cruz (exc.)
Peter Ferrara
Beatrice Hall (exc.)

Mark Levine
Glenda Swanson Massa (exc.)
Kirk Miller
Julio Peguero
Barbara Smith Ramos (exc.)
Julio Rodriguez
Nelson Rojas
Cleofis C. Sarete
Gloria Vanterpool
Elouise Whitehurst (exc.)

Called to order at 7:30pm, with welcome by Zead Ramadan. Best wishes to Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager, currently in hospital.

Motion by Homer Young-Kennedy III to adopt agenda as amended; seconded by Benny Toribio; passed unanimously. October minutes not available.

Chair's Report: Zead Ramadan

- Council Transportation Committee hearing on MTA re: proposal to terminate 22 elevator positions in our community. Thanks to Miguel Martinez for bringing the City Council to the community. The meeting was very well attended, and highlighted safety concerns of this service cut.
- The Uptown Arts Stroll was a resounding success and a joyful event. Tremendous number of artist in over 50 venues; an amazing collaboration that crossed ethnic, geographic and economic boundaries. Kudos to Board Member Martin Collins and Mike Fitelson of the Manhattan Times for organizing, and to Homer Young-Kennedy III for opening up his home for a party for the artists at the end of the day.
- Introduced Ross Frommer, Deputy Vice President, Columbia University, Government & Community Relations, who announced winners of the Dyckman Institute Scholarship awards: Katherine Paez, Brenda Cepeda and Alexandra Hernandez, to whom congratulations are due. Mr. Frommer explained the award process and announced that next year and in the future there will be four awards: one for each class.
- Announced changes to committees and committee chairs: Aidee Camacho and Dago Suarez, Traffic & Transportation Committee Chair and Assistant Chair, respectively; Homer Young Kennedy III, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Assistant Chair; and Julio Peguero, Economic Development Committee Assistant Chair.
- Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (URLURP) for Audubon IV, which will be built behind the Mary Lasker building, where there currently is a Kinney Parking lot. This will be the tallest building. Land Use Committee 12/03; public hearing 12/10. Must ensure that CU builds in respect to community and adheres to promises made over last decade.

Elected Officials' Reports

Senator Eric T. Schneiderman:

- Spoke briefly about the Council's Transportation Committee hearing; urged continued work by community and promised continued support.
- Spoke briefly about budget cuts coming down the pike; Governor presents new budget in January.
- Supports new space for Gregorio Luperón High School.
- Supports Gun Control resolution on tonight's agenda and appreciates our work.

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat:

- Need more translators at the hospital.
- Sponsored science & technology roundtable; must enhance biotech industry as a major part of NYC/NYS economy.
- Hoping to have a science competition.
- Echoed Senator Schneiderman's concerns regarding the budget gap and upcoming budget negotiations; noted economy is improving.

District Manager's Report: no report due to illness.

Zead Ramadan departed to spend the evening with his family at the conclusion of the fast of Ramadan. Sybil Dodson, 1st Vice Chair of CB12, assumed the Chair of the meeting. Congratulated Zead on the recent birth of a son, Tarik, and also welcomed 33rd Precinct Captain Jason Wilcox.

Public Session:

Daniel Ramos, Washington Heights-Inwood Development Corp: described services of this 25-year-old economic development agency. Serves over 300 entrepreneurs; making \$3 million in low-interest loans, many to start-up businesses. Explained eligibility requirements. Will present at the December Economic Development meeting.

Patricia Hamilton, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, Public Art Coordinator: Spoke about proposal for temporary (3-6 month) installation of sculptures in Broadway Malls from West 157th Street to West 168th Street.

Luis Facundo: How can we propose installation of work by local artists in the neighborhood? Ms. Hamilton welcomed more art and proposals; gave contact information and distributed applications.

Tom Ottermess, sculptor: Thanked Parks Committee for support of proposed installation. Is looking forward to public interaction with his art.

Errol Christopher, Weston United Community Renewal, a Harlem-based organization that assists diverse people with mental illness and provides transitional and permanent housing rehab & support services for adults. Spoke regarding startup of new service treatment program to be located in Washington Heights & Inwood. Was invited to December Health Committee. Also follow-up with Economic Development and Land Use.

Josh Karan, Community School Board #6 "More Schools / Smaller Classes" Campaign: Spoke regarding Department of Education 5-year capital proposal. District 6 is most crowded in Manhattan and third most crowded in NYC. Regional administration is denying that there is an overcrowding problem and is projecting 25% decrease over the next ten years. Of the thousands of additional seats to be built citywide, only 440 allocated to Washington Heights/Inwood. City Council will be having hearings, but it is "ironic, if not perverse" that the district which is home to the person who to sued to get billions of dollars for NYC for education likely will see virtually none of those funds.

Maria Luna: What is basis of projections?

A: Demographic study just obtained today does not include current immigration statistics, political situation in DR; Sherman Creek development, etc.

Steve Simon: Has asked Department of Education to come to CB12 to present and justify ten-year projection of 25% decrease.

Rafael Escano: What is connection of political situation in Dominican Republic to immigration here?

A: Historically when there are natural or political disasters in Dominican Republic, immigration from there to here increases.

Edith Prentiss, Resident: Worsening situation of sidewalks on St. Nicholas Avenue from vendors. DOT not complying with ADA requirements for grade on ramp at 191st Street Tunnel street. There were some discussions as to strategies to resolve. Jim Berlin invited Ms. Prentiss to the next Traffic & Transportation Committee. Martin Collins noted that the Department of Consumer Affairs has been doing education & enforcement, but despite fines and summonses, this is insufficient. Must legislate increased fines to really discourage the illegal behavior.

Michael Alvarez, Regional Librarian, New York Public Library: Good news: three branches have been wired for wireless. Have asked for donations for purchase of materials to help cover budget gaps. In last 2 weeks raised \$10K.

Homer Young-Kennedy III: How are we doing on hours?

A: Not sure; more budget cuts looming.

Leslie Foster, Isabella Geriatric Center: McFadden Scholarship applications are going out. Deadline 1/31/04. Awards of \$2500 each to be given at annual dinner on 5/13/04. Criteria are academic ability and significant public service. Councilman Robert Jackson to Chair; Jim Berlin and Emilia Cardona and a representative of Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI) to sit on committee also. Scholarships limited to those who live in Washington Heights or Inwood AND who attend school in Washington Heights and Inwood, not to those who live in the community but attend school in another district.

Mary McCune, Local Parent: Spoke in support of Youth & Education Committee resolution to keep PS/IS 176 a district-wide school of choice, as opposed to a zoned school. Spoke about unique qualities of the school and of the Amistad dual-language program, which her child attends.

Captain Jason Wilcox, 33rd Precinct, NYPD: Spoke regarding Holiday safety and crime prevention. Gave many useful practical tips to deny opportunities for thieves and con artists. Discussion followed regarding public safety in subways.

Detective Billy Hughes, 34th Precinct Community Affairs, NYPD: Echoed the Captain's comments; also spoke about identity theft.

Public Officials

Miguelina Zorilla of Councilman Miguel Martinez's Office wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and announced or noted the following:

- Thanks for the efforts by Elevate the Heights
- Working on traffic issues on West 181st Street
- Port Authority of NYNJ planting trees on W. 179th & Audubon, and adjacent streets

Carlos Rodriguez of Manhattan Borough President's Office:

- Commended CB12 on Arts Stroll; it is great to showcase the best of the community.
- Thanked CB12 members who attended the Gregorio Luperón Task Force meeting, and gave an update.
- Opposes Chancellor Joel Klein's proposed capital budget, which is ridiculous and scary
- Please attend rally on 12/6 at 12:30pm regarding elevator cuts.
- Tree lighting ceremony 12/09 at Broadway & W. 157th St.

Resolutions

Economic Development Committee, Martin Collins, Chair: working on setting a meeting date to discuss traffic congestion on West 181st Street. Thanks to all who worked to make the Uptown Arts Stroll a success, especially Mike Fitelson, Homer Young-Kennedy III, Rosa Naparstek of Artists Unite. Resolution re: enclosed sidewalk café Javier & David Restaurant (d/b/a Caridad Restaurant) at 1618 St. Nicholas Ave. at West 191st Street.

Aidee Camacho: resolution does not address heavy pedestrian flow from train station, especially given the current issues with garbage and bicycles; also problems with loitering next to business; finally, concerned with precedent of enclosed sidewalk café and sidewalk congestion.

A: Working with 34th Precinct, which is aware of the issue of drug dealing there; enforcement is ongoing. Should not prejudice the board with respect to applicant. Precedential value of this resolution is not an issue. Moreover enclosure should increase safety and mitigate garbage.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter made an amendment regarding bicycle storage, which was accepted as friendly.

Jim Berlin: We should not be giving away our sidewalks to stores & restaurants.

Luis Facundo: the resolution passed through the committee, where it was discussed; can we end debate here?

Socrates Solano called the question; seconded by Emilia Cardona. Motion did not carry (15-15-0-0).

Rafael Escano: Has garbage issue really been resolved? Adopt-a-basket would not be sufficient.

Maria Luna: Are the bicycles in question delivery bicycles?

A: Yes; there are three bicycles on rack on south side 191st, which doesn't interfere with pedestrian traffic.

Leslie Foster: In favor of the resolution. This is not an issue for or problem for Isabella.

A: This owner has reached out to the 34th Precinct with regards to criminal activities.

Facundo: Does owner have responsibility for quality of life or should this issue be directed to another committee?

A: Yes, all of these issues have been addressed. This is a responsible business.

Dago Suarez: Important discussion, but this owner has shown a willingness to work with the community and the precinct, and he is hearing community concerns. Supports the resolution.

Helen Morik: Agrees with Dago, give applicant benefit of the doubt. The approval is temporary, only for one year.

Steve Simon: Has proprietor made commitment re: bicycle storage? A: Yes.

Raphael Escano: Supports this resolution on behalf of community residents.

Socrates Solano: There will be less garbage with enclosed café.

Milagros Vicente: Happy that ADA included in resolution, but are there additional impediments? A: No.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter called the question; Jim Berlin seconded; no objection. Resolution passed 25-4-1-0.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, Emilia Cardona, Chair: Presented resolution re: Public Art Installation. Accepted two editorial changes as friendly amendments. Resolution passed unanimously, 28 votes with one not voting.

Youth & Education Committee, Sandra Wachspress, Chair: Presented two resolutions re: PS / IS 176 as district-wide school of choice and New Site for Gregorio Luperón HS. Accepted friendly amendments to both to clarify wording. PS / IS 176 reso passed unanimously with 30 votes; Gregorio Luperón reso passed 29-0-1-0.

Public Safety Committee, Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair: Presented resolution re: Gun Control. Luna: Do any Board Members have carry permits? A: Yes. Resolution passed unanimously (30 votes). Dr. North noted that Public Safety Committee attended a gang awareness seminar. Proposed a gang awareness conference in Spring of 2004. Chair recognized efforts of Ms. Cardona in this regard.

Executive Committee: Resolution to remove Juan Sanchez from the board. In response to a question from Facundo, Simon noted that Mr. Sanchez can resign prior to the Manhattan Borough President taking action on our resolution, if passed. Resolution passed 29 -1-0-0.

Committee Reports: Simon reported that the Housing Committee is compiling a survey of vacant lots and abandoned buildings, and asked people to call info to Board office. Wayne Benjamin encouraged attendance at the Land Use Committee meeting on 12/3 and the public hearing on 12/10 regarding Audubon IV project.

Announcements: Luna announced a non-religious "Unity Tree Lighting" 12/9 @ 7pm @ Ilka Tanya Payan Park on 157th Street & Broadway. Please bring ornaments to hang on trees.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter.

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – November 3, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Beatrice Hall, Chair	Julio Rodriguez	Kotie Cannon
Steve Simon	Renato Mena	
Barbara Smith Ramos		
Mireya Cruz		
Jacqueline Aristy		

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Yvonne Stennet, Executive Director-Community League of The Heights, Carla Redix, Resident, Carlos Rodriguez-Manhattan Borough President's Office, Kristen Simpson-Dept. of Homeless Services, Ije Ude, Liaison-Generation Five

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The meeting was called to order at 7:17pm by Beatrice Hall, Chairperson. The chair introduced the committee and invited guests

Ije Ude, made a presentation on behalf Generation Five. Generation Five is a national organization committed to ending child sexual abuse. The organization is attempting to build a movement through local organizing and building relationships with community groups and agencies.

Generation Five is looking for individuals (that are interested in creating solutions to end child sexual abuse) to apply for their Community Response Project. The training sessions are divided into 7 weekends (over 11 months). Individuals or groups that completes the training and wishes to start a program will be given a grant of \$2000.00 dollars. The tentative application deadline is December 15, 2003. The NYC Community Response Project will be launched in February 2004.

KRISTEN SIMPSON, from the department of Homeless Services (DHS) stated that they would be conducting another survey of the Homeless Population on 2/23/2004. The survey will be done in the following Boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

DHS is asking the Community Board for help in recruiting volunteers and identifying high density areas in CB12.

The main objective is to obtain a better estimate of people that are unsheltered and living in the streets and other public spaces. The data will be use to create future policy changes.

UPDATE NEP-ROUND VI: The chair attended the West Harlem Task Force on 10/22/2003, and Wendell Walters reported that E. T. Management Company Inc. (Jose Espinal) had been rewarded the contract for the 14 NEP buildings in CB12.

Wendell Walters said that the first notice will be sent out to the tenants around the first of December and the 120 days would starts at that time. Tenants will be sent three letters during this process (certified). This whole process is projected to take 2-3 years to complete. Wendell Walters will be attending the December meeting to provide any addition information that the Committee or Community may require.

Steve Simon: Has begun a campaign to get rid of all vacant Lots and vacant buildings in CB12. He has compiled a list that will be sent out to all Board members asking for their help in identifying other vacant lots & vacant buildings. The committee would like to forward the list to Michelle Macklin, (HPD anti-abandonment unit).

As promised City Council legislation was presented (Int. No 196) and a resolution will be drafted for the December meeting. The resolution will be in support amending the rent stabilization law to provide for the streamlining of the rent regulation system, establishment of rent guidelines and to bar certain rent adjustments.

Yvonne Stennett, Executive Director, Community League of The Heights (CLOTH) provided a list of all of CLOTH completed projects as well as the ones that are currently being rehab. The list also gave an update on the 203k properties. HUD still has not completed foreclosure on the five remaining 203k buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Beatrice Hall

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 5, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair
Bienvenido Toribio, Assistant Chair
Mason Almeida
Kotie Cannon
Joyce F. Holland

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil R. Dodson (excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Miguel A. Reyes, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Janet Tejeda, Resident- Chris Min, Presby Kids Daycare- Barbara Grajewski, Resident.

Meeting convened 6:45

Opening Remarks: Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair

Monthly Report from local precincts:

33rd Capt Wilcox:

Increase in reports of rape in N. Manhattan. Many are domestic and statutory rape situations.

Increase in Dodge Caravans stolen (years 88-93)

PN Q: Are there complaints related to Mans shelter?

CW A: Yes. University and residents. Wilcox spoke formally to the residents this morning.

Ben T: Suggests meeting to get better traffic safety on Haven Ave

Public: Suggests resolution on noise levels and disorderly conduct in bars/clubs

Joyce: Mentioned problem of Limo drivers congregating and drinking near Bway and 162.

CERT/ Training and additional grant from Citizens for NYC

PN: All groups participating in CERT will receive additional \$500 for costs and expenses in addition to the \$500 already allotted from OEM. We need to brainstorm on what to use the money for. It's not enough to buy sophisticated supplies (i.e. radios, defibrillators, etc.) Need to have further discussion after completing more of the course and having a better understanding of what we might want/need.

Meeting with Project Renewal

Pam and Ben attended meeting with Dept of homeless svsc.

Both expressed concern of situation and volatility of patients.

R Santos: Suggests referring to minutes from 94/95 (when shelter was approved) to check and see what class of homelessness it was approved to shelter.

Steve Simon: Wants status report that is sent from shelter to city to come to board every month. Wants to bring issue to housing committee's attention too.

PN: Summary (look at minutes, look at monthly reports and population numbers, bring to Housing Committee)

Schneiderman Resolution

New bill to enforce stricter gun control standards was discussed and we decided to draft a resolution. Steve provided us with a summary of the problem and explained legalities in the case law. Steve will help Manson Draft resolution and will try to have ready for Nov. general meeting.

Next Meeting:

Need to talk about: Cert, CBNY Grant

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Mason Almeida

- Addresses the issue of shortage of traffic officers – 10 staffed at precinct I past 2 months over 50 summons have been issue due to making (Left) on Henshaw and coming off Riverside Drive (L) on Henshaw is not an illegal turn; however, it raises concerns on @ traffic having the right away.

The floor was open for discussion

Bike path alternatives are available , 2 are being examined.

Question: a traffic signal at Henshaw Study going on will tell us results.

Ms. Louise Fincher, Resident proposed changing name of W. 155th Street & Amsterdam Avenue to Rev. Japer Simmons Way. Pastor is still alive. Based on information from City rule, Committee to research whether it is legal, if so they will proceed.

Tom Buffolano and Christian Mariano of The Armory Foundation request directional signs forth to guide people to National Track & Field Hall of Fame. J. Berlin proposed resolution all agree no objection

This resolution was approved by the following votes:

Committee Members:	5 In Favor	0 Opposed
Board Members:	1 In Favor	0 Opposed
Members of the Public:	10 In Favor	0 Opposed

John Kinney brings up subject of bus shelter at Armory. A. Barberis wants to study four bus locations of bus stops.

J. Berlin spoke to the W. 220th Street & Broadway intersection car wash. Walkthrough with Ms. Feliciano on Tuesday to address issue.

A. Camacho commented that the Bus Line 101 Limited Service stopped and no limited service above W. 125th Street & Amsterdam.

B. J. Berlin proposes letter to MTA. J. Kinney buses coming to 2182 Broadway, bus turnover – change drivers, interrupts service.

Meeting Adjourned 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted by: Aidee Camacho

LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 10, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Peter Ferrara
Walther G. Delgado
Julio Rodriguez
Jay Mazur

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Nelson Castro
Martin Collins (excused)
Rose Santo (excused)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Abby Belkin (absent)

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

Guests

Ethel Sheffer, Columbia University, Emily Sharrouk, Brian Egan, Student's-Columbia University, John Horan, Proprietor, Carlos Lopez

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm

1. The minutes of the October 1, 2003 Land Use Committee were approved as modified (correction of a typo in item 2). Vote: or - 6, Opposed-0, Abstaining-0
2. John Horan and Carlos (Lopez) made a presentation concerning the proposed development of a Chucky Cheese-type restaurant at 599 West 207th Street (location of a former Bravo Supermarket). Mr. Horan is the proprietor of the Hopping Jalapeno, which is adjacent to 599 West 207th Street. The lease on the Hopping Jalapeno may be bought-out and the space it occupies included in the proposed project. It is estimated that the total size of the proposed project will be approximately 8,000 S.F. Mr. Horan and Mr. Lopez have been notified by the Department of Buildings that the proposed project is not permitted under current zoning and are therefore seeking a zoning variance. The Committee advised Mr. Horan and Mr. Lopez that they will likely need to file an application with the Board of Standards and Appeals and requested that they attend the December Land Use meeting to present more detailed information, e.g.: architectural floor plans, etc. on the proposed project.
3. Ethel Sheffer and two graduate students from the Community Planning class (12 students) she is teaching at Columbia University made a presentation pertaining to CB12's Audubon Avenue Study. The class toured a portion of the study area - from 168th Street to 182nd Street - with Committee members Wayne Benjamin and Martin Collins on October 16th and has reviewed materials on the area provided by the Department of City Planning. Based on the tour and the materials reviewed, Ms. Sheffer and the planning students proposed two areas where they might be of assistance to the Committee with regard to the study: 1) Obtain community input via "community visioning sessions," i.e.: solicit input on the experience and desires of residents on what Audubon Avenue is and can be with respect to ground floor uses; and 2) Use the data provided by City Planning to document and update existing conditions in the study area. After a general discussion of some of the Committee's objectives with regard to the Audubon Avenue Study, i.e. illegal conversions, public health and safety of building residents, traffic issues - flow, congestion and deliveries, physical condition of buildings (deferred maintenance and distressed systems), livability, etc. it was concluded that, given the time remaining in the school semester, the

documentation and updating of existing conditions would be best use of the student's time and a good first step in further educating the Committee and the Board on the study area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne A. Benjamin.

YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Wachspress, Chair
Milagros Vicente
Mark Levine
Emilia Cardona
Maria Luna

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kotie Cannon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Cleofis C. Sarete, Assistant Chair
Jose Lopez
Elouise Whitehurst

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Rodriguez
Michael Alvarez

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

GUESTS

Vicente S. Villalba, Community Outreach & Community Based Organization Coordinator, Region 10, NYC Department of Education, Carmen Abreu, Minerva Diaz, Anis Slor, Juan Villar, Principal, Kenyi Ogando, Palema J. Velez, Diana Guartatanga, Sarai Perez, Edgar Alor, Gregorio Luperon HS, Nestor Montilla and David Crook, CUNY Central Office, Mary McCune, Amistad Dual Language Academy, Nydia Ithier, Carmen Nieves, ACS, Tina Marshall, John Zamerchik, Residents.

Meeting convened at 7:30pm

Opening Remarks: Sandra Wachspress, Chair

Introduction of Community Board 12, Members and guests.

PRESENTATIONS:

2 Students of the school paper, 2 from the Student Government and parents of Gregorio Luperon High School. Juan Villar will give handout about the Luperon High School issue.

Palema – Yokaira Students, Gregorio Luperon High School: Came to the United States two years ago, and did not speak in English. Now, they are very fluent speaking English. They have anti-violence programs. They participate in the school newspaper. Yet, there are certain issues in their school that concerns them:

- Limited windows in the building – 4 in total
- Overcrowded
- No science labs
- No Air Conditioning
- 1 Exit
- Overcrowded during lunch time
- When a recent fire occurred, they did not exit in an appropriate time.
- 5th & 6th floors were used by the CSEC. Currently the 5th & 6th floor is not occupied and is in the Department of Education's plan for renovations and use for the school.

Both students expressed how wonderful the school is. Despite their current issues the school remains in the top ten out of 200 schools.

Question: Liberty School 3 was a temporary school for only 2 years. Students were scheduled to graduate at a permanent school.

2 years ago the Board of education eliminated the Liberty Program. Therefore, Luperon has become a 4-year high school.

Emilia Cardona: Then Luperon should get a building.

Juan Villar: He refers to a number of students per classrooms. This will give us the info needed about student class ratio. 0.407 students truant.

Petition will begin to pass throughout the community

Provided statement that the Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields fights with Bloomberg's Capital Budget for Manhattan Schools. She will fight for a new space for Gregorio Luperon HS.

Emilia Cardona: Bishop Dubois, committee has asked the city for it to be refurbished. This school used to be a high school and should fight for it to be a Luperon High School.

Ms. Fields doesn't want an increase of student population but an appropriate school and space. She will create a Gregorio Luperon Task Force. Suggestions for new sites were the Bishop Dubois building and the Edgecombe Correctional Facility.

Carmen Abreu, Parent: Has a daughter in Gregorio Luperon High School. She wants her daughter to remain in Gregorio Luperon and wants the Community Board to continue working in getting new space.

Mark Levine: Has Lucille Swarns visited the high school.

Juan Villar: No.

Kenyi Ogando: Parent Coordinator of Gregorio Luperon will leave petition (347) 563-5173 please call when petition is completed.

Milagros Vicente: Is Luperon under District 79

Juan Villar: Luperon is no longer in District 79 but under Region 10.

Lydia Ithier, Administration for Children Services (ACS):

Spoke about Abuse & Neglect programs created because of the death of a little girl Liza Isquerido. Former NYC Mayor Guillian took ACS (former BCW) away from HRA.

ACS (neighborhood based services) bring service to the community. Will provide the child with the same community service, by placing them within the same community.

Regular foster care

Kinship foster care

Preventive service

Lydia is available for community presentation at any community-based organization. In her 24 years ACS has never provided preventive service to educate the community. Currently they provide presentation.

Preventive services are provided to individuals who go to the agencies listed in ACS books, without guidelines. ACS workers are sent out when the Hot-line call is made and by volunteer placement.

David Crook, CUNY, NYU Center Research: Study re: Educational needs of Upper Manhattan. Working to make higher education more accessible to upper Manhattan residents.

Plan: Community outreach, focus groups

Mary McCune, PS/IS 176: Amistad Dual Language Academy is no longer a school of choice. Fighting the district to remain a school of choice instead of a zoned school. The school has always been a choice school since 1996. She gave the board a resolution for support. It passed at committee level.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Milagros Vicente

**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenda Swanson Massa, Chair
Gloria Vanterpool
Leslie Foster

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Msgr Gerald Walsh (excused)
Nelson Rojas

PUBLIC MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Collins

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

GUESTS

Michael & Ethel L. Stoll-Residents, Rose Mary Cortez-Health Outreach, Nora Negrón-ARC, Ft. Washington, Mary E. Jones Springer-Resident, Norma De Candido-Resident, Stephanie L. Harris, NYC Parks & Rec-J. Hood Wright, Khelva Ruiz-Student, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, Fern Hertzberg-ARC XVI, Ft. Washington, Marilyn Pacheco, Outreach Coordinator-Isabella, Rebecca Carel, FWHSE, James Renner, Historian, John Kinney-Inwood Patrol, Det. Billy Hughes, Ceceil Levinson, Resident, Zhamme Babayne, Washington Heights "Y"

Meeting convened at 10:15am by Glenda Swanson-Massa, chair, welcomed the committee members and guests.

It was announced that the scheduled speaker to report on "Identity Theft" cancelled.

Becky Carel, 99 Ft. Washington Housing Senior Center and Martin Collins, Chair-Economic Development of Community Board 12M. spoke briefly regarding the proposed budget cuts by the Department for the Aging on Homebound Meals.

Announcements

NOMME Program (Needs Of the Marginally Middleclass Elderly) representative of (YM&YWHA of Inwood) will be asked to present at the January 13th Aging Committee.

Introduction from Marilyn Pacheco-Outreach Coordinator, Isabella Resource Center, discussed new program.

Discussion regarding the Elevator Protest Rally (distribution of flyers W. 168th St. subway station), proposed location Milstein Pavilion on November 24th at 7pm. **NOTE:** site locations subject to change.

Chairperson Swanson-Massa announced that Norma De Candido and Edith Prentiss be assigned as Public Members to the Aging Committee and Ms. Gloria Vanterpool be assigned as Assistant Chair.

It was reported that a free bus trip to Washington for Medicare Protest on November 16, 2003, further information to be announced.

The final Budget Priorities Rankings for 2004-2005 were reported as follows:

- Capital #5 item to Fund renovation to expand and improve physical structure of senior centers.
- Expense #4 item Substantially increase funding of transportation services for the elderly of Washington Hts./Inwood.

Debra, and Rebecca Carel shared their input on the proposed budget cuts affecting the Aging population, proposal to take Bronx program and to reduce to 7 vendors.

Martin Collins suggested solutions regarding the proposed cuts in vendor services for Homebound Meals.

It was agreed that the group move quickly and develop a resolution to oppose the proposal submitted by the Dept. for the Aging. Board members, along with the group (total 22) unanimously agreed. Fern Hertzberg, Rebecca Carel and Martin Collins will develop a written, statement for submission.

The voting was as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Committee Members	3	0	0
Board Members	1	0	0
Public Members	1	0	0
Members of the Public	17	0	0

Martin Collins provided details on the Uptown Arts Stroll Displays for November 23 from 12noon to 7pm, all encouraged to participate.

Meeting adjourned 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Vanterpool

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 3, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Aidee Camacho, Asst. chair
Dago Suarez
James Berlin
Anita Barberis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyce F. Holland
Kirk Miller, Chair
Walther G. Delgado

CB MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bienvenido Toribio
Jay Mazur

Deorah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Jenny Torres, Liaison -Dept of Transportation, John Kinney-Inwood Patrol, Frank Andrews – Resident, Nora Jupiter, Stephanie Mueller, Susan Hill-Friends of the Steps, Jeff William, Resident, Mike Fitelson - Manhattan Times, Chris Min-Presby Kids Daycare, Debra Klaber, Mary McCune, Jay May, Kristen Simpson

Opening remarks Aidee Camacho, Assistant Chair, at 7:15PM

- Introduced the resolution concerning the elimination of 22 subway elevator positions, which passed the full board at our October meeting. Jim Berlin shared the background that generated this resolution. These operators are on disability. Most of CB #12's subway stations require elevator service to access them. If these elevators are not manned, we clearly face a safety problem and well as destruction of property.
- Representatives of the step-street at 187th that connects Ft. Washington Ave. and Overlook Terrace presented their case to the Committee. Nora Jupiter explained that a group of concerned neighbors called "Friends of 187th Step-street" have committed to refurbish and maintain these steps for the betterment of the community. They are reaching out to insure that the steps are cleaned regularly, free of graffiti, have operative lights, structurally safe and beautified with plantings. Stephanie Mueller spoke about the cleanliness of steps, which is a DOS responsibility. Presently, there is arbitrary cleaning by DOS and this group would like to schedule community cleaning around that done by DOS and therefore needs a schedule. Susan Hill wants to legally define this group and would like help from CB#12. Discussion ensued as to the status of this group, i.e. not-for-profit 501C. A representative from DOT offered to review the site with reference to the streetlights and get back to them. With reference to DOS, it was suggested that the group attend the Environmental Committee for input.
- The request to add the name "Jasper Simmons Way" to W. 155th St. & Amsterdam is not viable, as the individual is still alive. However there was no representative attending the meeting.
- As there was no representative from the Mobile Crisis Service, Homeless Outreach Program & Elderly Program of New York Presbyterian Hospital to present their case for parking spaces, the matter was tabled.
- A listing of all bus shelters within our community was offered by DOT so that we may select some for benches. We decided there was no need at this time to request any more than the existing five. If members of the community want to recommend certain bus shelters for benches, we will consider their requests.

- The shuttle service of the M-3 bus at 191st subway station (which is closed until December while the elevators are rehabbed) is a disaster. A letter has been drafted concerning this lack of adequate bus service and will be going to Lawrence Reuter and Adrienne Taub of MTA. A senior citizen relayed his concern about this matter to the Committee. More publicity about the situation can be viewed on TV as David Diaz was taping something for the evening news. Also, there will be a meeting at 7PM at Holy Rood.
- Dago Suarez relayed the results of a DOT study to put a traffic signal at Staff & Henshaw. It has been approved and will be installed by February 2004.
- Approved the Minutes of our October meeting.
- Announcement of a tour on Friday, November 7 at 12:30PM, reviewing the existing bus shuttle service across the Williamsburg Bridge as a viable plan for the Bronx buses crossing W. 181st Bridge.

Meeting adjourned 8:45PM