

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 24, 2000**

**Members Present**

Anita Barberis	Leslie Foster	Isidoro Martínez	Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Rafael Beaumont	William A. García	Miguel Martínez	Julissa Reynoso
Abby Belkin	Beatrice Hall	Manuel J. Méndez	Steven Rizick
James Berlin	Herbert Harwitt	Luís H. Minier	María Sierra
Ronald J. Botelho	Soledad Hiciano	Helen Morik	Barbara Smith Ramos
Emilia G. Cardona	Joyce F. Holland	Norma Nadien	Sandra Wachspress
A. Fredericka Cuenca	Robert C. Liebeskind	Marcos Navarro	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Walther G. Delgado	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Julio Peguero	Elouise Whitehurst
Jack Fogle	María Luna		

**Members Absent**

Laurie T. Cohen	Zead Ramadan (excused)	Cheryl Tidwell
Sybil R. Dodson (excused)	Bertie Ray, III	Ricardo Ureña
Víctor Morisete-Romero (excused)	Nelson Rójas (excused)	Juan Villar
William C. Ortega	George Sánchez (excused)	
Martha Pepín (excused)	Laura Sterling	

**Public Officials, Ex-officio Members and Guests**

Rafael Alvarez, for Council Member Linares	Eileen Sweeney, for Assemblyman Farrell
Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields	District Manager Gregoria Feliciano

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The General Meeting of October 2000 was held at the auditorium of Columbia University on W. 168<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Chair's Report – William A. García**

Reported on the issues surrounding a proposed halfway house by a contractor of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Noted that CB 12 was not consulted. The location, 556 W. 182 Street, is problematic due to its proximity to schools and residential housing. The proposal was discussed and members suggested actions for CB 12 to consider.

**Community Board 12 was called to order at 7:35 p.m. to begin its Regular Session.** The agenda was approved with a minor change re a resolution to form a task force on the hospital's development project. The adoption of the minutes of September 26, 2000 was held over to the next meeting pending revisions requested by Ronald J. Botelho.

**District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano**

Highlighted items included in her written report to the board. Meetings attended include the landlord's task force, the city's plans to regulate public phones, and the community jobs tasks force convened by NY Presbyterian Hospital. Compiled and ranked members' budget priorities and will be forwarding the District Statement of Needs to City Planning. Working with DEP and NYPD on noise abatement. Will be gathering information on repeat violators of sidewalk obstruction rules.

Board office has surveyed local schools to get status of traffic signage. Board employee, Danny Ramos, will return to work following the birth of his new son. Port Authority Police at the GW Bridge has a new commander. Film production will be taking place at Ft. Washington and W. 181 St.

### **Public Session**

#### **Lt. James Griffin**

Heads Special Operations of the 34<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct. The precinct is leading all others in Northern Manhattan in crime reduction. Addressing the problem of excessive noise and bicycles on sidewalk. In response to questions, noted that the precinct is working with Yonkers police to curb the problem of drag racing on HH Parkway; seizing milk boxes to eliminate loitering in front of stores and corners; and issuing summonses for repairing cars on streets. Supports a quiet zone to further reduce problems behind GW High School. Problems should be called in to him at 927-1484.

#### **Fernando Fernández**

Represents Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. Announced a new award for \$1.8 million for a project at the armory. The project will create 51 jobs.

#### **Byron Schuler**

Represents District Council of Carpenters. Noted the problem of cars towed due to a PAL play street. No signs exist to alert car owners. Asked the board to address this problem.

#### **Eileen Sweeney**

Represents Assemblyman Farrell. Described efforts to respond to constituents' complaints about dumpsters/containers in sidewalks, which led to the resolution being considered tonight.

#### **Bob Isaac**

Community resident. Noted the Dyckman and McFadden scholarships that are available to youth in the community.

#### **Luis Hernández**

Community resident. Noted the increasing problem of harassment of long-time tenants by landlords. Voter registration is needed to address this issue and literature on tenants' rights should be widely distributed. Mr. Hernandez was invited to bring these concerns to the next Housing Committee meeting.

#### **Ramón Hierro**

Paraprofessional at PS 89, which shares building with IS 90. Noted the problem of parking for teachers and school personnel. Wants signs that allow Board of Education parking, and a street cleaning schedule that does not conflict with teaching hours.

#### **Marianna DePaola**

Community observer. Concerned that the MTA's counting of subway riders at the 190 St. IRT will lead to reduction of token booth hours. Domino games at 480 Audubon Ave. go on to late hours. Supports a quiet zone around Isabella Geriatric Center.

#### Joel Yoffie

Community resident. Described a TV news story regarding conditions at IS 90. The school is not operating. Called on CB 12, School Board 6 and elected officials to take responsibility for the situation, and for the community to take action.

#### José Jimenez

Resident of Inwood. Noted the community's diversity and inclusiveness and the need for new programs in the schools and the community.

#### Rafael Escaño

Area resident. His concerns led him to conduct a census of commercial dumpsters in the community, which confirmed the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Escaño for helping substantiate the conditions caused by dumpsters.

### **Public Officials Report**

#### Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President C. Virginia Fields

Provided a written report. Highlighted the problem of expending funds for supplies by local schools, and urged support for the transportation proposal in the upcoming election.

#### Rafael Alvarez, for Council Member Guillermo Linares

Sponsoring college fair with CUNY at GW High School; event honoring NY District Attorney Morgenthau; updated the developments taking place regarding the proposed halfway house. Urged board members to write to the Federal Bureau of Prisons about the problems of the proposed location.

Members noted that reports by representatives of public officials should follow the order of the agenda.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Health and Environment – Luis H. Minier, Chair

Introduced the Committee's resolution approving the implementation of Operation Dumpster in CB 12. The Sanitation Dept. is concerned with the provision to discontinue the program without an adequate evaluation period. Nicholas D. Lifieri of the NYC Sanitation Police discussed the implementation timeline and the experience of other community boards that have adopted the program. Members raised several points of concern including the economic impact on small businesses, the need to clarify the resolution's language regarding the Sanitation Dept.'s implementation plan, enforcement of the current law regarding dumpsters, illegal dumping, the benefit to public health and the increased cost of private sanitation for local businesses.

Mr. Garcia observed that an ideal example for the community exists in the block on W. 169 St., which was recently improved through the efforts of merchants, property owners, city agencies and a local development organization. **With minor modifications, the resolution (by roll call) was approved by a vote of 32 in favor, without opposition or abstentions.**

Executive Committee – William A. García, Chair

Introduced and provided background on the proposed resolution to create a CB 12 Task Force to handle the multiple issues and hearings involved with the NY Presbyterian Hospital's development plans. **The resolution as presented was approved by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 not voting.**

**Chair William García appointed a Nominating Committee composed of the following members:** Ronald J. Botelho, Manuel J. Méndez, María Sierra, Beatrice Hall, Isidoro Martinez, and Robert C. Liebeskind. Mr. García asked the appointees to review the pertinent sections of the bylaws and he will discuss with them the selection of a committee chair.

New Business

**Steven Rizick motioned to send a letter to the Federal Bureau of Prisons outlining CB 12's concerns with the proposed halfway house. The motion was unanimously approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Walther G. Delgado  
Secretary