

**Community Board 12, Manhattan -- General Meeting Minutes
10/27/05 (Hammer Health Sciences Building)**

Members Present

Dora Maria Abreu
Jackie Rowe Adams
Anita Barberis
Raquel Batista
Wayne Benjamin
James Berlin
Aidee Camacho
Kotie Cannon
Martin Collins

Adam Eggers
Obed Fulcar
Julissa Gomez
Fern Hertzberg
Eduardo Hoepelman
Albania Jimenez
Shirley Joyner
Mark Levine
Jose Lopez

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Glenda Swanson Massa
Jay D. Mazur
Renato Mena
Pamela Palanque-North
Angelo Ortiz
Zead Ramadan
Julio Rodriguez
Nelson Rojas

Joseph Sanchez
Cleofis Sarete
Aaron Scott
Steve Simon
Bracha Statman
Manny Velazquez
Milagros Vicente
Janifer Wilson

Members Excused

Sybil Dodson-Lucas
Beatrice Hall
Maria Luna
Helen Morik
Julio Peguero
Gloria Vanterpool

Members Absent

Emilia G. Cardona
Leslie Foster
Andre Harris
Joyce F. Holland
Barbara Smith Ramos

7:23 **Call to order & welcome** by the Chair, Martin Collins, who gave the following report:

- Thanked Rafael Beaumont for his years of service, and noted his resignation from CB12 due to work commitments.
- Thanks to the 27 members who attended last week's budget priority hearings; these rankings are the most important thing the Board does. Top five capital items were: a new school on Broadway near 204th Street; more day care centers; a new early childhood center and an additional high school; affordable housing; and, a full renovation of two branch libraries. The top five expense items were more police officers; after-school program funding; six-day library service; leased space for classrooms; and, more funding for transportation for the elderly.
- Harlem Community Development Corp. approved \$37,000 grant for district-wide planning study; applause for Wayne Benjamin's efforts on this.
- Noted 10/19 forum on neighborhood crime sponsored by Senator Schneiderman. Applaud both 33rd & 34th precincts for their work, but we have seen a spike in QOL and other crimes, and people are concerned. We need more cops. The 50th & 24th Precincts got more cops, why not us?!
- Met with Councilmember Martinez to discuss Sherman Creek: we must press for housing, business development, parks, waterfront access in any ULURP. Next interagency task force meeting is tomorrow.
- Met with Joe McNearney of Councilmember Jackson's office to discuss City Council Intro #727-A on minority business contracts. Asked the Economic Development Committee to take up this matter at its next meeting.
- Praised the Traffic & Transportation and Economic Development Committees for their work on a joint resolution, noting that each committee worked on its respective issues with vigor: Economic Development Committee, jobs; and Traffic & Transportation Committee, traffic issues.
- Board members who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should please volunteer. Bea Hall is willing to serve as Chair.

7:30 Jim Berlin raised a procedural issue. Committee members and public members all get to vote at committee meetings, but public members' votes do not count in passing something. Committee members get to vote, but if a person is a member of both committees, his/her vote only counts once at a joint committee meeting (1 person, 1 vote). Additionally, an abstention essentially counts as a "no" vote, because it is not a vote in favor: in order to pass, a proposal must receive a "yes" vote from a majority of those voting. .

7:40 **Mark Levine, DM Search Committee Chair.** Reviewing applications (43 so far) in the coming weeks; anticipates presenting candidates 11/21.

7:41 Elizabeth Lorris Ritter made brief remarks of thanks regarding members' accuracy in completing budget priority ranking forms.

7:42 **Deborah Blow, District Service Cabinet report:**

- Working with local stores to curtail the sale of eggs, shaving cream etc. to young people on (or immediately prior to) Halloween. Also noted that Halloween is a "high-truancy alert" day; it is a regular school day, and any children out of school will be picked up by truancy officers
- Drowning victim's body found north of W 181st Street from boating accident on 10/24.
- Announced upcoming flu free shots to the public; more info: 212-788-4735 or www.nyc.gov/health.
- Gave update on 10th Avenue reconstruction project.

7:51 The following people have volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee: Anita Barberis, Kotie Cannon, Aaron Scott, Manny Velazquez, Julissa Gomez, Glenda Swanson-Massa, with Bea Hall as Chair. Thanks to all for volunteering.

7:52 Quorum finally having been achieved during Ms. Blow's report, there was a **motion to adopt the agenda** by Kotie Cannon, which was seconded by Dora Maria Abreu, and passed without objection or discussion. There immediately followed a **motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting** by Aidee Camacho, which was seconded by Jim Berlin, and passed with a correction.

7:55 **Public Speakers' Session**

Daniel Ordoñez, Discovery Transportation: We have a business plan. The market we intend to conquer focuses mainly on corporate accounts – no base can derive its main income from the taxi-base fee. The proposed location will only be an office, not a social club or place to hang out. The first issue, which is traffic and parking, is solved by having signed a contract with adjacent parking lot which is providing us with 60 parking spaces for any drivers who have to stop by the base. Also establishing a liaison to work on any issues/complaints that may arise. Also require all drivers to pay their monthly fees through a debit or credit card; this dramatically will reduce the traffic to the base. Finally, this is a serious business, with a plan; we are not improvising. Q: Steve Simon: have you seen Councilmember Martinez's letter? No. Zead Ramadan: is it a livery or black car service? A: Livery. Pam Palanque North: how many cars? A: initially 50; as outlined in the business plan we foresee growth to 120 cars. Ms. Camacho: what is difference between livery and black-car. A: Black car does contract work with businesses. Livery does private use, usually short distance/low-pay jobs.

8:07 Juan Goris, Community Resident: tired of not being able to find parking. Traffic has increased incredibly due to all the liveries. Am opposed to the proposed taxi base station. Can't even park in local lots; has to park in the Bronx and take a cab home. Have lived in the neighborhood for thirteen years, and driven a taxi for four. I didn't hear about any of the new technology or services that the new company will offer.

Note: Fernando Mateo had been signed up to speak, but as he had not arrived, he missed his opportunity to speak.

8:12 Edwin Acosta, Community Resident: not a taxi driver or owner; no vested interest. Keep in mind that this is a business, and people have to make money. Not realistic to start a business with only 60 cars – he can't make money; so it must be that there will be more cars. Doesn't believe the claim about debit cards to pay monthly fees – if a driver wants to join that base, will he be refused if he wants to pay cash? I don't think so. Members of this new service have been expelled from existing bases. This is about the money, but we should focus on safety; this will not benefit our children and senior citizens. This is already a problem, and a new base will make it worse.

8:17 Wendy Gonzalez, Community Resident: against the Discovery base, for many of the reasons that we already heard: more double-parked cars, noise, negative impact on quality of life, pollution and fewer parking spaces. There are no compelling arguments in favor of the new base.

8:23 Jose Viloria, Secretary of the NYS Federation of Taxi Drivers: this community has been fighting to make sure that taxi drivers function in an orderly fashion. For years we have seen various bases make promises; in meetings such as this one we insist that bases grow with the community. Urged support for this base, which will improve the quality of service to the community.

8:30 Presentation of Dyckman scholars by Ross Frommer, Columbia University Deputy VP for Government & Community Relations, who spoke a few words of introduction of the Dyckman Scholarship – a scholarship to CU for students from WH/I – and this year's scholars: Arquenia Garcia (freshman) and Vera Tseylikman (sophomore) who spoke a few words, as well as Brenda Cepeda (Junior) and Katherine Paez (Senior) who were unable to attend. Mr. Collins presented them with certificates of recognition for their outstanding academic achievements.

8:41 Resumption of public session, with Carlos Adames, Community Resident: a taxi base is not an environmental problem, because it's just an office. This won't bring new drivers, because the drivers are already here. This is America; this is capitalism; this is freedom. The objection is coming from people who don't want competition. We have all the TLC, DOT and other permits. *[Ed. note: notwithstanding the speaker's comment, the TLC had not yet taken action on this application as of this meeting.]* We are going to bring solutions because we are going to control our drivers with technology and good management. Please make your decisions based on service and based on facts.

8:45 Julio Alvarez, United Drivers Group, and taxi driver for 12 years: we believe in liberty, and in our rights to opportunity. We must fight for a better future for ourselves. It is a shame that we have to come here divided to fight, when we could be united and fight for all of us together.

8:51 Vladimir Reynoso, Community Resident: spoke regarding the taxi base station resolution.

8:55 Joseph Beltrin, Community Resident: spoke regarding the taxi base station resolution.

8:58 Anthony Donovan, Community Resident: what are CB12 and the City doing to clear debris from Henry Hudson Parkway? It's been five months since the May 12th retaining wall collapse. Urged someone to get the property owner to remove the cars and re-open the parkway entrance. Mr. Collins gave a brief update.

9:02 Elizardo Mateo, driver with Seaman for 12 years: endorses the previous speakers. When First Class opened their doors at 211th Street, there were three existing bases. Their new cars motivated the other bases to get new cars, but the third closed its doors. So this new base is going to occupy that space. I have worked at various bases, including Seaman, the one operated by the father of a previous speaker, Ms. Gonzalez. I left, but never had any discipline problems. We have the right to the opportunity to operate.

9:07 Jose Cacaero, representing three other speakers from the same base (Julian Gonzalez, Victor Luciano and Orlando Rivera, two of whom spoke later in the Public Session). This new base will be offering services not offered by other companies, including ADA-accessible vehicles, 24-hour mechanics, tow trucks, etc. This is the United States, and we should be more united in our efforts. We are all Dominicans, all Americans, even those of other nationalities. We should be all Hispanics united.

9:10 Orlando Rivera, taxi driver: I was offended when my cousin, Ms. Gonzalez, said that all the drivers are rejected due to disciplinary action. We are in America, and we have our freedom. We will see who is lying and whose side God is on. We have Adriano on our side.

9:13 Alejandro Montesinos, Community Resident: spoke regarding the taxi base station resolution; it was not clear if he was for or against.

Point of Information from Adam Eggers: how many more speakers on this issue? A: Three on this issue; two on other issues. Aidee Camacho: while I respect people's freedom to speak and address this issue, we are volunteers; for the sake of brevity, can we please move the agenda?

9:17 Napoleon Cruz, Community Resident: spoke regarding the taxi base station resolution.

9:19 Julian Gonzalez, Community Resident: respects everyone's opinion whether you are for or against. Not an owner. Not against the opening, but we have to keep in mind that we all live here. To the people who have a vote, do we really need another taxi base?

9:21 Victor Luciano, Community Resident: all who come to the US have a dream to work for their betterment. We must allow new projects the opportunity to prosper.

9:24 George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue: while focusing on pedestrian issue, but what about the proliferation of liquor licenses? As far as Discovery goes, there is a "give" and "get": what do we get? We have to have mutual respect, we must give them a chance. Also voiced opposition to a new sidewalk cafe, Mamajuana, on Dyckman Street.

9:27 Lashanda Harris, Community Resident: against Mamajuana sidewalk café due to noise. I believe in entrepreneurship, but this is a bit much.

9:29 **Elected Officials & Their Representatives: NYS Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat**: Congratulations to Dyckman scholarship winners.

Cited local coverage in the New York Times: uncontrollable and steep rents that families are paying in apartments and the lack of jobs; and the struggle of our talented youth to make it in sports. Is having a forum about displacement in WH/I, and also will be having an event in January, denouncing derelict landlords; every month we will have a "hall of shame" against two landlords each month; asks board to please be part of this process. CB 12 must lead the fight on housing. Why does CB12 not rank housing highly? I came here with \$10 in my pocket, and now I'm a

- big-shot. Who are we to keep people from having the same opportunities I had? This situation could have been resolved if people had been willing to discuss this matter. Mr. Collins corrected the record regarding CB12's budget priorities, noting that affordable housing was ranked 4th.
- 9:35 **Lilliam Perez for NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman:** main issue our office has been dealing with in the last month has been crime. Spoke about successful forum last week, 10/19; we got a lot of good press coverage. In the interest of time, distributed report: we need to be a better job complaining, calling 311, 911, going to precincts., etc. There's no problem that can't be solved with good communication. Also spoke about the Rockefeller drug laws. Urged everyone to vote YES on Prop 2 on Election Day to help the state fund the MTA's capital program.
- 9:39 **Carlos Rodriguez for Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields:** echoed the Assemblymember's comments regarding economic development and the importance of dialogue. Taxi drivers are being harassed by the TLC, and we must protect their rights. Also spoke in support of Prop 2. Additionally echoed Ms. Perez' comments with regard to community/police relationships – we must work w/ the precincts in reporting crime and advocating for our community. Yes, we need more officers, but we need to make sure that we do not go back to the days of mutual police/public mistrust. Let's not wait for another bad incident.
- 9:46 **Rafael Escaño for Comptroller Bill Thompson:** Echoed comments of previous speakers.
- 9:47 **Annamaria Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff for NYC Councilmember Miguel Martinez:** Thanked everyone for their support, and invited all to a City Council meeting on 12/21. Spoke of new proposed legislation, Intro 558, which would require DOE to report actual levels of overcrowding in schools, and a resolution seeking to eliminate facility fees charged to after-school programs; these are big issues for this neighborhood. Announced upcoming Halloween events, including "safe streets/safe treats" this weekend. Would also like to correct the record regarding Councilmember Martinez's position on the taxi base: he supports economic development, but not at the expense of existing businesses. He originally supported the base, having been told it was a black car service, but does not support what now appears to be a for-hire service.
- 9:57 **Dave Hancock for NYC Councilmember Robert Jackson:** working to pass legislation to provide more contracts for women- and minority-owned small businesses. Anticipate passage on 11/16. Also has a list of legislation passed today, including those to make it easier for the elderly and disabled to get exemptions from rent increase.

9:54 Committee Reports:

Traffic & Transportation and Economic Development, Jay Mazur & Milagros Vicente, Chairs Jim made brief parliamentary introductions.

- In presenting a joint resolution with the granting of a license for an unenclosed sidewalk café at 247 Dyckman Street, Mamajuana Café.
Discussion: Steve Simon: has a problem w/ unenclosed café under two residential buildings with a total of 66 apartments. Thinks this is a good business, and should be applauded for developing an eyesore of vacant stores, but would rather support an enclosed café. Zead Ramadan: most unenclosed cafés are underneath residential buildings, and will add to overall safety – very little crime on blocks with unenclosed cafés, and all the best communities have them. We are a good community and we should have them, too. Mr. Collins: must be closed by 11pm; will not be open all night. These storefronts have been vacant for 3 years, and it is a drug magnet. This will clean up the block, and also bring jobs. Julissa Gomez: will they be looking to open cabaret license? A (from applicant): absolutely not. Not big enough; we are not interested in that. Manny Velazquez: this will be a boon to the community in terms of economic development, public safety and beautification. Also pointed out that there are new technologies to deal with venting which may disturb residents who live above. Jim Berlin: initial license is only for one year, so if they don't behave themselves, it will not be renewed. Julio Rodriguez: how can we grant a license for a business about which we know nothing? Usually these applications are made by existing businesses, and then they apply for the license once there is a track record. Mr. Simon: my issue is not smoke, it's noise. Many board members would not want to live over this; I agree w/ Julio if the restaurant were open we would know more about the business before granting permission. Jose Lopez: are you implying that we are better off with the drug activity that is there now? Mr. Ramadan: I did not know the proprietors until minutes ago. I realize that I know these people to be running good businesses elsewhere in the community. Angelo Ortiz: what other restaurants? A: One in the Bronx on 149th Street; very high-end. Also involved with the Umbrella Lounge when it started, and it is a well-run, successful biz respectful to community. They are bringing a high-quality business to the community. Ms. Lorris Ritter: call question. Jackie Rowe-Adams: we must learn to respect the work of the committees. We do a lot of research and ask a lot of questions. Many of the questions asked here tonight were dealt with at the committee, and are answered in the minutes, which people should read. I recommend that we vote yes. Glenda Swanson Massa: of the 81 people who came to the committee meeting to vote in favor, were they residents of the area? A: this meeting was well publicized. People had the opportunity to show up at the meeting where this was discussed, The resolution passed, 28-5-0-0.
- 10:15 In presenting a joint resolution with respect to the establishment of a taxi base at 147 Post (at 207th/Post Streets & Tenth Ave.) Mr. Berlin: There are compelling arguments on both sides; we must decide whether to support economic development or quality-of-life. Mr. Ramadan: this is divisive. The Economic Development and Traffic & Transportation Committees each fulfilled their respective missions by advocating for their core issues, but this creates a schism, and all people on both sides of this issue require that we must work together, however this issue is decided. No one benefits when the community is divided. We are put in a very difficult situation. Mr. Simon: can you summarize for us the petition submitted by the 180 residents who live in the area? A: not in favor of taxi base because of congestion. Could be hazardous to children and seniors in that area. Janifer Wilson: concerned about the impact of the decision we have to make when I hear it is about people's jobs and livelihoods. But I live in a community where there are bases, and what happens in those areas is that there is congestion. I don't want the burden of having to make the decision based on what I feel and see in my community, not based on whether or not people will be able to put food on the table. What will happen if the base is not there? Can't it be somewhere else? Mark Levine made a clarifying comment on the job issue: an advocate indicated that they'd be recruiting within the existing businesses. If you take the thing at face value, then this will not result in lost job opportunities. Ms. Lorris Ritter: This sounds like a great business, but they could not have picked a worse location if they tried. Moreover, there are many things that don't add up, like the number of cars, and what exactly is the source of business, i.e., for-hire or black car. And we have heard conflicting testimony this evening from the owners: that there will be new jobs created, and that there won't be cars added because the drivers will come from existing bases. Both can't be true. Why would they need 60 garage spaces if there are no new cars? In the end, it is hard to know what to believe, so we must vote "no" since there is no clear, consistent plan being presented. Pam North: believes the location is problematic; were alternative locations discussed? A: No. Mr. Collins: must balance the economic development and quality-of-life issues. Adam Eggers: was insurance discussed? A: no. Mr. Simon: doesn't the law require that they provide off-street parking? A: No. Mr.

Simon: what is the limit on the licensure? A: 2 years; then this would come back to us. Raquel Batista: was the issue of drug trafficking and the extent to which this would impact that considered by the committee? A: It's a different part of Post Avenue; the taxi base is on the part that begins on Tenth Avenue and cuts across 207th. It's a commercial building; residential buildings are further south. Mr. Collins: reminded the Board that we are only one of four agencies that make recommendations to TLC, which makes final determination. (The other agencies are the local Councilmember, DOT and the NYPD.) Milagros Vicente: The Economic Development Committee approved this on the grounds that this would provide new jobs. Now this evening we are hearing that it won't really bring new jobs, so I am confused. Jay Mazur: The business plan is aspirational, not contractual. Also, it's not clear what it is – black car or livery. They said 40 cars at the committee meeting, but now they're saying 60. Renato Mena: I am disappointed in how this happened. This should have gone solely to the Economic Development Committee, not jointly with Traffic & Transportation. A: that's how the Board has handled base station approvals in the past. The resolution, which was opposed to the base station, passed, 20-5-8-0.

- 10:39 liquor licenses at 4 businesses (3 new, 1 renewal). Mr. Berlin: opposes the resolution because it mixes new and renewal licenses; in the future these should be separated. Mr. Ortiz: in the future we will look at concentration. Resolution passed 22-2-5-1. The Committee will be putting together a forum to look at the placement of establishments with liquor licenses throughout the community, to assess concentration.

10:52 Public Safety, Housing & Human Services and Youth & Education Committees, Pam North, Julio Rodriguez & Cleofis Sarete, Chairs: three otherwise unrelated resolutions were presented together so that, in the interest of time, we could take all three votes in a single roll call. The resolutions called for an increase in the number of police officers at both the 33rd and 34th Precincts (Public Safety), support for repealing the Urstadt law restricting NYC's powers over rent regulation (Housing); and restoration of funds to repair and upgrade the Washington Heights branch library (Youth & Education). All three resolutions passed unanimously, with 30 votes. Dr. North announced an upcoming demonstration this Saturday across the GWB to protest drug trafficking, beginning at 8:30am on NJ side, and going to Ft. Washington Ave. & 177th Street by ~10:30am.

All other chairs waived their reports, and referred everyone to the minutes.

10:58 There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned** by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 6, 2005

Committee Members Present

Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair
Kotie Cannon, Asst. Chair
Aidee Camacho
Adam Eggers
Andre Harris

Committee Members Excused

Julissa Gomez
Joyce Holland

Board Members Present

Martin Collins, Board Chair
Aaron Scott

Public Member

Ernest McNamee

Guests: Rose M. Santo, Lemle & Wolff; Lowell Goldberg, Lemle & Wolff; Xenia Gutierrez, Lemle & Wolff; Jamil Adams, Lemle & Wolff; Emily Vazquez, Lemle & Wolfe; Maria Almanzar, Lemle & Wolff; Sgt. Mullen, NYPD -34th Pct; PO Tony Trinidad, NYPD-34th Pct.; Deputy Inspector Jason Wilcox, NYPD-33rd Pct.; PO Alexandra Sanchez, NYPD-33rd Pct; Det. Angel Daliz, NYPD-33rd Pct.; Assistant Chief Raymond Diaz, NYPD-Patrol Borough Manhattan North; Sgt. Cathy Schmidt, NYPD-Patrol Borough Manhattan North; Joselinne Minaya, District Attorney's Office; Maria Rodriguez, Councilmember Jackson's Office; Wendy Olivo, Assemblyman Farrell's Office; Abbott Ruskin, Assemblyman Farrell's Office; Lilliam Perez, Senator Schneiderman's Office; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Eric Rucker, 386 Fort. Washington Ave Tenants Association; George Espinal, Friends of Payson Ave; Martha Pepin, 215 Audubon Ave Tenants Association; Jim Wilson, Resident; Anita Epstein, Resident; Luz Bermudez, Resident; Jose Morel, Resident, Barbara Morre, Resident, Richard Barbour, Resident;

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm. Dr. Pamela Palanque North, welcomed everyone, introduced the Committee Members and guest speakers to the public. She stated that the meeting Agenda was set in response to the increase and intensity of resident complaints about crime in CB12M. The primary complaint to be addressed is drug trafficking and the secondary issue is loud noise.

Public Session:

- There was a complaint about a club on 203rd Street that opened in February. There is constant fighting, noise, etc. This goes on about 6 days a week.
- There were a complaints regarding Flowers Lounge, 151 Sherman Ave. A big fight occurred there last Thursday, September 29, 2005. The adjacent grocery store, located at 147 Sherman Avenue, is open 24 hours a day. There was a shooting, inside the grocery store last year.
- The real estate company Lemle & Wolfe spoke about complaints that they and their clients are having. The company feels they are "at the end of the rope." Superintendents are risking their lives trying to deal with the problems (drugs, recent homicides, etc.) "They have installed cameras, called 311, 911, but nothing is happening." It was stated by someone in attendance that there was a major bust recently; however it took three (3) years to happen. There was also a complaint about the need for better policing in Washington Heights. 110 Seaman Ave has a "burgeoning drug dealing problem." The Super of this building is afraid to target specific apartments; they also have a problem with Motorcyclists in the rear of the building. A statement was made, that arrests need to be made, instead of just confiscating the vehicles.
- A suggestion was made that depressions need to be installed on the streets; this would help to alleviate some of the motorcycle issues.
- There was a complaint about ongoing drug trafficking on W. 166 Street, between Edgecombe and Amsterdam Ave. A resident expressed her frustration in that most residents on this block know that the dealers have been committing this crime for years. Residents suspect that the police know about this but the problems still persist.
- Residents who live on or around St Nicholas Ave & W.159-161 St. observe drug dealers lined-up in front of apartment buildings and stores dealing drugs in broad daylight. It was noted that there is a Daycare Center, afterschool program, library and a church in the area. All the residents see this and want the NYPD to intervene.
- W.159 Street & Amsterdam Ave has men standing 6 deep on all four corners dealing drugs all day and night. There are constant fights and gunfire is heard in this area as well.
- Sgt. Mullen from the 34th Precinct responded, with regards to drug trafficking; the Precincts need the information to be very specific before action can be taken. He also acknowledged that it is a hard problem to deal with

because so many people are afraid to come forward. His response to the issue on Academy and Sherman Ave is that the Precinct does have officers on foot there from 6 pm – 2 am and are issuing summonses for violations.

- A question was raised about what was being done during afterschool hours when drug trafficking is high. It was added that the police are doing nothing. Inspector Cully, from Patrol Borough Manhattan North Narcotics, responded that they are aware of the narcotic problem and that the public is not aware of what is being done. He stated that it takes a period of time in order to develop a hard hitting case. The Marijuana dealers are harder to deal with; the Police are just unable to do anything long term about them.
- Lilliam Perez, from Senator Eric Schneiderman's office, stated that they are having a forum on October 19, 2005 regarding the recent increase in crime in the community.
- Martin Collins made request for more police officers in the area. "There is an increase of inhabitation in the community, but a decrease in the amount of officer."
- Deputy Inspector Wilcox stated that police department is looking for ways to decrease the amount of noise in the community. He is hopefully that DEP and other agencies will get involved in this cause. Martin Collins stated that "the State Liquor Authority was invited, but did not come."
- Inspector Wilcox stated that he will get back to the Community Board regarding what type of video equipment should be used in surveillance cameras by Tenants Associations or Owners.
- Numerous complaints from residents about the restaurant and Night Club, "Vin y Vin" located on St. Nichols Avenue between W.162 and W.160St. Reports of loud noise, gun fire and fights, which spill onto the side streets at 4am on Sunday mornings. Residents report going into the club to ask for the owner to lower the sound of music and the noise on the street and people have witnessed "bowls of cocaine" on the bar. This club is located next door to a local library in a landmarks historic district as well as residential area. Many homeowners and other residents have expressed their concern to public officials and the 33rd Precinct in the past.

Dr. North asked the representatives from the NYPD and Manhattan District Attorney's Office what can be done about the crimes that residents reported

- Assistant Chief Raymond Diaz responded and thanked the Committee Chair for inviting him to the meeting. He was impressive by the attendance of residents and I this help to indicates how serious the problem. He said that many do not realize what the NYPD has done. He welcomed anyone to speak with one of the officers present after the meeting. He also wants people, when they make a complaint, to make it constantly and repeatedly.
- Inspector Cully stated that residents should make their complaints specific with as much details as possible. Dr. Palanque North asked if he had a number or form that attendees could have to register a complaint. The Inspector gave out the forms and asked for people to mail them to his office. The form is detailed and is anonymous.

Dr. Palanque North, asked if other guest had a card and /or a form that they could leave for the public, all complied and left their business cards with contact information.

- Deputy Inspector Wilcox stated that they are aware of the issues and are working to resolve them. He suggested that residents come on the 4th Wednesday of the month (Note: 3rd Wednesday in November) at 6:30 pm to the Precinct council meeting
- Josslinne Minaya, DA's office, stated her office is open to assist as a liaison between the public and the police.

A resolution was introduced to hire more police in the 33rd & 34th Precincts. The vote was unanimous in favor of this resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kotie Cannon, Asst. Chair and Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair

Prepared by Jeffrey A. Laufer, Community Assistant CB

MINUTES OF HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 11, 2005

Members Present

Julio Rodriguez, Chair
Barbara Smith Ramos, Asst. Chair
Eduardo Hoepelman,
Steve Simon

Committee Members Absent

Kotie Cannon

Guests: Michael McKee, Associate Director Tenants and Neighbors; Greg Bangser, Resident; Danielle Shapiro, Columbia University Journalism

7:18 PM Meeting Started with a quorum present.

The Chair, Julio Rodriguez, recognized Mr. McKee, representing a coalition of housing advocates and others who are proposing that the Urstadt law be repealed by the New York State legislature. Mr. McKee reviewed the history of the law with the committee and emphasized that this law permits upstate legislators to control how New York City rent regulations and related matters are administered. He indicated that local (NYC) real estate interests regularly support the campaigns of upstate lawmakers that pledge to maintain this law in order to control residential housing in NYC.

He presented a resolution, researched, reviewed, written and supported by the coalition which details the reasons this law should be repealed and asks that the New York State legislature repeal the Urstadt law.

The coalition presented this resolution to the Manhattan Borough Board and received favorable attention and the suggestion that each individual board pass the resolution in order to strengthen its impact.

Steve Simon moved that the housing and Human Services Committee present the resolution, as drafted by the coalition, to the full CB 12 M Board and recommend its passage by that body. Barbara Smith Ramos seconded the motion which was passed unanimously (4 Board Members and 3 Members of the public).

The Chair then asked the Housing committee to consider two projects which it might undertake in the near future:

- 1) The possibility of providing a workshop for residents of the district who might consider purchasing a home.
- 2) The possibility of conducting a seminar on Immigrant Services (in Spanish & English)

A spirited discussion followed at which both suggestions received positive remarks from committee and members as well as constructive ideas about how they might be implemented. It was decided that discussion of both would be continued at the next meeting.

9:30 pm, meeting adjourned on a motion by Eduardo Hoepelman, seconded by Barbara Smith Ramos.

Minutes prepared by Julio Rodriguez.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee- October 11, 2005

Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan, Chair

Emilia Cardona

Aaron Scott

Committee Members Excused

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Asst. Chair

Committee Members Absent

Joseph Sanchez

Staff Present: Jeffrey A. Laufer, Community Assistant

Guest: Ellen Macuow, Department of Parks; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident, Tamara Galoldt, Resident, Jean Bonnes, Foot Park

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

- I. Ellen Macnow of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC DPR) made a presentation regarding the planned development of a skate park, approximately four (4) years from now, for skateboarders. The location will be below the Alexander Hamilton Bridge, on 181st Street and Amsterdam Ave. Access is also available via a path on 176th Street. A vehicular access road will be created for NYS DOT, NYC DPR and Ambulance Service (EMS) if needed. NYS DOT will finance most of the project while it rehabilitates the Trans Manhattan Expressway, which leads to the George Washington Bridge. Steven Rodriguez of "Five (5) Borough Skates" is designing the skate park, replicating commonly used urban skating features. Safety concerns regarding lighting, sanitation, restrooms access and loitering were raised. Ms Macnow said that the NYC DPR has lots of time to address all the relevant issues and further communicate with our Community Board.
- II. Open discussion / brainstorming session regarding a "wish list" and long term planning for the parks in our district. How can we better utilize, change usage, preserve natural attributes, make more accessible, create programming for better usage of special topography, improve greenways, build new parks, connect parks, etc...
 - Scenic byways
 - Driving range (Golf)
 - Indoor Tennis
 - Level Highbridge ball field
 - Comfort stations
 - Indoor swimming pool
 - Hockey Rink (NHL support)
 - Ferry service
 - Design quiet areas (no sports)
 - Educational programming
 - Attract bird migration

Conversation to be continued...

Resident complained of public urination at Inwood Park, especially around all of the ball fields. Signage by NYC DPR may help with directions to restrooms area, as well as enforcement by PEP and NYPD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee.

Prepared by Jeffrey A. Laufer, Community Assistant, CB 12

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2005

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Jim Berlin
Dora Maria Abreu
Julio Rodriguez

Committee Members Absent

Aaron Scott
Julissa Gomez(excused)

Board Members Present

Sybil Dodson
Martin Collins

Guests:

Rex Curry-City College Research Ctr., Kristin Borhofen-Community Resident

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 PM.
2. Rex Curry representing the City College Architectural Center ("CCAC"), the consultant selected by CB-12M to undertake the district-wide planning study (the "Study"), provided the Land Use Committee (the "Committee") with an overview of the work plan and schedule for the Study. Mr. Curry indicated that CCAC intends to pursue an aggressive schedule leading to the completion of a comprehensive district profile by June 2006. At present CCAC is gathering and reviewing information on any prior studies of CB-12M that are available and will work with the Committee to review and better define the Study's stated goals. The Study will proceed in three phases and will include the input of community residents, organizations and other stakeholders. At the end of each phase CCAC will make a progress presentation to CB-12M. The creation of a project web site that is linked to CB-12M's web site was also discussed.
3. Julio Rodriguez provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed research approach and field team protocol for obtaining additional qualitative input from community residents on the options available for addressing the retail activity on Audubon Avenue that is not permitted by current zoning. The proposed concept is to enlist each committee of the Board to assign a team of two, inclusive of one bi-lingual team member, to perform field surveys/conversations with community residents at various locations. The teams will have a number of questions or queries to promote general conversation about the Audubon Avenue Study and additionally will discuss the study area from the perspective of the particular committee represented by the team members. The goal is to achieve approximately 150 interactions/contacts/surveys as well as to recruit approximately 30 volunteers to participate in more detailed focus group discussions. Next steps with this process include obtaining buy-in from Committee Chairs, designation of team members, scheduling an orientation meeting for the teams, coordinating survey locations and survey schedules. It was suggested that CB-12 M Chair Martin Collins discuss this matter with the full Board at the upcoming October General Meeting and again with Committee Chairs at the November Executive Committee Meeting.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

Joint Meeting of Economic Development and Traffic & Transportation Committees
St. Jude's Church at 431 West 204 Street on October 11, 2005

T & T Members Present

Jay Mazur, Chair
 James Berlin, Asst. Chair
 Anita Barberis
 Obed Fulcar
 Renato Mena (also on Eco)

Eco Members Present

Milagros Vicente, Chair
 Julio Peguero, Asst. Chair
 Jackie Rowe Adams
 Bracha Statman
 Manny Velazquez

Board Members Present

Martin Collins, Board Chair

Public Member

Dago Suarez

Eco Members Absent

Rafael Beaumont
 Janifer Wilson

Guests: John Knney, Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association; Genevieve Davis, Department of Design and Construction; Oscar Herasme, Luis Feliz, Milagros Corp; Jose Leon, Jaya Restaurant; Michael Kelly, Caridad Restaurant; Mike Fitelson, Manhattan Times; Johnny Ho, Edwards & Kelley Engineers; Robert Adams, NYS DOT- Region II; Syed N. Rahman, NYS DOT Region II; Jose Garcia; Lorenzo Hernandez, Resident; Mr. Hidalgo, Resident; Gustavo Bencosme, Resident, Jose Torivio, Resident, Jose Paulino, Resident, Plinio Himenez, Resident, Genaro Olivo, Resident; Jose Perez, Resident, Sara Cabrera, Resident, Tomas Torrez, Resident, Vanessa Torres, Resident, Martin Kendell, Resident; Enderia Caceres-Resident, Maria-Resident, Guasimo-Resident, Rize Spartes-Resident, William Mecia-Resident, Barbara Licea-Resident, sigrido Jorge-Resident, Carlos Maarquez-resident, Angela-resident, Mr. Feliz-Resident, cirilo Urena-Resident, Claudia Guerrero-Resident, Veata Pimentel-Resident, Leriddo Guerrero-Resident, Luis Feliz-Resident, Renata Pimentel, Mr. Henriquez-resident, Olivo Reynero-resident

Meeting opened at 7:20pm with the introduction of the Committee Chairs and members of each committee.

- First item on the agenda was the consideration of a **new unenclosed sidewalk café application for Café Vida located at 247 Dyckman Street**, just west of Seaman Avenue. The request is for 26 tables with 64 seats covering 560 square feet of sidewalk in front of Café Vida, or 15 feet in depth and the full width of the restaurant (about 38 feet). The owner explained that the sidewalk café would operate in the Spring and Summer with ambient dinner music from inside the restaurant. It will be Brick oven Tuscan/Spanish food and should bring about 13 new jobs. Their lease is for 7 years with a 5 year renewal option and hours of operation would be 11am to 11pm. Some concerns raised were: the odors of food cooking, the noise factor-music and people into the late hours as this restaurant is located under a large residential building, does it really fit into the neighborhood and across the street is a gas station and repair shop. One benefit raised was that it might move the crowds that hang out on the corner off the block to do business elsewhere. It was requested that they participate in the "adopt-a-basket" program and they agreed.

The vote:

	Support	Do Not Support	Abstain
Traffic & Transportation	1	2	1
Public Member	1	0	0
Economic Development	4	1	1
Aggregated vote of committee members	6	3	2
CB12 Board Member	1	0	0
Members of the Public	81	1	0

- Second item on the agenda was an application for **a new limousine base located at 147 Post Avenue (between 207th & Isham Sts./10th Ave)**. A petition with 100 local signatures opposing the based was delivered to the Board and open for inspection. Fernando Mateo introduced the new concepts associated with "Discovery Transportation's" service. The base is a co-op of 70 members with 40 new cars (and 1 equipped to service the physically handicapped) with a GPS tracking system to better serve the community needs safely. A TLC industry rep, Quemy Familia, explained in a slide presentation that these for-hire vehicles will rest stop parking in a garage (contracted for 15 spots) across the street from the base instead of using public parking resources. Personnel will be trained in customer relations as well as safety. Some of the concerns raised were: traffic congestion, safety of pedestrians in particular children and seniors, double parking, location hazardous, community is over-saturated with 15 bases containing more than 2500 cars, 207th Bridge generates heavy traffic and for the next 2 years 10th Avenue is under major reconstruction.

The vote:

	Support	Do Not Support	Abstain
Traffic & Transportation	1	3	0
Public Member	0	0	1
Economic Development	4	1	1

Aggregated vote of committee members	5	4	2
CB12 Board Member	0	0	1
Members of the Public	55	63	2

At 9:20pm each Committee went into separate areas to continue relevant issues on their agendas.

- **New York State Dept of Transportation presentation re: Rehabilitation of the Alexander Hamilton Bridge and the Highbridge Interchange Ramps.** Scope of work for the bridge (constructed in 1962) includes remove and replace existing deck with 11' widening each side, retrofit superstructure steel & substructure, replace bearings, drainage, sign structures & lighting and paint. During this 4 year rehab all through lanes (4 east & 4 west) will be maintained – there will be no closures. Ramp "TE" located entirely within Highbridge Park will be closed for 18 months and traffic will be detoured on to Amsterdam Avenue. We requested traffic agents during this closure. Mitigation will include renovation of playgrounds, new skateboard feature, rehab stairs, wall, walk paths, etc .within Highbridge Park. Total estimated cost-\$160 million. Comment time Feb'06. Final plans Sept'06. Letting of contract Feb'07 and construction to be start June'07.

Meeting adjourned at 11pm

Respectfully submitted by Anita Barberis

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
October 18, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair
Fern Hertzberg, Asst Chair
Gloria Vanterpool
Leslie Foster
Nelson Rojas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Levine(excused)
Glenda Swanson-Massa (excused)
Shirley Joyner(excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Martin Collins

GUESTS

Robert Anderson, Elizabeth Rosado-Vice President, Reps of Care Plus Health Plan, Vincent Brown-Care Plus
Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, John Kinney- Citizens Police Academy, Norma DeCandida, Resident, Michael, Luis, Dorothy
Poole, Elailala Ricor, Arturo, Raul Gonzalez Ramon, Carlos, Dorothy Adams, Gwen Nieves, Carrocho, Juan Rivera-Residents,
Maria Brita, Marilyn Pacheco, Maria Roja, Jimmie Baity

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Meeting convened at 10:05am, opening remarks Sybil Dodson-Lucas

The Committee for the Concerns of the Aging held an off site committee meeting at the Dyckman Community Center on October 18th, along with representatives from the Care Plus Health Plan and Packet distribution from the NYC Dept for the Aging .

Committee Chair Dodson -Lucas and co-chair Fern Hertzberg conducted a bi-lingual information sharing seminar to inform the assembled Dyckman area residents of the changes in Medicare Part D and, to urge them to seek more information as the date for signing up for prescription drug coverage nears in November.

The committee deeply appreciated the support provided by the Dyckman center and the attending participants including Elizabeth Rosado Associate Vice President-Long Term Care of Care Plus Health Plan and her Colleagues who provided bi-lingual translation throughout the presentation. Approximately 40 participants assembled and were given packages of informational material provided by the NYC Dept for the Aging

Given the importance of the changes and the urgency of the approaching timeline for registration, the committee for the concerns of the aging will continue to hold offsite meetings in other areas of the community board where high concentrations of elderly residents are found who may not yet have received the information or, have little understanding of its importance.

The November 15th meeting will be held at our usual time and location in the community board offices and we will continue to have the changes in Medicare Part D as the focus of the meeting. Flyers in both English and Spanish will be widely circulated in an attempt to bring as many people to the meeting and the message as possible.

Thereafter, another conference is planned for the Inwood area in late November. The targeted population will be residents of the Park Terrace Garden complex, an area under discussion for designation as the next Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC)

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Dodson-Lucas