

REVISED**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN****REVISED****GENERAL MEETING MINUTES****September 26, 2000****Members Present**

Anita Barberis	William A. García	Helen Morik	Steven Rizick
Rafael Beaumont	Beatrice Hall	Victor Morisete-Romero	Nelson Rójas
James Berlin	Herbert Harwitt	Marcos Navarro	Juan Villar
Ronald Botelho	Robert C. Liebeskind	William C. Ortega	María Sierra
Emilia G. Cardona	María Luna	Julio Peguero	Barbara Smith Ramos
Laurie T. Cohen	Isidoro Martínez	Dr. Pamela Palanque North	Ricardo Ureña
A. Fredericka Cuenca	Miguel Martínez	Martha Pepín	Elouise Whitehurst
Walther G. Delgado	Manuel J. Méndez	Zead Ramadan	
Jack Fogle	Luis H. Minier	Julissa Reynoso	

Members Absent

Abby Belkin (excused)	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (excused)	Cheryl Tidwell
Sybil R. Dodson (excused)	Norma Nadien (excused)	Sandra Wachspress
<i>Leslie Foster (excused)</i>	Bertie Ray, III	Msgr. Gerald Walsh (excused)
Soledad Hiciano (excused)	George Sánchez (excused)	
Joyce F. Holland (excused)	Laura Sterling	

Public Officials, Ex-officio Members and Guests

Council Member Guillermo Linares	State Senator Eric Schneiderman
Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields	District Manager Gregoria Feliciano

The General Meeting of September 2000 was held at the auditorium of Columbia University on W. 168th Street.

Chair's Report – William A. Garcia

Welcomed community residents, public officials, and board members. Emphasized the importance of CB12's Budget Priorities Hearing scheduled for October 17 at the board office. The meeting notice and background information will be sent out in advance. Worked with Councilman Linares, who led effort to identify locations for food truck vendors in the 33rd Precinct. Extended get well wishes to Elizabeth Ritter and condolences to Mr. Linares on the passing of his father. Reminded committee chairs that proposed additions to the District Statement of Needs are due in October.

Community Board 12 was called to order at 7:20 p.m. to begin its Regular Session. The agenda was approved. The minutes of June 2000 were approved as presented.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Introduced Deborah Blow, a new employee of CB12. Summarized items contained in her written report to the board. Noted the meetings attended.

Public Session

Jackie Spann

Community Assistance Unit. Announced the availability of Child Health Plus. Gave eligibility requirements and number to call, 1-800-698-4543.

Sandra Polsak

Inwood Branch Library. Problems with the completion of the branch's renovation have been resolved.

William García welcomed the newly appointed commander of the 33rd Police Precinct.

Charles Rubin, Commanding Officer of the 33rd Precinct

Previously command was in precinct covering Spanish Harlem. Noted the high number of liquor establishments in the 33rd Pct. Urged cooperation with recruitment effort for police exam, and wants ongoing communication with the community.

Julio Nuñez and Carmen Diaz

Represent the Audubon Partnership. Presented copies of attractions map of Washington Heights and Inwood developed by their organization.

Jonathan Martin

Area resident. Noted problems and concerns faced by tenants in buildings adjacent to the NY-Presbyterian Hospital's garage. Tenants association concerned that the expansion would damage nearby tree, and exacerbate other problems such as bright lights from the rooftop and frequent noise from car alarms and construction currently taking place in the garage. Members inquired about the community's reaction to the proposal. Mr. Martin was unable to make public hearing.

Fernando Fernández

Represents Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. Reported on recent initiatives of the Empowerment Zone including a job fair scheduled for October 17th.

Helen Morik

Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition honoring local Council Members at a fundraiser; free flu shot program.

Allen Hodge

Former district leader. Observed the poor condition of stairs and elevators of # 1/9 and A trains; rat problem is widespread; wants full staffing of local precincts; and reported problem of off hours noise by contractors working at PS 187.

Susan Razavi

Seeking support for Atta Classica, a local Spanish music group. Announced upcoming concert sponsored by the Hispanic Society.

María Luna

Announced a national conference on Dominicans to be held on October 7 and 8.

Steve Metcalf

Complained of noise from an event by evangelical group on W. 207 St. A discussion followed regarding sound permits issued by the local precincts.

Marianna DePaola

Complained of neighbors who are noisy and disruptive until late hours.

Jim Berlin noted that the commander of the 34th Precinct has not been to a CB 12 meeting in a long-time and that he be asked to attend.

Julissa Reynoso

Invited all to an event to report findings of the Dominicans 2000 Conference. Dominicans 2000 is now a tax-exempt organization.

Public Officials Report

Council Member Guillermo Linares

Highlighted the ceremony to unveil the name of Juan Pablo Duarte Boulevard and the street carnival held during the summer. Explained the arrangement being worked out with the Parks Dept. regarding local food trucks. Worked to resolve issue of striking service workers, many who live in the community. Announced the release of a report on the educational status of Hispanics by a special Presidential Commission, which he chairs. Starting with a press conference at City Hall, the Commission will be holding discussions and disseminating the report among educators, officials, community groups and parents throughout the country.

State Senator Eric Schneiderman

As the ranking member of the Senate's Environmental Conservation Committee, has been working on NYC's shortfall of in state transportation funding (less dollars today than in 1989). Shortfall of funding affects service and improvements, such as reliance on accordion buses and inability to buy clean powered buses. Concerned about deregulation and the lack of programs to conserve energy. Urged enrollment for the Child Health program. Noted that the Public Service Commission has failed consumers and that he is contemplating legislation to restore energy conservation.

Miosotis Muñoz, for Borough President Fields

Provided copies of written report. Working on rat control and food trucks issues. Helped CB12 with utility turn-off notice at building on Ellwood St. Allocated funding to offset cuts to senior centers and supported the attractions map presented this evening.

The second roll call confirmed that 34 members were present for the subsequent part of the agenda.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – A. Fredericka Cuenca, First Vice Chair

Presented two resolutions establishing policies and procedures for the conduct of meetings and hearings, and media relations of CB12. In response to questions, Ms. Cuenca clarified that these measures are intended to provide a set of guidelines for committee chairs and members to follow. There are no penalties attached to them, except for those that may apply under the bylaws.

Both resolutions were approved separately by a vote of 33 in favor and 1 opposed.

Bylaws Committee, Emilia Cardona

Presented a resolution modifying CB12's calendar year and the holding of elections. Following a discussion and several language amendments, **the resolution was approved by a vote of 31 in favor and 2 opposed.**

Transportation and Public Safety Committee – Ronald Botelho, for the Committee

Presented and urged passage of a resolution in support of an application to expand the parking facility at W. 165 Street, owned by New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Members disputed the assertion that the community's concerns raised during the public session had been known previously. Helen Morik, spoke on behalf of the Hospital and noted that these concerns, except for the lighting, had not been raised before. In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Morik noted that these concerns will be addressed by the Hospital.

Ms. Morik also covered details of the need for the application and cited the Environmental Impact Statement in response to concerns expressed by Board member Juan Villar. Walther Delgado was concerned that the hearing was not held close to the garage, although a site is available. Also noted that committee's vote recorded only one community resident attended the meeting and the longstanding concerns with the impact this facility has on the immediate area; inquired about the number of parking facilities owned or leased by the Hospital in the immediate area and if any provisions are in place to allow residents to park in the facility. Ms. Morik noted that the Hospital also operates other garages in the immediate area.

Maria Sierra was concerned that the resolution did not address the community's concerns and that some provisions were not relevant to the board's actions. Mr. Botelho offered to strike out language from the resolution to take this matter to a vote this evening. Modifications to the resolution were proposed from the floor. Walther Delgado objected to process used to modify the resolution.

In response to questions, Ms Morik noted that the construction work currently underway has nothing to do with the expansion. Ms. Morik added that she has worked in the community for a long time, and brings credibility to the commitment to immediately address the issues raised tonight. On the issue of jobs, she has been meeting with local elected officials to create a task force that will include CB 12. Reiterated that her credibility is on the line and that jobs are the most important issue.

Ronald Botelho read the modified resolution that included new language on hours of construction, alarms, community parking, lighting and the Hospital's agreement to address these issues. The issue of jobs was not included.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 16 in favor, 12 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 not voting.

Land Use Committee, A. Fredericka Cuenca, Chair

Presented a resolution regarding a zoning text amendment to modify sign regulations.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 28 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Walther G. Delgado
Secretary