

**Community Board 12, Manhattan – General Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2004 (Columbia University Alumni Auditorium)**

**Members Present:**

Dora Maria Abreu	Kotie Cannon	Maria Luna
Jackie Rowe Adams	Martin Collins	Glenda
Mason Almeida	Sybil Dodson-Lucas	SwansonMassa
Jacqueline Aristy	Luis Facundo	Jay Mazur
Anita Barberis	Leslie Foster	Renato Meno
Emmanuel Barrientos	Beatrice Hall	Helen Morik
Rafael Beaumont	Fern Hertzberg	Pam Palanque North
Wayne Benjamin	Mark Levine	Zead Ramadan
James Berlin	José Lopez	Rose Mary Santo
Aidee Camacho	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Dago Suarez

**Members Absent:**

Peter Ferrara (exc.)  
Joyce Holland (exc.)  
Julio Peguero (exc.)  
Barbara Smith Ramos (exc.)  
Julio Rodriguez (exc.)  
Nelson Rojas  
Pablo Santos  
Cleofis Sarete  
Bienvenido Toribio (exc.)  
Milagros Vicente (exc.)  
Sandra Wachspress

**7:20p CALL TO ORDER**, in the absence of a quorum.

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

- District Manager search is underway.
- Monsignor Walsh has been ordained (Auxiliary) Bishop.
- Committees were restructured with new appointments; most people got first choice.
- Attended Assemblyman Espaillat's recent meeting at Isabella Geriatric Center, regarding Columbia University's proposed expansion in Manhattanville area. Affordable housing, school, education and jobs/job training were at the forefront of the discussion. Must also work with Board 9.
- Possible Board retreat sometime in November; details TBA.
- Noted upcoming MBPO training seminar.
- Garage at 184<sup>th</sup> & B'way scheduled to open by end of December. Applications for spots are available; gave contact info.
- Announced upcoming borough budget consultation sessions.
- Thanks to Mason Almeida, Dora Maria Abreu and David Shamoon for their tremendous work on the CB12 website.
- Good wishes to Joyce Holland for speedy recovery following impending surgery.

**7:25p PRESENTATION** by Moises Perez of Alianza Dominicana, followed by a brief Q&A. Born of the Dominican immigrant experience, Alianza Dominicana treasures arts as well as economic development and advocacy for youth and families. Opened a Beacon school in the Bronx, serving not just Dominican but also other Hispanic immigrant groups and the African-American community. Services are holistic, comprehensive, integrated and community-based, looking at a whole range of economic, health, educational and social services. Mr. Perez spoke about the importance of strengthening families as being at the core of Alianza's service model. Services include daycare, after-school, drug treatment and rehab, health promotion and education, "Best Beginnings" pre- and post-natal program, domestic violence counseling and services, HIV/AIDS (including confidential 30-minute testing), two Beacon schools (w/ 600 kids), youth employment (which has drastically been curtailed, from 4000 to 1000 jobs, due to funding cutbacks), the planned Casa Afro-Quisqueya Cultural Center, and more. Has grown in 20 years from \$85k budget and two staff to 350 employees and \$13 million budget.

**7:48p QUORUM** achieved.

**7:49p Motion to ADOPT AGENDA** by Dago Suarez; Rose Mary Santo seconded; no objection.

**7:50p Motion to APPROVE May MINUTES** by Sybil Dodson; Glenda Swanson-Massa seconded; no objection.  
**Motion to APPROVE June MINUTES** by Rafael Beaumont; Aidee Camacho seconded; no objection.  
**Motion to APPROVE July MINUTES** by G. Swanson-Massa; Zead Ramadan seconded; no objection.

**7:52p TRIBUTE to Homer Young Kennedy III**, our Board member who died on September 1<sup>st</sup>, after a brief illness. Homer did a lifetime of work in just eight years in Inwood, working tirelessly in many community activities, including not only his work as a member of CB12 and the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Assistant Chair and his roll-up-your-sleeves involvement with and advocacy for the Indian Road Playground and the beautification of Inwood Hill Park, but also with the Uptown Arts Stroll, the Native American/Shad Festival, the Inwood Park Shakespeare Festival, the Inwood Library, the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and the Inwood Patrol, and many others. He was remembered with great love and humor at a memorial service in the park on Sunday, 9/26. The dog run he started has been named after him, many blubs were planted in his honor, and a plaque with his name has been placed on the bench he used as his "office." Bishop Walsh offered an invocation, which was followed by a moment of silence.

## 7:55p PUBLIC SESSION

Kihani Brea, Audubon Partnership for Economic Development: described programs, including computer tech center; gave details for upcoming workshops for restaurant owners. 212-544-2400.

Vanessa Hortian, Eclectic Yoga Studio: described programs in Yoga and Pilates for all levels and styles, including prenatal classes and meditation. Services and classes are bilingual and reasonably priced. 353 Ft. Washington Ave. (@ W. 176th St.) #1C, 212-927-0300.

Lynn Opinante, Inwood Library: Urged continued support for 6-day services. Announced new programs, including ESL, computer classes, and a new intergenerational program linking elderly and children. 212-923-6850.

The agenda was suspended to accommodate the arrival of City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who was at Columbia University for another event. He gave brief greetings, offering his thanks for the important volunteer work that CB members do, as it helps with every level of government. Mentioned support of City Council for NYPL, calling it the greatest institution in the world, doing more to fulfill the American Dream than any other institution. He is fighting to restore its funding. Additionally, he is trying to change the treatment NYC receives from Washington and Albany. NYC sends \$11.5 billion more to the Federal government in taxes than we get back in aid.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter inquired as to the status of Intro 174A, requiring DoITT to report 311 data to all Community Boards. Mr. Miller said it sounded like a worthy idea but could not give an update on the legislation.

Mason Almeida challenged Mr. Miller's blocking of legislation regarding car alarms. Mr. Miller pointed out that the problem is mostly with car alarms that are after-market installations, so the legislation he opposed, which also dealt with manufacturer installations would not really have helped the problem. He stated that legislation regarding after-market installations was passed just that morning, 49-2, to override a Mayoral veto, and that Mr. Almeida's characterization of Mr. Miller's position was inaccurate.

Ms. Swanson-Massa raised a question about substantial de-funding of domestic violence programs, and under-reporting of domestic violence. Mr. Miller echoed his general support of domestic violence program funding, as well as support for funding for housing for victims of domestic violence, so that women and children have somewhere safe to go. He reiterated that the worst part of domestic violence is silence, and that public debate is the key to changing prevailing attitudes.

(Resumption of Public Speakers' List) Barbara Crawford, Northern Manhattan chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority: described a series of community service-based programs in social action, health, education, arts & letters and community awareness.

Elizabeth Ewell, Greenkeepers: Provides horticultural and sanitation services for residential and commercial properties. Employees are adults living with mental illness, who are able to work in community, and are paid a living wage.

Laviaia Mancuso, Museum of the City of New York: announced upcoming events, including new photography exhibits on the subway and city lights, and a conference on October 23<sup>rd</sup> with Congressman Charles Rangel on the role of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone in local development. Question (by Wayne Benjamin): is the museum still planning a move downtown? A: No, we are planning a renovation to improve accessibility, climate control, HVAC and bathrooms and to expand space for the collections.

Edith Prentiss, Taxis for All: re accessibility of taxis for disabled people. Spoke about the current lack of progress in this legislation. Urged all present to contact Councilmembers Lopez, Liu, Brewer and others, encouraging them to appoint a disabled person, her, to the TLC.

Llewelyn Seaborn, Dyckman Community Center: described after-school programs, especially for 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 5<sup>th</sup>-graders to prepare them for new standardized tests, on which promotion now is based. He also gave an update on former long-time CB12 member Louise Whitehurst, who is convalescing at Isabella. Question (by Steve Simon): would expanding the community center be supported as a CB12 priority? A: "I will not only support it but will do whatever you need me to do to get it to happen."

Ruben Dario Vargas: re traffic at Dyckman & Broadway. Was referred to Traffic & Transportation Committee (next meeting 10/6).

## 8:46p PUBLIC OFFICIALS

33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector Jason Wilcox: Spoke about domestic violence and COMPSTAT reporting, as an aid in combatting this problem. NYPD is committed to fighting this problem. Good news is that stats are down; bad news is that this type of crime so often is underreported. 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. has a team of one sergeant and three officers assigned solely to domestic violence duty, in addition to detectives assigned to the domestic violence unit. In response to a series of questions by Ms. Dodson, DI Wilcox stated that with respect to hesitance of undocumented aliens, everything/everyone coming to the precinct is kept confidential; no reporting to INS. In terms of outreach, domestic violence unit officers constantly visit homes and question children and other people in the home. In response to a question by Jacqueline Aristy, DI Wilcox noted that all domestic violence statistics are recorded and aggregated by gender and age of victim, and that rape shows a 19% decrease (13 reported this year to date). In response to a question by Gloria Vanterpool, DI Wilcox assured that precincts do coordinate their outreach with CBOs.

Officer Tony Trinidad, 34<sup>th</sup> Pct Community Affairs: announced 34<sup>th</sup> pct. Community Council meeting the following evening at Isabella. Gave an update on a recent homicide, which is not related to the Sarah Fox murder. Several leads are being pursued, though there are no leads in the Fox case.

- Q: Do you anticipate up-tick in violent crime due to discontinuation of the assault weapons ban? (Aidee Camacho)  
 A: No.
- Q: Gang activity on W 181<sup>st</sup> Street? (Pam Palanque-North)  
 A: They seem to be roving around, but the beat officer is still patrolling the corridor, so this approach seems to be effective.
- Q: Graffiti on Park Terrace East/West, including tagging of cars? (S. Dodson)  
 A: There have been complaints; he will look into reports and investigate. Encouraged all people to report crime when it occurs, as a help in fighting crime.
- Q: Masked gunman firing shots in the at a baseball game in Inwood Hill Park? (M. Collins)  
 A: There were no injuries, and there were many witnesses. There have been no arrests, but many leads being pursued. Clearly not a random episode, but a targeted episode where the attacker knew the intended victim(s).
- Q: Policing in Ft. Tryon Park? (M. Collins)  
 A: There had been increased spring/summer coverage of Ft. Tryon and Bennett Parks, which will be resumed by the new beat officer, 9a-6p, 5 days/week.

Roxanne Dodds, Manhattan Borough President's Office: Announced a Board member training workshop on 10/4 at Baruch College. This will be an ongoing in-service opportunity. Gave update on MBPO's recent activities and meetings; offered congratulations to Bishop Walsh and condolences on the loss of Mr. Young Kennedy. Noted that she is working on new appointments, and is aware that there are now six vacancies. Supports 311 resolution, and encouraged Mr. Collins to bring it to the Borough Board.

Miguel Martinez, NYC Council:

- Update on today's meeting at Isabella regarding CU expansion. It is important for the community to be involved so that community needs are considered in the expansion of the "big monster." CU has been beaten before, and the community must be united.
- Community Planning Task Force must step up efforts, and consider a 197A plan. This group must meet; is willing to provide financial support (a few hundred dollars) to help with this work.
- Allocated \$150k capital grant to HPD to install security cameras and lighting in TIL buildings.
- Supported increase in funding for technology in schools
- Domestic violence is a real problem; we have among the highest rates in NYC and Manhattan. Appreciates DI Wilcox & DI Kehoe's efforts, but we must have better coordination of services in this community. Also looking to get additional funding for Alianza Dominicana and other service providers. Appallingly, service agencies such as Safe Horizons are using WH/I statistics in applications for Federal and other grants even though they provide services outside of the community.
- Spoke in support of 311 resolution. These data are vital in being responsive to City agency service needs.
- Raised a question regarding CU's possible plans for residential complex at 3333 Broadway. The landlord has removed the complex from the Mitchell-Lama program, which action has raised concerns in the community about possible gentrification/displacement.

Natalia Aqueros, NYS Senator Schneiderman's Office: Introduced herself; gave contact info. Noted several of the Senator's positions and activities, including: speaking out about the Governor's veto of the minimum wage hike to \$7.15/hour (from \$5.15); the Legislature's failure to comply with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity mandated school funding reallocation; and his recent introduction of an NYS ban on assault weapons.

Shammeik Barat, NYS Senator Paterson's Office: CU expansion will affect WH/I area with loss of housing. Must start looking at a 197A Plan with CB9. Ms. Dodson noted that she looked forward to the Senator's continued support on issues related to CU and its expansion.

Rafael Escaño, NYC Comptroller's Office: Spoke about the Comptroller's Office's recent report on Mitchell-Lama housing. Advised that people who have questions about what the Comptroller's Office does should check the website. Noted that Controller's Office has charged Con Ed with \$300k for cleanup of recent water main break. Rose Mary Santo noted that that's all well and good if Con Ed pays NYC for the cleanup, but who will pay the businesses for their losses? Mr. Escaño agreed to meet w/ Economic Development Committee on this issue.

**9:48p COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee, Martin Collins: Resolution regarding reporting of data collected by 311 to CBs is coming from the Executive Committee as it affects every committee, and we do not have a "Government Affairs" or similar committee. Passed 28-0-1-0 with no discussion.

Traffic & Transportation, Aidee Camacho: Thanked the Chair for his support of her leadership and welcomed new members. Noted proposed routing changes for M101 and M3 buses due to safety and time considerations, although she was concerned about other possible service cutbacks. Next meeting will discuss issue of filming in WH/I, noting that Inwood area of Payson/Dyckman/Riverside has been placed on the Mayor's "hot spot" list which will curtail filming over the next several months.

Land Use, Wayne Benjamin: will be reaching out to Pratt, CU and other schools of architecture and design to provide technical assistance on land use planning. We must work with all members of the Board and diverse community constituencies, not just Land Use committee.

Aging, Sybil Dodson: Thanked Ms. Swanson-Massa and Ms. Vanterpool for their leadership; referred all to minutes for update.

Housing & Human Services, Jaqueline Aristy: Heard report at September meeting from Health Industry Resource Enterprises (HIRE) which is opening a new facility at 550 W 173<sup>rd</sup> Street to provide housing, day treatment and life skills training for mentally ill; they also took over 552 W 173<sup>rd</sup> St from Fountain House for this purpose. A resident in the community wants to open a bed-and-breakfast on the same block; originally HIRE had planned to buy those town houses, but were priced out. Also gave an update on new local law on lead abatement and poisoning prevention.

Health & Environment, Steve Simon: As an outgrowth of the earlier discussions with Columbia re the impact on the community of the Audubon IV project, CU has been invited to make a presentation at the next meeting regarding its policies and procedures for environmental health and safety inspections of its laboratories, including those in the Audubon Research Building.

Parks & Cultural Affairs, Zead Ramadan: Next meeting is at the Church of the Intercession; will include a public informational meeting regarding a proposed Greenmarket at W 155<sup>th</sup> St. between Riverside Drive & Broadway. Also announced upcoming Medieval Festival this weekend, Bennett Park Harvest Festival on 10/23, and pointed out a NYCDPR pamphlet with other activities throughout the community.

Public Safety, Pamela Palanque North: gave update on five-alarm fire in August on St. Nick, and the issue of fire company's temporary relocation and the possible negative impact on response time. Next meeting will have former Judge Leslie Crocker Snyder as a guest to discuss gang issues. Wrote two grant applications for CERT, which were approved; will go, in part, for refreshments for community outreach meetings on emergency preparedness.

Dr. North also gave an update on the District Manager search. The committee has outlined the job description and pay scale, and posted the opening in multiple newspapers and sent to various CBOs and municipal agencies. Currently looking at resums, but also interested in any referrals Board members may have to increase the pool of potential candidates. A final selection is made by the whole Board, and the committee hopes to present candidates at the November general meeting.

Planning Task Force, Luis Facundo: important to have a planning process. Next meeting is 10/6.

Economic Development, Mason Almeida (for Julio Peguero): Reviewed 20 liquor license renewals and new applications.

**10:25p Motion to ADJOURN** by R.M. Santo, seconded by Dago Suarez.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

## **HOUSINGS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 13, 2004**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jacqueline Aristy, Chair  
Julio Rodriguez, Asst. Chair  
Jay Mazur  
Barbara Smith-Ramos  
Steve Simon  
Socrates Solano

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Joyce F. Holland

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Maria Luna

**Deborah Blow, Community Associate**

### **GUESTS**

Matthew Mazzelle, Melvin Caro, Associates, Julius Wilson-HPD, Dr. Rosa Gil, Alfred Arango, Executive Director, Ramon Blandino-Health Industry Resources, Gisela Gonzalez-NAHREP of NYC, Resident Walter Kehr, Sybil McCarthy

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The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the Chair, Jacqueline Aristy.

1.) Dr. Rosa Gil, President of Health Industry Resource Enterprises, Inc. (HIRE) attended the Housing and Human Services Committee meeting to discuss the new residential program for individuals with mental illness that will be located at 550 West 173<sup>rd</sup> Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues. For the last year, HIRE has operated a small residential program at 552 West 173<sup>rd</sup> Street. This program had been previously run by Fountain House, Inc. HIRE is a nonprofit organization that provides housing, mental health, rehabilitative and vocational services to the chronically mentally ill and those afflicted with HIV+/AIDs.

Dr. Rosa Gil, President, and Alfred Arango, the Executive Director of HIRE discussed the new residential program for ten (10) individuals with mental illness that will be located at 550 West 173<sup>rd</sup> Street. The new program will be a small residential program. HIRE will provide case management, therapeutic services, job placement, and life skills such as cooking. HIRE becomes a surrogate family for residents and works with affected families to minimize alienation and remove stigma of mental illness. Typically, clients (formerly homeless) are ready to leave HIRE's program with 9-18 months. Residents are found apartments, provided continuing social services, and 70% rental assistance. HIRE is not a substance abuse program. Residents only suffer from mental illness and manage their own medications. Residents attend day treatment programs. HIRE has therapeutic relationships for residents with Fountain House, FECS, and ACDP. community based organizations

2.) Julius Wilson from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) provided an update on the agency's progress on outreach and education efforts regarding lead poisoning prevention. The new law places stricter maintenance requirements on landlords in an effort to prevent childhood lead poisoning. HPD is providing free EPA Lead Certified courses and conducting community presentations on Local Law 1 of 2004. Mr. Wilson indicated that HPD had hired 300 new inspectors to enforce the new law. On August 2, 2004, New York City's new Local Law 1 took effect and requires:

- Building owners to reduce lead hazards in apartments
- Use of safe work practices for repairs and maintenance that disturb lead paint
- Training of residential building workers disturbing lead paint

- Use of dust clearance testing.

Local Law 1 applies to apartments and common areas of buildings:

- Built before 1960 or built between 1960 and 1978 and there is a reasonable belief that lead paint is present
- With 3 or more apartments, and
- Where a child under 7 years of age lives.

3.) Matthew Mazzelle and Melvin Caro provided the committee with site and floor plans for three (3) single family townhouses that will be constructed at 201-207 Cabrini Blvd. They have owned the property July 2001. The new construction is an as of right development. Mr. Mazzelle and Mr. Caro will live at the townhouses with their families, once the project is completed. The three townhouses will be constructed using six (6) modular boxes. Each townhouse will have two (2) modulars. Developers will follow-up with the Community Board regarding the acquisition of a drop lot for the modular components.

4.) Ms. Sybil McCarthy, owner of 556 West 161<sup>st</sup> Street, discussed unsuccessful complaints to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) regarding 558 West 161<sup>st</sup> Street. The adjoining property is owned by Mr. James Kelly and has fallen into disrepair. She reports that leaks from 558 West 161<sup>st</sup> Street into the basement of 556 West 161<sup>st</sup> Street. Ms. McCarthy indicated that the leak had caused significant damage to her property.

The Committee informed Ms. McCarthy that Mr. Martin Collins, Chair of Community Board 12, brought 558 West 161<sup>st</sup> Street to the attention of Mr. Shaun Donovan, the Commissioner of HPD during a Borough Budget Consultation meeting. HPD indicated that the agency would follow-up on Ms. McCarthy's complaints regarding enforcement.

Respectfully submitted by: Deborah Blow & reviewed by Jacqueline Aristy

**Traffic & Transportation Committee  
Minutes  
September 13, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Aidee Camacho, Chair  
Dago Suarez, Assistant Chair  
Glenda Swanson-Massa  
Renato Mena

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Rose Mary Santo

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deborah Blow, Community Assoc.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Dr. Pamela Palanque North  
Martin Collins

**GUESTS**

Adrienne Taub, Buckley Yung, Theodore V. Orosz, MTA, NYCT; Clevis Rodriguez, Pinehurst Children's Center; Argentina Cabrera, Resident; Bobbie Gamble, Resident; Tamika, Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Carlo Alsbrook, Resident; Councilman Miguel Martinez, Betty Flanagan, Resident; Tomas Trinidad, Angelo Ortiz, Inwood Community Service; Lavenne Collins, Betty Gelmann, Isabella Geriatric Center.

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Meeting called at 7:25pm

**Presentations:**

Theodore Orosz, Director of Manhattan / Bronx Bus Service Planning Operations Planning / Route & Systems Planning, MTA; Re: Bus Service adjustments: Spoke about M101 making U-turns on Amsterdam Avenue and Fort George Avenue.

\*See Hand-Out Attached\*

Buckley Yung, MTA; Re: Changes at the George Washington Bridge West 179<sup>th</sup> Street:

1. Proposed to change the layover from bus stopping at the north side of the West 179<sup>th</sup> Street to the south side of West 178<sup>th</sup> Street moving the Bx36 to the north side of West 178<sup>th</sup> Street, Wadsworth to Broadway.  
\*See Letter from MTA Attached\*

Some discussion of new "low floor" buses, which are easier to board, but have less room inside. It is a trade off in design.

There was much discussion as to the relative nature and draw backs of this plan....Not clear who is actually riding the buses from and to the Bronx and if they are coming from / to this community, as if they are traveling through. If the latter, it is not right to use this neighborhood as the turnaround

2. Re-routing M101 to turnaround from Amsterdam Avenue to St. Nicholas and Ft. George Avenue at West 190<sup>th</sup> Street. Members of the public commented on traffic and the need for ticketing. Clearly enforcement is also an issue.

Laveene Collins of Isabella Security had major concerns with regards to routing of the M101, to near Isabella, bringing reticulated buses to an area not used to dealing with this type of vehicular traffic. Also, there are many safety issues for the children from daycare and adjacent playground.

Mr. Orosz offered to have a bus stop at Amsterdam and W.190<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bobby Gamble, a neighborhood resident, voiced concerns about noise and lights of this 24-hour bus service.

Mr. Orosz offered that perhaps "something could be done" the bus in the late night / early morning hours, though he was not specific. She also had concerns about pollution.

Mr. Orosz pointed out that part of the problem the MTA seeks to solve is that regarding the M101 currently turning around by making a U-turn on Amsterdam Avenue / Ft. George Avenue, which is dangerous and also illegal, even though it's been done for many years. Ms. Camacho suggested reducing the number of longer, reticulated buses and using smaller buses with limited-stop bus service, and to explore the construction of a traffic-calming circle on Ft. George Avenue (by the Buczek Ball Field). This segued into a line of questioning about traffic safety statistics, which MTA cannot provide.



The operational and safety issues affect both the M101 and the M3, so any solution has to be equitable for both lines and also fair across the community – solutions cannot benefit some part of the community at the expense of another. Mr. Orosz summarized the need to balance local need for quality-of-life mitigation – a need which we and Ms. Taub clearly heard and sympathize with – with the need to provide municipal services to an entire city. The M101 for example, is one of the busiest bus routes in the community.

Community resident raised the possibility of having Bronx buses terminate in the Bronx and having a single shuttle over the bridge. Mr. Orosz rejected this as poor customer service – riders would like to go through - as well as potentially dangerous, as the road in question is a clover-leaf, not a pedestrian friendly solution. Mr. Suarez pointed out this same kind of solution works in Brooklyn (B39) and urged MTA to consider this solution here. Mr. Orosz countered that those aren't really comparable, as the subway provides the major crossing over the Williamsburg Bridge, not the bus.

There was a brief discussion about the buses at Margaret Corbin Circle (M4 & M98), but the consensus was that the presence of the additional buses at this layover point is the natural consequence at increased services on these 2 lines, pursuant to community requests.

The MTA representatives agreed to take these comments back and revise their proposal and resubmit a proposal to the board. They request that the board forward any additional input from the board so that feedback may be incorporated into their revised proposal. It also was clarified that the impetus behind the changes around the George Washington Bridge was the Manhattan Borough President's report and accommodations on West 181<sup>st</sup> Street which focused on pedestrian traffic. As for changes regarding Ft. George Hill, traffic inconvenience and safety concerns were raised by the MTA.

#### **Discussion on West 181<sup>st</sup> Street/ Follow-up by Buckley Yung, MTA – Proposed Bus Changes**

3. Mr. Yung discussed proposed solutions for the w. 181<sup>st</sup> Street strip also as a follow-up to the January 2004 Public Hearing on West 181<sup>st</sup> Street traffic situation and the Manhattan Borough President report on the same. He showed a report proposing changing some of the stops along 181<sup>st</sup> Street as traffic mitigating measures. The changes would include three additional bus stops (two on the southeast bound side and one on the northwest side of West 181<sup>st</sup> Street) between Wadsworth Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue. There was some discussion of this solution as an incredible approach to the congestion, as the longer-term solution of reducing overall number of buses and routes is unlikely.
4. "Don't Block the Box" and "No Left Turn Peak Hours 7am – 10am and 4pm – 7pm Except Sundays" signs on 181<sup>st</sup> Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. Letter of support to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for this measure. This has been implemented successfully on 181<sup>st</sup> Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

#### **Review Bus Shelter Requests**

5. Bus Shelters: SE corner of West 155<sup>th</sup> Street and Edgecombe Avenue is feasible, but NW corner is not. NE corner of West 168<sup>th</sup> Street / Ft. Washington Avenue (in front of the Track & Field Hall Fame) is feasible. DOT will not construct these 2 shelters.

#### **Budget Consultations Update**

6. Dago Suarez reported that Broadway, West 155<sup>th</sup> - 178<sup>th</sup> Streets could be repaved, but not reconstructed. DOT applied to Federal Government for large grant to really study problem as an interim measure, recommended "Don't Block the Box" pavement markings and signage, which would be implemented per previous item.

Sanitation will pick up garbage from West 190<sup>th</sup> Street tunnel on IRT line, not MTA.

The State will take over the reconstruction of West 155<sup>th</sup> Street; The City will handle repaving the West 155<sup>th</sup> Street highway portion. Commissioner Forgione strongly recommended a speedy response for "Don't Block the Box" signage with "No Left Turn Peak Hours 7am – 10am and 4pm – 7pm Monday – Saturday".

#### **Capital Budget Priorities Review:**

- #1 - Item 093128909A: Rehabilitate IRT/IND on West 168<sup>th</sup> street and make ADA complaint.
- #2 - Hire additional air and noise enforcement personnel

Traffic & Transportation Committee's next meeting is Wednesday, October 6, 2004 at 7pm. This change is due to the MBPO's Community Board Members training on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion on Filming in Community Board 12 Manhattan was tabled to October 2004 T&T meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.



**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2004**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair  
Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair  
Leslie Foster  
Glenda Swanson-Massa  
Msgr Gerald Walsh  
Gloria Vanterpool

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Nelson Rojas

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Collins

**Deborah Blow, Community Associate**

**GUESTS**

Herbert Harwitt-Mt Sinai Jewish Ctr, Cecil Levinson-Resident, Ethel L. Stoll-Resident, Mary Jones Springer, Nora Negron-ARC, Verna Arthur NYC Dept of the Aging, Norma De Candido, Stephanie L. Harris-J. Hood Wright-NYC Parks & Recreation, Edith Prentiss, Joan Fairservis-Resident, Marilyn Pacheco-Resident, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison

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Sybil R. Dodson -Lucas opened meeting at 10:15am.

The Committee on the Aging kicked off the 04/05 session with introduction of new chair, Sybil Dodson-Lucas and co-chair, Fern Hertzberg.

Committee members acknowledged with gratitude the work of former chair/co-chair Glenda Swanson-Massa and Gloria Vanterpool. We also welcomed back long serving committee chair Herb Harwitt, who will be joining as a public member.

In order to brief the chair on committee issues, all attendees were called upon to recount their concerns and issue items from past year. These will be prioritized to form the committees action agenda for the upcoming year.

Among the priorities identified by committee members and attendees were:

Status of Medicaid  
Social Security Provisions-Review  
MTA/Access issues for the physically challenged  
Emergency Room Care/Quality-Allen Pavilion & Columbia Presbyterian Hospital  
Research the Aging as subjects for Scientific Studies

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted by S. Dodson-Lucas

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – September 7, 2004

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon, Chair  
Helen Morik, Asst. Chair  
Emmanuel Barrientos

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Smith Ramos  
Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas

### PUBLIC MEMBER

Basilia Gomez

### GUESTS

Chinyelu Udoh, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.  
Zoraya Echevarria, Cornell University Cooperative Extension  
Elaine Larson, Columbia University School of Nursing

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1. Steve Simon, chair, opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m., introducing the members who were present and welcoming Mr. Barrientos, a new board member, to the committee.
2. He then asked Ms. Morik to give a status report on former President Bill Clinton, who had heart bypass surgery at NY-Presbyterian Hospital the previous day. She reported that Mr. Clinton was expected to make a rapid recovery and that he is receiving thousands of telegrams as well as flowers and fruit baskets, which are being distributed throughout the hospital.
3. Elaine Larson, associate dean of the Columbia University (CU) School of Nursing, gave a presentation on a research project concerning the use of antibiotics in the community. She recently completed a one-year study on "anti-bacterial" cleaning products used in the home and found that they had no effect whatsoever on infectious disease symptoms compared to plain soap and that there was no difference in bacterial counts on homemakers' hands after their use of either type of cleaning products. The new research project involves a series of focus groups of local residents (now underway) and in the coming weeks bodega owners to explore their knowledge of the appropriate uses of antibiotics. While it is illegal to sell prescribed antibiotics over the counter without a prescription, it is believed that this practice is widespread and that the storeowners feel they are providing a service to their customers. She agreed to return at a later date to report on the results of her study.  
Dean Larson, who is also the chair of one of CU's Institutional Review Boards, which determines whether it is proper to use members of the public as subjects of Columbia's research projects, said that community residents are needed for these boards and invited committee members to join.
4. Chinyelu Udoh, co-chair of the local projects community outreach committee of Delta Sigma Theta, a national sorority, reported that her group wants to organize a health fair/asthma symposium in the community for April 2005. Children and adults would be able to get checkups. She said she was willing to work with community groups, and the committee gave her some ideas on groups to contact. She also said that sorority members would be attending Community Board meetings on a regular basis, and Mr. Simon encouraged her to have one of her members attend the committee's meetings as well.
5. Zoraya Echevarria, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, reported on the "Eat Smart, New York" program, which is geared to food stamp recipients and applicants. Free workshops are offered in community locales for 6-8 weeks on topics such as budgeting, nutrition, food safety, etc. People are taught, for instance, about comparing different products, doing price comparisons, and that low-carb products may be high in fat. The classes have been offered at George Washington High School and the ARC Fort Washington Senior Center. Ms. Echevarria completed her presentation by demonstrating how to make a Waldorf Salad with fresh ingredients. The salad was quickly consumed by the remaining committee members and members of the Traffic & Transportation Committee, who were meeting in the next room.
6. The mail was reviewed, and the meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Simon

**Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**September 07, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Zead Ramadan, Chair  
Emilia Cardona, Assistant Chair  
Dago Suarez  
Pablo Santo

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Collins, CB12 Chair

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miguel A. Reyes,  
Community Associate

**GUESTS**

Cathy Chambers, Operations Manager, Green Market; Vivian Ducat, Resident; Susan Razzavi, Director, Alta Classica; Carlos Ponce, Alta Classica; Myrna Thomas, Friends of Lily Brown Playground; Mathew Mazella, Future Resident; Melvin Caro, Resident; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Angel Gardner, Lotus, Music and Dance; Frank Andrews, Resident; Susan Ryan, Resident; Marcy Auerbach, Danza Washington Heights.

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7:05pm – Meeting Started

Zead introduced Mathew Mazzella who offered the Dept. of Parks & Recreation or other interested entities the native rock they were to drill out when developing their property on Cabrini Blvd. He was given contact info for potential interested parties.

Cathy Chambers, Director of Operations, Green Market, Re: Proposed Green market bet. W. 155<sup>th</sup> Street and W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway.  
Resident Vivian Ducat briefly spoke of her support for a Green Market. Ms. Chambers requested that this be done by the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2004 General Meeting. Mr. Ramadan explained the process to Ms. Chambers, ie. Public Information meeting, it may not be possible. Emilia Cardona proposed that the Green Market be held, on 155<sup>th</sup> Street between Riverside & Broadway, not on the southbound side of Broadway between W. 155<sup>th</sup> and 156<sup>th</sup> Streets. Committee Members concurred. Cathy Chambers: (917) 747-0457.

Ralph Paniagua, Director of Ralph Paniagua, Inc.

The committee wanted to find out how the events during the summer went? Was it safe?

Mr. Paniagua said the event was very successful. Re: public Safety-Mr. Dago Suarez said that there was only one armed officer and the remaining was Auxiliary Police. Mr. Paniagua stated that he experienced resistance to the events from the NYPD – 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He stated that there were no incidents whatsoever. Furthermore, he stated that his event left the park clean.

**Issues:**

1. Problem: NY Presbyterian Hospital was going to park on the sidewalk of the even and do free children's health screening, but the NYCDPR was charging 2 to 3,000 dollars to park their screening truck (they backed out)
2. Mr. Paniagua stated he felt over charged for the concerts by the NYCDPR
3. Paniagua complained that Parks wouldn't allow him to serve free beer and wine in the VIP area to sponsors?
4. Committee expressed concern over inequality in Parks fee schedule and enforcement efforts and proposed a borough-wide standard.
5. Assistant Chair: Proposed that in the future, we should have the Economic Development Committee involved.
6. Paniagua felt that WAHL deserves a public relations effort and welcomed collaborations with local cultural groups.

Speaker Susan Razzavi, Director of Alta Classica

Interested in collaboration with organization and private organizations. Speaker introduced her program: Music from different cultures.

**Announcements:**

- Chad Festival: May 1, 2005, event: Celebrates Native American culture in New York – Angel Gardner spoke.
- Susan Ryan representing J.A. Reynolds announced a "peace day event" at Bruce's Garden on 9/18/04 from 12pm to 4pm at Isham Park.

The Chair reported regarding new things taking place in CB12

1. Gray Line making a run up to the Cloisters and show casing Historical Parks
2. City guide will display map of upper Manhattan on website if we forward them map and tourist information – we are still not they have left us off their published maps and they are the official city maps for tourists
3. 10/07/04 – CCNY will have Frankenstein discussion – Secrets of Nature and creation.

Local resident question: What is Snapple machine doing in Bennett Park? It is not working. It is part of the NYC contract with Snapple.

Local resident complained of drugs, alcohol, and prostitution in Fort Tryon Park. Suggested that Parks Dept. close park at Margaret Corbin entrance, or enforce the closing time – suggestion was to inquire with Public Safety Committee as they've dealt with this issue in recent past.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm

## Land Use Committee Minutes – September 1, 2004

### Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair  
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair  
Dora Maria Abreu  
James Berlin  
Mark Levine  
Jay Maur  
Julio Rodriguez

### Committee Members Absent

Peter Ferrara (excused)  
Pablo Santo (excused)

### Board Members

Steve Simon

### Community Planning Task Force

Luis Facundo, Chair  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Jacqueline Aristy  
Zead Ramadan

### CPTF Absentees

Sybil Dodson (excused)

Martin Collins, Chairman

### Guests

Patricia Thompson, Gareth May, Paris R. Baldacci, Marlene Zimmerman-Hudson View Gardens Board, David Kach, Howard S. Aaron-17 Chittenden Ave, Jane Becker, Helen Funnulli-196 Pinehurst Ave., Lani, Michael Crino-Columbia, Nicola Vasquez, Miguel Vasquez-180 Pinehurst Ave., Ella Arolovich-Resident, Matthew Mazzelle, Melvin Caro-Property Owners, Mary Bruning-250 Cabrini, Crystal Johnson-187 Pinehurst Avenue

1. The joint meeting of the Land Use Committee and Community Planning Task Force was called to order at 7:12 pm.
2. Land Use Chair, Wayne Benjamin made opening remarks welcoming old and new committee members, members of the Planning Task Force and guests in attendance.
3. An update on the status of the work being performed by Insight Associates (Ethel Sheffer) for CB12 was distributed and reviewed. The report indicated that Insight is working on documenting and updating existing conditions on Audubon and Amsterdam Avenues generally from 167<sup>th</sup> to 181<sup>st</sup> Streets as well as on the mid-blocks between Amsterdam and Audubon. Insight has also updated data on retail uses on both avenues from the time of City Planning's most recent survey, begun to make comparisons as to the type of stores on each avenue, searched agency data (HPD, Buildings Department, Department of Finance, etc.) on the residential buildings with and without commercial uses, updated and refined its photographic database of existing conditions, and begun to add field observations of "real life" conditions by means of visits and documentation at different times of the day. Insight will attend the October Land Use Committee meeting to discuss its progress in detail.
4. A presentation was made by Melvin Caro and Matthew Mazzella concerning the proposed construction of three single family townhouses at 201 - 207 Cabrini Boulevard. The presentation was for informational and outreach purposes only as the buildings will be constructed as-of-right and do not require any discretionary actions or approvals, i.e. BSA approval or other waivers. It was indicated that Mr. Caro and Mr. Mazzella have owned the project site since July 2001 and will each occupy one of the townhouses, the third will be occupied by family members. Mr. Caro and Mr. Mazzella are not developer/builders; the project will be constructed by a third party contractor. The buildings will be modular-type construction. The modules will be manufactured in Pennsylvania and shipped by truck via the George Washington Bridge. Construction duration is anticipated to be four months. A building permit had not been issued by the Department of Buildings as of the 9/1/04 Land Use meeting. The presenters and neighborhood residents discussed various matters related to the project including site safety, building design, noise, parking, construction staging, rock removal, the relationship of the new buildings to existing buildings, etc. Since the project does not require action by the Land Use Committee it was recommended to the presenters that they coordinate with CB 12's Housing and Traffic & Transportation committees.

5. The Committee and Task Force members reviewed items of “Old Business” carried over from the community board term which ended June 2004. Matters that require follow-up in the current term include on-going dialogue with Landmarks and community residents concerning the proposed Audubon Park Historic District, identification of areas of interest or concern in CB 12 for rezoning, historic preservation or other special recognition, working with Columbia University and community stakeholders to pursue the development of 2142 Amsterdam Avenue for affordable housing (it was noted that this site is the same size as the site on West 171<sup>st</sup> Street for which CB12 approved a BSA application on June 14, 2004 to permit the construction of a nine-story, 15 unit apartment building), dialogue with the Municipal Arts Society concerning planning issues, and follow-up with Columbia and the Borough President’s office on the status of the Audubon IV project.
6. The Community Planning Task Force Chair, Luis Facundo, lead a general discussion on the need of CB 12 to have a 197-a Plan (refer to the Task Force minutes for details). Mr. Facundo provided the Task Force and Committee with copies of a document entitled “The History of 197-a Planning” for reference; this document is attached to the minutes. For reference, Board Member Steve Simon also provided a copy of a page from the NYC Charter which provides information on 197-a Plans (defined therein as a plan for the development, growth and improvement of the city or of its boroughs and community districts) this page is also attached to the minutes.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin