

**Manhattan Community Board 12**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2022**

- I. **Call to order**
  - a. Meeting is called to order at 6:47 pm
- II. **Adoption of the agenda** – October 2022 Agenda
  - a. Mary Anderson motions to approve; Daryl Cochrane seconded; unanimous approval
- III. **Adoption of the minutes** – September 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - a. Osi Kaminer would like for each person who attended to be listed; Osi Kaminer would like for each board member’s name to have their last name included in the meeting minutes
  - b. Wayne Benjamin motions to approve the meeting minutes with the friendly amendments, unanimous approval
- IV. **Chair’s report** – Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
  - a. **Presentation by Alvin Bragg – Manhattan District Attorney, End of the Year Report**
    - i. It has been challenging nationally, and upper Manhattan is no exception. Roughly 90% of people shot in New York City last year were black or Latino. We are starting to see the trend bend. There has been a general decline in shootings and homicides, particularly in northern Manhattan. There is a focus on the driver of violence, gun trafficking, ghost guns, and holding people accountable who are making it very difficult for the rest of us. In northern Manhattan, there is a particular organization that has been responsible for most of the crime— there is a prosecution in place against the organization, which has helped bring down overall crime. The office announced the creation of a housing unit in upper Manhattan to address the issue of unscrupulous landlords who are harassing tenants and developers who are defrauding the 421-a program. The office will continue to do their special victims’ work, including a doctor who abused his power. The docket is at an all-time high in anti-harassment. The office continues to look at its mental health infrastructure. The office is building on long-term investigations into shoplifting.
    - ii. Member of the public asks if Mr. Bragg can speak to the issue of why the NYPD will not come to a burglary crime scene on time. The person should reach out to the office directly.
    - iii. Maria Luna wants to urge members of the board and the public to the community council meetings.
    - iv. Jay Mazur read that the justice department was investigating the NYPD’s special victim unit. AD Bragg explains that the investigation is ongoing.
    - v. Ayisha Oglivie is excited to hear about the new housing unit and would like to know if his office can present at the housing committees on how the program works and how the AD’s office can be supportive in upper Manhattan. AD Bragg’s office will connect.

- vi. Nobles Crawford asks about updates on white-collar crime prosecutions, which AD Bragg provides.
  - b. **Community Engagement** – Presentation by Mino Lora, Executive Director – People’s Theatre Project
    - i. Introduces the organization and the work the organization is rooted in and engages in. Shares that the new space the organization is building out in northern Manhattan will serve as a community hub for all.
- V. **District Manager’s Report** – Ebenezer Smith, District Manager
  - a. The 34<sup>th</sup> police precinct has posted police officers on the 181<sup>st</sup> Street commercial corridor from 10 pm to 6 pm and making arrests from 1-5 pm.
  - b. ConEdison will resume the termination of service for clients who are in arrears.
  - c. Northwest corner of 165<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam – reported to DOT an inaccessibility problem related to construction barricades.
  - d. Shares thank you to all board members who participated in the budget rankings.
    - i. Osi Kaminer would like to know the tally of budget rankings submitted. Ebenezer does not have a count.
- VI. **Elected Officials’ Report**
  - a. Yodalis Moran from Senator Jackson’s office shares that the office is considering capital project requests for programs to apply. This evening, the office is holding an education budget forum on school budget cuts. On November 3, the office will have a landlord harassment clinic. We have seen a few cases with funds being stolen from EBT cards—if this is a problem, the office encourages people to reach out.
  - b. Yamilah Sandoval from CM Carmen De La Rosa’s office reports that there will be a hearing on civil service exams on Wednesday, 10/25. There was a sanitation town hall last week Tuesday, 10/18. The office started a monthly farm-to-table food program. CM participated in the one fair wage rally. The office continues to do Citizenship Now.
    - i. Jay Mazur asks with the city having such a huge vacancy rate, the committees are finding that many of the projects coming to their attention are not being tended to because of the vacancy issue, so what does the CM plan to do given her leadership role in the City Council? Yamilah shared that the CM is monitoring the problem, will share with the CM, and the office will send back an email.
  - c. Madeline McNamee from AM De Los Santos’ office shares that the office is seeing about 150 constituents per week with more concerns around rent arrears and general affordable housing issues. The office hosted two peace walks. The office is meeting with the local commanders to discuss public safety issues. Today is the day to start seeing more police officers on the subway, who are trained in conflict resolution.
  - d. Laurie Tobias-Cohen from CM Adriano Espaillat’s office announces that there are two upcoming flu shot clinics the office is hosting. The CM has been very active in representing the needs and concerns of those affected by the hurricane in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The CM authored an essay on military intervention in the Dominican Republic, which was shared with Harvard University. The CM hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on 10/15. The information on the CM’s legislative concerns barely scratches the surface of the issues he is engaging in.

- e. Oliver Betances from Council Member Shaun Abreu’s office shares that a big announcement was made on efforts to reduce the rat population in our city. The announcement included reducing hours that trash bags can sit on curbs and the containerization program. The CM will be engaging the community in participatory budgeting.
  - i. Wayne Benjamin stated that many of the residential projects that come before to the Land Use committee have a minimum income threshold of about \$70,000, which is about 50% higher than the average household income in upper Manhattan. Oliver shares that it’s on the CM’s radar. Wayne acknowledges that CM Abreu will present at the November Land Use meeting.

**VII. Borough President’s Report**

- a. Porfirio Figueroa from the Manhattan Borough President shares that the office shared an e-commerce blueprint report that can be found online with solutions to improve e-commerce. There is an extension of the executive order to November 21, 2022, that allows for virtual community board meetings.

**VIII. Public Session**

- a. Michaela Kay has been involved in getting a street co-naming for John Collado. Shares the process she and her neighbors have engaged in to obtain the co-naming including circulating a petition, presenting to the Traffic & Transportation committee, and getting support from Councilmember De La Rosa.
- b. Tine Byrsted lives at 30 Seaman Ave and speaks on behalf of a group of neighbors on the development on Cummings Street. She wants to make sure the development is truly affordable for low to middle-income community members. The developer has been rejected recently at some point through the ULURP process as not appropriate as planned. She would like to know if we have heard from the developer on their plans. And would like to know
  - i. Katherine informs Tine should send in a request to the District Manager to have it directed to the appropriate committee.
- c. Mike Fitelson is requesting support to have exterior changes made to the United Palace to install lighting in two of the existing attraction boxes and convert four into digital boxes. The boxes will feature theater events and activities, one on the history of the theater, a community box to announce happenings in the community, and a final box to promote the work of local non-profits.
- d. Lisa Beth Miller from the Lighthouse Guild presents the educational work the organization has been doing to support people with low vision, who are vision impaired, or are blind. Wants the community board to know of the services available and that she is open to conducting presentations.

**IX. Committee Resolutions**

- a. Resolution in support of co-naming the corner of Post Avenue and Dyckman Street “John Collado Street.”
  - i. Jay Mazur, Domingo Estevez, and Ayisha Oglive speak in support.
- b. Resolution supporting the United Palace’s illuminated attraction box project

- i. Domingo Estevez asks if any of the nonprofits will be charged to promote the illuminated attraction boxes. Wayne clarified that the signage cannot be used for commercial purposes; only programs and events occurring within the building can be promoted.
        - ii. Daryl Cochrane asks whether the illuminated boxes will have an impact on the surrounding residential buildings. Wayne clarified that the United Palace will coordinate with DOT concerning the level of illumination.
        - iii. Maria Luna asks whether this is to replicate a Times Square, just uptown. Wayne clarified that the illuminated boxes are the existing poster-size display boxes and are not for commercial purposes.
      - c. Licensing Committee resolutions
        - i. Michelle Lee asks for more information on why to object to resolution number 7.
        - ii. Eleazar Bueno shares that the owner was diagnosed with a terminal disease and has been absent.
      - d. See tally vote.
- X. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Youth and Education**, Fe Florimon, Chair
    - i. The committee was able to discuss the annual budget priorities, but they did not have a quorum. She thanks the 34<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, and 32<sup>nd</sup> police precinct, the borough president, and Porfirio Figueroa for their presence and support.
  - b. **Concerns of the Aging**, Mary Anderson, Chair
    - i. The committee had an extensive presentation on the work of the Lighthouse Guild, which Lisa Beth Miller did a short presentation on today during the public session.
    - ii. The committee reviewed the budget ranking priorities.
    - iii. The committee attendance is triple as high because of the virtual format. The committee meets during the day. The committee would like to continue to push for a virtual format.
      - 1. James Bosley spoke in support of allowing the committee to remain virtual.
      - 2. Eleazar Bueno shares that the hybrid model is here to stay. Mary shares that hybrid still has an impact on quorum.
  - c. **Health and Environment**, Steve Simon, Chair
    - i. Chair is absent; Refer to the minutes
  - d. **Housing & Human Services**, Emily Marte, Interim Chair
    - i. Chair is absent; Refer to the minutes
  - e. **Business Development**, Francisco Lopez, Chair
    - i. Chair is absent; Refer to the minutes
    - ii. Joel Abreu as Assistant Chair shares that the committee discussed the budget rankings. The committee will be bringing in resources for nightlife operators.
  - f. **Parks & Cultural Affairs**, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair
    - i. Chair absent; Refer to the minutes
    - ii. Nobles Crawford shares the two upcoming topics that will be discussed during the November meeting.
  - g. **Public Safety**, Eleazar Bueno, Interim Chair

- i. The committee engaged in a conversation about the budget rankings
- ii. Citivents presented their idea to hold a New Year's Eve celebration near the United Palace. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct objected to the event because resources will be stretched thin that day. There were committee members that also opposed the idea.
  1. Maria Luna shares that she learned at the most recent council meeting that one of the proposals is to close 174<sup>th</sup> to 178<sup>th</sup> Streets between Broadway and Wadsworth Avenue on NYE's from mid-day to the following morning on New Year's Day.

XI. **Other Reports**

a. **Old Business**

b. **New Business**

- i. Eleazar Bueno shares that the Manhattan Borough President has re-appointed Marielle Ali to the board.
- ii. The Nomination Committee will be starting up again for the December elections under the leadership of Daryl Cochrane, Robin Cruz, Carl Unegbu, Luana Ferreira, Joel Abreu, Leo Jimenez, and Mansita Diawara

c. **Adjournment**

- i. Nobles Crawford motioned to adjourn; Daryl Cochrane seconded
- ii. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

**Board Members in Attendance**

- Joel Abreu
- Jumirna Alcober
- Marielle Ali
- Richard Allman
- Mary Anderson
- Jacob Banas
- Wayne Benjamin
- James Berlin
- Hector Bonilla
- Tayna Bonner
- James Bosley
- Eleazar Bueno
- Daryl Cochrane
- Nobles Crawford
- Robin Cruz
- Katherine Diaz
- Mansita Diawara
- Domingo Estevez
- Luana Ferreria
- Fe Florimon

- Mariam James
- Leopoldo Jiminez
- Osi Kaminer
- Michelle Lee
- Maria Luna
- Emily Marte
- Jay Mazur
- Isidro Medina
- Jonathan Nunez-Frometa
- Ayisha Oglive
- Bruce Robertson
- Angel Vasquez