



Community Board 12, Manhattan
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Manhattan Community Board 12
Housing and Human Services Committee

Committee Members Present: Emily Marte (Assistant Chair), Jay Baez, Bruce Robertson, Ayisha Oglivie, Richard Allman, Kimberly McCoy, Marshall Vanderpool, Marielle Ali (Chair)

Community Members Present: Phil Zablocki, Audrey Waters, Nina, Catherine

Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 pm.

Welcome & Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves.

Committee Planning - Priorities for 2023

Community Board 12 Chair, Katherine Diaz, has asked all committees to identify three to five SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) goals.

Marielle shared ideas for committee priorities including a **joint meeting on the mental health crisis** with Health and Environment committee, advocacy on worst landlords list as several manage buildings in the district and the Fort Washington Armory Public Forum.

Bruce suggested follow up on the creation community information database passed by the Community Board in spring 2022. Ayisha spoke about the request for the database following the committee's desire to update the resource document on the Community Board website. Board staff updated the resource document over the summer. The information database would be a website or app that can assist New Yorkers in accessing resources in New York City.

Ayisha suggested creating an internal committee system to streamline and follow up on committee resolutions and action items. She also suggested the committee look into recourses tenants who experience fires may take. Some questions the committee can explore are: What are the obligations of landlords, agencies, etc.? What human services

are available for people after experiencing fires? What are the policies that exist that create potential fires?

Jay recommended increased engagement with elected officials such as requesting updates on a regular basis. Jay shared the focus of New York State and New York City is affordable housing. Jay also recommending engaging community organizations.

Kimberly spoke about increasing fire safety awareness through families. Kimberly suggested working with other committees such as Youth and Education.

Richard agreed with the priorities shared and suggested the committee address them from a policy and budget perspective. He encouraged committee discussions to be focus and more action oriented.

work on the priorities above; look at how we run our meetings—run meetings a bit more efficiently; can we have more presentations on the issues for human services -- go to exec meetings and talk about the

Engaging with Elected Officials on Housing and Human Services

Committee members collated questions to ask elected officials and discussed ways to better work with.

- How are elected officials addressing the silos amongst city agencies that exist in housing and human services?
- Collaborate with elected representatives on the Fort Washington Armory
- How can we better partner with their offices?
- Ask them for a list of community organizations/resources the committee should be aware of
- How can the committee work with elected officials on behalf of resident issues?

Ayisha suggested elected officials can update us via email on a regular basis. Kimberly asked for office staff to keep committee informed of elected representative liaisons.

Marielle thanked the committee for the engaging discussion and noted the long list. The committee would not be able to address all of them at once. Marielle talked about building a stronger relationship with elected officials. Due to capacity and lack of expertise, committee should not advocate for each resident/building. However, the committee and Community Board 12 can better serve the community by ensuring residents know what resources are available.

Richard suggested having community organizations presenting at meetings as a platform to share information. He also suggested that it is a wider community board issue and should be discussed with the Executive Committee.

Community Providers for Housing and Human Services

Marielle suggested the committee begin outreach with the CB12 resource document, and Jay recommended the committee ask elected representatives for their own lists as well. Committee could invite the organizations for presentations. Committee members shared a list of organizations: WeAct for Environmental Justice, Westside Foundation Senior Housing, Broadway Housing Community, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, Legal Aids, Community League of the Heights, PA'LANTE, RENA,

New Business

Marielle shared that the committee will host a **joint meeting with the Health and Environment Committee on mental health and a separate meeting on sanitation.**

On mental health, Ayisha encouraged the committees to examine mental health policies in cities across the country. We can also work with Public Safety Committee.

On sanitation, Bruce asked if the committee can also discuss composting.

Old Business

Marielle shared a **follow up on 705 and 709 West 170th**. In December, Department of Buildings presented at committee meeting to discuss after-hour work variances and status of two buildings. DOB Representative remains in contact with one of the tenants of the buildings. The representative shared that the tenants had come together to hire a super to start working on repairs. Tenants have also been in contact with Housing Preservation and Development about need for repairs.

Ayisha asked for follow up on some of the questions raised at the meeting. Reports are made, and inspectors are sent out. Landlords are contacted about the situation and given a certain number of days to rectify the problem. If they do not comply, there is a consequence. Ayisha asked for more clarity from DOB about the process.

The status of the **Fort Washington Armory** was discussed. Committee discussed potential list of attendees such as public health officials, city planners, programmers, elected officials, city agencies (Department of Homeless Services, Parks Department, New York City Law Department, etc.) Neighborhood Advisory Boards amongst others.

Marielle reminded the committee of suggested format with groups of stakeholders (elected officials, city planners, agencies, community organizations, etc.) each giving 1 to 2 minutes each followed by an interactive component.

Community member, Phil Zablocki, shared a concern that stakeholders often come to meetings unprepared to provide a response in the moment. Phil asked if the committee could devise a process to share the list of questions ahead of time to allow for preparation in addition to live questions during the forum. Phil asked about the status of the list of 23 questions sent to the Department of Homeless Services.

Marielle suggested that the save the date include a Google form to submit questions prior to the event. The committee should also accept questions verbally at a committee meeting for community members who may not use the Google form.

Phil asked if there is a template to host a community board template. Ayisha suggested active brainstorming exercises to capture thoughts of how the community would like to see the space used and produce a short report showcasing the findings.

Emily shared that the **Department of Buildings hosts weekly information sessions** on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at local borough offices.

Adjournment

Emily motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Bruce. Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.