

# CB12M's Youth & Education Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20, 2014

**Location: 530 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032**

**Committee Members Present:** Fe Florimón, Chair; Manny De Los Santos; Chair; Lorena Jimenez-Castro; Ayisha Oglivie;

**Committee Member(s) Absent:** Alyce Smith, Assist Chair

**Excused:** Maria Luna

**Board Member(s):** Richard Lewis

**Guest:** Alize V. Bael, Manhattan Borough Director-Mayor's Office Community Affairs Unit

**Community Members:** Mary Anderson, Community resident; Dr. Gary Altheim, Psy.D. Founder/Executive Director-Growth and Development Services, Inc; Ludovino Acevedo Community resident; Representatives for CHALK Program at Presbyterian Hospital were Meredith Marin, LMSW; Hector Carrasco, Community Program Coordinator and Alexa Squillaro- Acting Program Manager; Al Kurland from PAL; Roberto de la Rosa, Community Activist; Denise Hykes from Inwood Academy; Jerry Castanos, CEO & Founder at 3D Heights; Jeremy Reyes from NYC District Attorney Office; Phil Zablocki, Community Activist;

The Chair Fe Florimón opened the meeting at 7:15PM.

Members of the Committee and attendees were introduced by the Chair.

❖ **Discussion was taken place as indicated below:**

- ✓ The Minutes of the previous meeting October 4, 2014 meeting was approved by the committee. No change or adjustment was made.
- ✓ Chair's overview- Chair provided an overview of the agenda and changed its order due to members/guest not being present at the time of roll call.
- ✓ Chair introduced Mr. Al Kurland from PAL who discussed the bill that was recently passed ( Aug 11' 2014) by New York State Governor allowing 16 and 17 year olds to become member of Community Boards in New York City. Mr. Kurland also announced an upcoming event that will provide orientation and training for teenagers to help them understand the mission of Community Boards and the application process. The teens on board orientation and training, is sponsored and given by the staff of Borough President Gale Brewer, and will be held on **Tuesday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:30 pm at the PAL center in the Washington Heights Armory.**
- ✓ Mr. Kurland was part of the coalition that advocated for the bill. The same coalition will oversee trainings. They are not looking for large group of teens, but 2-3 teens from different organizations. These teens then could serve as trainers at their organizations in order to reach other interested teens.
- ✓ **Member Jimenez-Castro** asked that "who would be a perfect candidate for teens on board? Mr. Kurland replied: "Teens that want to make a difference in their community, are passionate about community issues and are interested in being public servants are perfect candidates for the role. In addition, teens that want to be guided and want to serve as role models for younger teens 14-15 year olds. That way they help shape future teen applicants."
- ✓ **Ms. Alize V. Beal**, Manhattan Borough Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU) was cordially introduced.

- ✓ Ms. Beal introduced herself and discussed the role of her position as Borough Director (BD) and the mission of her organization. CUA serves as a direct connection between the Mayor (City Hall) and New York's communities. It also plays an active role in public events in all the boroughs. In that, BD wants to help community board members (especially those who she knows hold multiple hats in the community) connect with the mayor office. As BD, her role includes helping make policy changes by collecting information and feedback from the ground on important issues to communities.
- ✓ BD also discussed (briefly) the Mayor's special initiatives Universal Pre-K availability and Municipal ID. As for Universal Pre-K availability, it is available to families in all boroughs and they should to call 311 (if necessary) to get more information.
- ✓ Mayor's Municipal ID will serve as a state ID and could be used to obtain admission into some cultural institutions, open bank accounts amongst other things. Will likely be also available for 16 year olds and older population. Applications will be available online.
- ✓ Ms. Beal also emphasized in the importance of community relations. She stated that a bridge has been officially created (tonight) between CB12M, the Washington Heights/Inwood Community and CAU as a result of her invitation to the Youth and Education Committee meeting. The audience immediately responded with applauses and positive remarks.
- ✓ The committee proposed to hold a "Community Forum" as joint effort between CAU, CB12M and Y&E Committee to bring information to community residents and connect them to much needed services.
- ✓ Chair discussed the need for additional Talented and Gifted programs within School District 6, which only has one program. Chair also discussed the importance of community awareness and the need to increase assistance for youth mental health, and the increasing rate of adolescent suicide.
- ❖ Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions/speak. **Dr. Gary Altheim** and several clients program expressed concern about the challenges he is facing to keep the space at the Armory where he runs his program (Growth and Development Services). He has requested the assistance of CB12M, Youth and Education Committee and CAU to help keep the space and look into making resources available to residents of CB12M's district. According to Dr. Altheim this situation was previously discussed Ms. Beal who is trying to help him. She agreed on his comment, and stated that her office still working on his request.
- ❖ Resolution regarding: "**Recommending Joint Board Committee Review Documents on the Legal Standing of Entities Housed in the 168<sup>th</sup> Street Armory and Use of the Building as a Community Space.**" The committee unanimously recommended the approval as follow Committee Members 4; Board Member 1; Members of the public 24. Over all 29-0. Motion was brought by Member Oglive and seconded by Manny De Los Santos. Chair specified that this resolution should be considered as a work on progress.
- ❖ **Meredith Marin, LMSW**-from **CHALK Program** mentioned about the support for health and wellness programs like CHALK at Presbyterian Hospital. ~Washington Heights has one of the highest obesity, asthma and other health statistics ~what additional resources are available to support existing programs and bring additional resources?
- ❖ The Committee discussed and adopted its Ranking Budget Priorities for FY 16 after reaching unanimous decision.
- ❖ The meeting adjourned approximately at: 11:10pm