

CB12M- Youth & Education Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #4

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Location: 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair

Committee Member (s) Excused: Glennis Aquino; Chair; Maria Luna
Committee Member (s) Absent: Luis Tapia; Estevan Nembhard; Ayisha Oglivie

Guest: *Christina Reyes, Executive Director*, Inwood Academy for Leadership Updates;
Karina Muñoz, SYEP Director Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Community Members: Al Kurland, Manager at the Police Athletic League; Gabriela Rosa, Community Member, Nayma Silver, Founder of the Project Beauty; Nichole Grullart, representative for Dave Crenshaw-Dreamers; Benjamin Morillo, Author; Ana Arias, community resident; Hollard Cox; Joshwald Martinez, Student

The meeting was called to order at 7:23pm by Fe Florimon, Chair
Attendees were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

❖ Discussion was conducted as followed:

Mrs. Christina Reyes, Executive Director, Inwood Academy for Leadership, presented an update about her school. *The Inwood Academy for Leadership* is an approved Charter school by the NYS Board of Regents, located at 433 West 204 Street New York, NY 10034 (previous location for the St. Judes Catholic church). The school also has a second location for their High School at 108 Cooper Street New York NY 10034. Most of the school's students are from Inwood and Washington Heights community. An overview of the school was provided as follow:

- The school started with 110 students, on the 5th grade and each year a grade is added.
 - The number of students has increased from 110 to 800, and every year a new grade is added. The number of grades has been increased from 5th to 11th grade. The school serves approximately 100 students per grade.
 - Class size ranges from 12 to 25 students. The classrooms under 11th grade are comprised of 20 to 25 students, and each 11th grade has 12 students. The school also offers students college courses and the opportunity to graduate with 15 college credits.
 - Inwood Academy has a good working program and look forward to expanding their program to five career clusters (e.g. art and entrepreneur careers are some of the areas of focus). In their effort to improve their education services, they are also growing their relationship with other institutions including Columbia University.
 - It was also reported that a new location for high school will be available at 207 Street and Post Avenue.
 - High School Course Catalog was distributed, and participants reviewed and formulated their questions. Participants praised the school's work and achievement.
- ❖ Nayma Silver, Founder of the Project Beauty Experience, presented briefly about the mission of her organization. According to Ms. Silver, the program was established in 2014 and consists in a personal development program that strengthens young ladies through fashion and civic engagement. The program has earned the support so several organizations in the community of Washington and Inwood. Ms. Silver is living example of this mission. She encouraged participants to spread the word about her program and also stated that recruitment of 8-18 years old is in effect until the end of April 2017.
- ❖ Guest, Karina Muñoz, SYEP Director Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), did not attend the meeting due to the expiration of the youth employment. Unfortunately, application for youth summer jobs is no longer available.

New/Old Business

Community announcement were made as follow:

- Participants invited participants to attend the Homeless Students Crisis Forum, April 27th @ 6-8pm; provided in collaboration by the Y&EC and the Housing committee
- "Youth Building Bridges" Planning committee tour at GEWC April 27th @ 10:20am
- Youth and Police Partnership Walk & Resource Fair, May 20th @ 9:00am- Participants were invited and encouraged to support the event.
- Youth and Education Committee, and the Housing Committee will have a joint meeting early May (4th, 8th or 11th) to address the pending housing proposal at the Inwood Library. Committees are waiting for meeting site confirmation

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm