

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting**

**Russ Berrie Pavilion
1150 St. Nicholas Ave
March 26, 2019 - 6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Richard Allman; Glennis Aquino; James Berlin; Tanya Bonner; Eleazar Bueno; Daryl Cochrane; Robin Cruz; Waldys Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Katherine Diaz; Naysha Diaz; Domingo Estevez; Gabriela Estrella; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Bianca Guerrero; Fern Hertzberg; Yosef Kalinsky; Osi Kaminer; Elizabeth Lehmann; Richard R. Lewis; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Maria Luna; Jay Mazur; Nicholas Martinez; Noquel Matos; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Ayisha Ogilvie; Bruce Robertson; Steve Simon; Christopher Ventura; Curtis Young

Board Members Absent: Francisco Alvarez; Mary Anderson; Danielle Jettoo; Francisco Lopez; Mary O’Shaughnessy;

Board Members Absent - Excused: Wayne Benjamin; Matthew Levy; Karen Taylor;

Staff: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia

Call To Order: Chair Richard Lewis calls the meeting to order at 6:52 pm. He welcomes everyone. Quorum is attained. Agenda is adopted. Last month’s minutes adopted.

Chairman’s Report: Richard Lewis’ report covered the following topics:

- A listing of the many meetings, with a review of some, on the Chair’s March schedule.
- A review of the street co-naming in memory of Obie Bing, former board member of CB12.
- A mention of upcoming public hearings for the pedestrian plaza at 185 Street and Amsterdam Avenue and the Homeless Men’s Shelter planned for 286 Audubon Avenue.
- An announcement that the city-wide Renewal Schools program is ending. 3 schools in our district are impacted. Some schools are being moved out of the program and mainstreamed. Other schools are being closed.
- Notice that CB12’s lease on the space at 530 W 166 Street will expire in 2022. For the expected lease renewal, we’ve begun discussions with the landlord on changes in our use of the building.
- The Chair introduces Donna Lynne, the new SVP and COO of Columbia University Medical Center. She speaks briefly.
 - She thanks the Community Board for the work that we do.
 - She was recently the Lt Governor of Colorado, but assures us that she belongs by telling us that she was born in New Jersey.
- Review of a meeting with betanyc concerning the building of a customer relation management (CRM) system for all the Manhattan community boards.
- A mention of the Preferential Rent Crisis in Rent Stabilized apartments in our district and the public hearing on this topic that occurred in March.
- A listing of the schedule for the rent guideline board’s annual review of permitted rent increases for rent stabilized apartments.

Parliamentarian’s Report – Jim Berlin speaks on the following topics:

- Historically, Assistant Committee Chairs are appointed by the Board Chair. This precedent still holds.
- Committee meetings are run under the same bylaws as the General Meeting. 3 minute time limits for speakers. 1 opportunity for each person to speak or ask 1 question on each topic until everyone who wants to speak has gotten an opportunity. Then, a 2nd round of speaking is allowed. This pattern continues until all attendees are satisfied with their opportunities to participate.
- Additional rules of our meetings are reviewed.

Special Presentation – Arielle Brutus, Nonya Khedr, Shza Zaki - “It Hurts”

- Speaking on FGC: Female Genital Mutilation

- 200 million women today have undergone FGC. Another 300 million are vulnerable.
- FGC happens all over the world.
- It Hurts is combatting FGC and tries to help women who have undergone this procedure.

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith's report covered the following topics:

- Ely Silvestre resigned in March. The DM is actively working to replace her.
- A review of the periodic closings of the Broadway Bridge and the harm to the community that ensues.
- Free tax preparation is available in the neighborhood. The accountants are fluent in both English and Spanish.
- The CB12 Audit was begun in March. It is ongoing.

Pubic Speakers Session:

Mike Fitelson – United Palace of Cultural Arts. Mike joins us to publicize the 50th Anniversary of the purchase of the theater by the church on April 7th, 1969, saving it from demolition. 2001, A Space Odyssey will be shown at a special 50th Anniversary celebration on Sunday April 7th.

Dave Crenshaw – Track Program/Obie Bing. Coach begins with an appreciation of Obie Bing, late CB12 member. He moves onto discuss the track programs at the Armory, which are so important in reducing stress for students. He provides a listing of upcoming events, including an opportunity to plant flowers in parks in honor of Obie Bing.

Dr Gary Altheim – Growth and Development Services (GDS). Speaking on the state of GDS subsequent to the announcement of the termination of its lease, he announces that there is still no response from the Dept of Homeless Services (DHS) to appeals for assistance to stay in the Armory or be placed in a different suitable location. A discussion of GDS' programs follows.

Lenishe Lopez – GDS. She offers an appreciation of the efforts of the members of the community board in support of GDS. She expresses concern that there has not been a response from DHS to pleas for assistance in finding a permanent new home for GDS. She provides an overview of the success of GDS' many programs. Finally, she offers thanks to our elected officials for letters of support.

Sandi Galawanji – GDS. Washington Heights resident. Mother. She asks that DHS please reinstate the GDS license to run its vital programs at the Armory. "GDS is a dream-maker on an incredibly low budget." As noted above, there has been no response from DHS.

Katherine O'Sullivan – Moving Forward Unidos. She offers appreciation for the efforts of Commander Mundo of the 34th Precinct for the work that he's done in the community. She commends CB12 for the December resolution demanding that the Manhattan River Group license to run La Marina be terminated. She speaks against resolution 2, the new liquor license for the Lotus Cafe. And she offers a hope that GDS can stay at the Armory.

Graham Ciraulo – Moral March for Housing event on 4/11. He is here to publicize this citywide effort for housing justice and universal rent control.

Boo Bofo – She runs Community Yoga programs, at times in partnership with GDS. She is amazed by the success of GDS' programs, and requests that GDS be allowed to stay in the Armory.

Danita Nichols – Representing the New York Public Library and our uptown library branches. She announces that April is sign up time for Spring English classes, and also provides additional information on upcoming local library events.

Alberto Aquino –Director of Youth Programming for The Armory Foundation. He tells an anecdote concerning the effectiveness of the Armory's programming. This was followed by a listing of key Armory statistics – children who participate, number of programs. He finished up with a review of upcoming events.

Theo Chino – A former candidate for Public Advocate, he is at our meeting to speak on the situation at the Armory with GDS. He speaks about the private nature of the Armory and its habit of renting space for profit, and requests that DHS restore and extend the GDS license.

Julia Symborski – NY State Nursing Association (NYSNA). She provides updates on ongoing contract negotiations with several local hospitals. Until now, there has not been good faith bargaining by the hospitals, but she feels that recently there may have been a change in the hospitals' attitude toward the nurses. The NYSNA is working to improve hospital services by increasing nurse staffing. She thanks us for our support.

Faith Bynoe – She is here to represent the North Manhattan Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The goal of this organization is to deliver innovative programming in our neighborhoods through the sorority's principles of sisterhood, scholarship and service. The programs have far reaching impact. This chapter is part of a global organization. An example of a program run by the organization is an effort to gather eyeglasses to redistribute to the less fortunate. A listing of upcoming events was provided.

Steven Harrison – GDS. A concerned community member, he is very disappointed by the eviction of GDS. He maintains that GDS programming is invaluable. He asks: Why is GDS being evicted? He requests more assistance from CB12 in this fight.

Sara Fisher – Speaking for Friends of Inwood Hill Park and also for the Washington Heights Inwood Food Council. And also for Fountain House. Sally provides a listing of upcoming events. She expressed appreciation for the CB12 Resolution against La Marina.

Sharon Pope – Bike New York. She is an advocate for biking, calling it a wonderful exercise. She mentions 2 free kids' bike training programs run by the organization: an after-school program and a summer camp program. She lets us know that all equipment needed to participate in these programs is provided.

Jack Fogle – A resident of the River Arts apartments. He is speaking regarding the 155 Street billboard erected by Amtrak. He suggests an effort to penalize any company that advertises on the billboard by organizing a boycott.

Noelanni Carr – GDS. She urgently advocates for GDS and for the renewal of GDS' lease. She speaks as a beneficiary of GDS programs.

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**Government Officials:**

**Natalie Espino**, Community Liaison to the Borough President, covers the following topics:

- The BP has launched an accessibility task force, comprised mostly of accessibility advocates.
- The BP held a public hearing on congestion pricing. The results will be transmitted to the governor. Car owners were overrepresented at the public hearing, so the BP is soliciting additional input by email and letter to gather a more diverse group of voices.
- A listing of recent and upcoming events.
- 60 applications were received by the BP for CB12 membership, from both current members and new applicants.

**Laurie Tobias Cohen**, Community Liaison in Congressman Adriano Espaillat's office, covers the following topics:

- A brief review of the Congressman's current legislative efforts.
- A mention of the vigil held at Bennett Park in memory of the people massacred in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- The Congressman has spoken out against the billboard at 155 Street and the Henry Hudson Parkway.
- A listing of upcoming events.

**Chris Nickell**– Deputy Chief of Staff, State Senator Robert Jackson, covered the following topics:

- A review of the current budget negotiation status from Senator Jackson’s perspective.
- The Senator supports congestion pricing and increased education spending. Some details on congestion pricing proposals and protecting the poor from being adversely affected by this initiative were discussed.
- Legalization of cannabis may be included in the budget.
- Chris mentions other priorities of the Senator, as well as upcoming events.

**Luther D. Isler**, Community Liaison for State Senator Brian Benjamin, covered the following topics:

- The Senator’s priorities for the budget negotiations and many other policy positions.
- Upcoming events are listed.

**Orlando Ovalles**, Office of NYS Assembly member Carmen de la Rosa, covered the following topics:

- A discussion of the status of the budget negotiations.
- The Assembly member’s priorities include Housing and the MTA, including congestion pricing.
- Education funding is also an important priority.
- A list of upcoming was presented.

**Erika Rodriguez**, Chief of Staff, Assemblyman Al Taylor, covered the following topics:

- A review of past events and a list of upcoming events.
- Housing is the Assemblyman’s number 1 priority.

**Manuel Belliard**, Councilman Mark Levine, covered the following topics:

- The Councilman wants to enact residential parking permits alongside congestion pricing.
- A moment of silence was observed for a woman who was struck and killed in front of the Councilman’s office.

**Kiana Diaz**, Constituent Liaison for Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, covered the following topics:

- She lists upcoming events, including a mention of the “Car Free Day” in honor of Earth Day on April 27th.
- The Councilman’s Participatory Budgeting effort kicks off this Sunday. All are invited to get involved and have a say in where \$1mm of the Councilman’s budget is spent.

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**Committee Reports:** - refer to minutes unless otherwise noted

**Parks and Cultural Affairs** – Chair Liz Ritter. Corrected minutes from this month’s committee meeting will go onto the website. La Marina will probably be a topic at the next meeting.

**Business Development:** Chair Eleazar Bueno. Since November we’ve lost 11 businesses south of 181 Street. Review of upcoming agenda for the next committee meeting. The Census Bureau will appear at that meeting.

**Land Use** – All present were referred to the committee minutes for details.

**Traffic & Transportation**, Interim Chair Nicholas Martinez briefly discussed the work of the Committee this past month, and asked us to refer to the minutes.

**Housing & Human Services:** –Chair Ayisha Ogilvie spoke briefly. She mentioned that Waldys Cruz just got married. This caused a stir. The upcoming April meeting will review rent reform and tenant protections for non-profit landlord tenants.

**Public Safety:**

**Health & Environment:**

**Concerns of the Aging:**

**Youth and Education**

**Resolution Reports:**

**Resolution A** - In support of the increase of Social Workers in Public Schools

Youth and Education Committee: Fe Florimon, Chair, begins the discussion:

- There is a severe lack of social workers in CD 6. There only 7 social workers in all northern Manhattan schools.
- The resolution asks that we call on elected officials to fund one social worker for every 250 students.
- Barbara Frazier supports this resolution. Guidance counselors are not social workers and should not be counted as such.

**Resolution B** - Calling upon Amtrak to remove the billboard structure at Riverside Drive and West 155th Street  
Jointly proposed by Health & Environment and Traffic & Transportation Committees: Steve Simon, Chair (H&E), and Nicholas Martinez, Interim Chair (T&T), begin the discussion:

- This resolution was created because the billboard is a traffic hazard. It creates an environmental issue. And it detracts from the historic nature of the neighborhood – it is just outside the Audubon historic district.
- Conrail tried to install a billboard at this location in 1983 and was forced to remove the structure.
- Elected officials are asked in the resolution to join Councilman Mark Levine in opposing the billboard.

**Licensing Committee Resolutions**

Chair Isidro Medina opened the discussion. Highlights follow:

- 1 of the 12 resolutions has been withdrawn (#8).
- 2 are objection resolutions for failure to appear at the Licensing committee meeting.
- #10 is being turned into a negative resolution because the proprietors did not sign the stipulation, as agreed.
- A number of members speak out against resolution #2. Chair Medina points out that there were no objections at the committee meeting.
- Domingo Estevez suggests that the DA’s office be invited to the Licensing Committee meetings.
- Gerard Dengel invites all CB12 board members to the Licensing Committee meetings to gain better insight into the reasons that decisions were made.
- A discussion of racism within the Board ensues.

**Voting on the Resolutions:**

| <b>Item #</b> | <b>Resolutions</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Voting:<br/>Y-N-Abst-<br/>Absent-NV</b> | <b>Result</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| A             | In support of the increase of Social Workers in Public Schools                                                                                                                      | 36-0-0-0-2                                 | <b>Passed</b> |
| B             | Calling upon Amtrak to remove the billboard structure at Riverside Drive and West 155th Street                                                                                      | 37-0-0-1-0                                 | <b>Passed</b> |
| 1             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to:<br>Sushi Vida Inc. dba Mamasushi – 237 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Seaman Avenue)<br>10034 | 34-3-0-1-0                                 | <b>Passed</b> |
| 2             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to:<br>151 Dyckman Corp dba Lotus Café – 151 Dyckman (at the corner of Sherman Avenue) 10040        | 31-2-4-1-0                                 | <b>Passed</b> |
| 3             | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to:                                                                                                 | 37-0-0-0-1                                 | <b>Passed</b> |

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|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|    | Coffeed Corporation dba New Leaf – One Margaret Corbin Drive (Inside Fort Tryon Park) 10040                                                                                                                                                           |            |                       |
| 4  | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to: 1218 M & M Bar & Grill, Inc. – 1218 Saint Nicholas Avenue. (at the corner of 172nd Street) 10032                                                                  | 36-1-0-1-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 5  | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to: The Element Restaurant Group Inc. dba 181 Cabrini151 – 854 West 181th Street (at the corner of Cabrini Blvd.)10034                                                | 36-1-0-1-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 6  | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to: International Drink Group Inc. dba Buddha Beer Bar – 4476 Broadway (btw W. 190th and 192nd Street) 1004                                                           | 31-5-0-2-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 7  | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to: The Metropolitan Museum of Art dba Trie Café – 99 Margaret Corbin Drive (Inside Fort Tryon Park) 10040                                                            | 38-0-0-0-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 8  | Resolution of Objection to the SLA Renewal for its On-Premise Liquor License to: AKV Corp. dba Inwood Local Wine Bar & Beer Garden – 4957 Broadway ( btw 207th Street and Isham Street)10034<br>Application was <b>withdrawn</b> prior to the meeting |            | <b>Withdr<br/>awn</b> |
| 9  | Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for Addition of a Sidewalk Café to: Locksmith Wine Bar LLC dba Locksmith Wine Bar Inc. – 4463 Broadway (btw 190th and 192nd Street) 10040.                                                                      | 33-4-1-0-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 10 | Resolution of <del>No</del> Objection to the SLA for a New On-Premise Liquor License to: MMS Express Inc. dba Retazitos – 4730 Broadway231 (btw Thayer & Arden Streets) 10040                                                                         | 35-1-1-1-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 11 | Resolution of Objection to the SLA for a New On-Premise Liquor License to: 805 V7S Foods Corp. dba TBD – 805 West 187tth Street. (at the corner of Fort Washington Avenue) 10033                                                                      | 37-1-0-0-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |
| 12 | Resolution of Objection to the SLA for a New On-Premise Liquor License to: Wimpys Restaurant II Inc. – 1232 Saint Nicholas Avenue. (171st& 172nd street) 10032                                                                                        | 38-0-0-0-0 | <b>Passed</b>         |

**Motion to Adjourn- passed and seconded at 9:52 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted:** Mitchell Glenn, Secretary  
Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann, Assistant Secretary  
March 26, 2019