



Robert Rodriguez  
**Chair**

George Sarkissian  
**District Manager**

## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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**Full Board Meeting  
Community Board 11  
Taino Towers  
Crystal Room  
240 East 123<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10035  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

### Pre-Registered Speakers

**Edwin Marcial** – has been in the community for years, fighting to save the community when nobody else wanted it. Also spoke about an application for the 125<sup>th</sup> Street Firehouse. Wants support for the project called “Casa Puertoriquena” which will offer office space for various organizations, include a restaurant on the main floor and even bring a radio to use the top floor.

**Marta Mendez – Puerto Rican Institute** – stated that they are holding free workshops and passed out a flyer with more information.

**Andre White – DYCD** – came before the board to speak about the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) which provides jobs for young people throughout the summer. For more information go to [www.nyc.gov.dycd](http://www.nyc.gov.dycd) or call 212-487-8989. [anwhite@dycd.nyc.gov](mailto:anwhite@dycd.nyc.gov)

**Tracey Douglas – Dream Charter School** – new school opening up in September and will be working with Harlem RBI. They opened 50 kinder and 50 1<sup>st</sup> grade spots and 100% of the lottery positions were filled by children from District 4. [www.dreamsschool.nyc.org](http://www.dreamsschool.nyc.org) or 212-722-1608 for more information.

**Aaron Friedman – Make Music New York** – one day music festival that started 26 years ago in France. They want to expand to more neighborhoods and have a match making website. Event is on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

**Angela Michie – NYRP (New York Restoration Project)** – spring announcements include the restoration of a community garden in East Harlem with listening sessions scheduled. Also have a tree planting day with Wagner Houses. (212) 333-2552.

**Mawlani Dahrmani – New York Academy of Medicine** – located in East Harlem and are reaching out to the community. Will be hosting a focus group on May 5<sup>th</sup>. 212-822-7285.

**Ray Plumey – CIVITAS** – is an architect and city planner who is opposed the Mt. Sinai BSA variance as it is not in compliance with the five findings that it is required to meet.

**Joanne Seminara – CIVITAS** – opposed to the Mt. Sinai BSA variance as it does not meet a number of the findings and would set an unwanted precedent.

**Marcus Johnson – NYU College of Dentistry** – will be having the third annual Oral Cancer Walk on April 19<sup>th</sup>. [www.oralcancerwalknyc.org](http://www.oralcancerwalknyc.org) for more information.

**Sabina Ellentuck – Randall’s Island Kids** – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 will be Jamboree. Free buses are available. Kids programs continue to be run successfully with 1000 kids visiting the park weekly. This fall many fields are opening and intensive outreach will be done. 212-860-1899.

**Marta Moreno Vega** – Caribbean Cultural Center – founder of many organizations and grew up in East Harlem. Wants to bring the center back to East Harlem and is looking to use the 125<sup>th</sup> Street Firehouse. Goal of providing opportunities to young people in order to ensure that there is no brain drain in this community.

**Melanie Reyes – Children’s Aid Society** – consulate on wheels program will be offered again on June 17-21. Seeking assistance with outreach again.

### **Elected Officials**

**Melissa Mark-Viverito – NYC Council Member – 8<sup>th</sup> District** – lots of information attached to the monthly report. Included in the package is information that she received from the State Liquor Authority. The anti-displacement taskforce will be having a meeting at which Speaker Quinn will be attending. Disappointed with the congestion pricing results and the fact that no vote was taken at the state level. Working through the 125<sup>th</sup> Street Rezoning and is looking to have more homeownership opportunities created. Spoke about the East 125<sup>th</sup> Street Development and the process it is going through. The RFP is a good example of what the community has asked for and what she will fight for. The community’s input is still needed as this is a historic opportunity. Strongly believes in the process is committed to continue to work with the community and the taskforce.

**Lolita Jackson – Community Affairs Unit** – community board bbq will take place on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at Gracie Mansion at 5:30pm. Tree planting has been ongoing and education campaigns will follow. Had a street vending workshop that was poorly attended, now want to have another one with more outreach. For more information contact her at [ljackson@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:ljackson@cityhall.nyc.gov)

**Brian Levinson – State Senator Jose M. Serrano’s Office** – the supermarkets closure taskforce continues to meet with the next scheduled meeting being on May 5, 2008. There will also be a listening session for food policy in East Harlem soon. The senator was disappointed with the results of congestion pricing. (212) 828-5829.

**Rafael Escano – Comptroller Thompson’s Office** – encouraged everyone to read the monthly update. Comptroller is busy with his auditing duties.

**Calvin Solomon – District Attorney Robert Morgenthau’s Office** – updated the community on a takedown which occurred at Taino Towers in January; both suspects are still in jail. There will be a gun forum on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Oberia Demsey Center.

**Rosemonde Pierre-Louis – Manhattan Borough President’s Office** – provided copies of the monthly report. Announced Earth Day events, Cooling in El Barrio. Concerned with the recent construction accidents, starting a borough construction watch.

**Socrates Solano – Congressman Rangel’s Office** – reminded everyone about the tax deadline. Stated that the stimulus checks are on their way and that people making \$150,000 dollars or less should expect something.

**Simeon Banister – Office of the Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum** – working on the Asthma Free Housing Act. Legislation would help identify triggers within the household. Still focused on the Department of Education and the funding cuts for schools. Will be holding a forum entitled ‘Our youth and their gangs’ on April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Highbridge Recreation Center.

### **ULURP PUBLIC HEARING**

Application No. C080195HAM

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):

- 1) pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:
  - a) the designation of property located at 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60 East 131<sup>st</sup> Street (Block 1755, Lots 45-49, and 146) as an Urban Development Action Area; and
  - b) and Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
- 2) pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer selected by HPD;

To facilitate development of six-story building, tentatively known as Heritage House, with approximately 40 residential units, to be developed under the Department of Housing and Preservation and Development’s Cornerstone Program.

**Developers:** ARC – Rev. Williams

The development team headed by ARC was selected as the winning bidder of an HPD Cornerstone program for East Harlem. Rev. Williams from ARC explained that this project included 1 sites and would provide 40 units on 131<sup>st</sup> Street between Park and Madison Aves.

The project meets CB11’s affordability requirements and will have a community preference for residents who live within the CB 11 district. The development will consist of large units and will have a rear yard garden for residents.

Board member Carlos Rosario asked how the units would be distributed? Rev. Williams stated that the units would go through the HPD lottery system and reiterated that their would be a preference to CB11 residents.

## BUSINESS SESSION

- 1) **Roll Call** – Cesar Ortiz, Secretary; quorum reached
- 2) **Adoption of the Agenda** – moved by M. Washington; seconded by F. Mastrotta and approved unanimously.
- 3) **Approval of the Board’s Minutes I** – moved by I. Miranda; seconded by F. Mastrotta and approved unanimously.
- 4) **Approval of the Board’s Minutes II** – moved by F. Mastrotta; seconded by J. Febraro and approved unanimously.
- 5) **Chair’s Report** – moved by M. Brown; seconded by H. Vives-Vazquez and approved (2 opposed: R. Merino, M. Ortiz).
- 6) **District Manager’s Report** – moved by I. Miranda; seconded by G. Figueroa and approved unanimously.
- 7) **Committees:**
  - a. Executive Committee – moved by F. Mastrotta; seconded by H. Vives-Vazquez and approved (1 opposed: D. Perez; 1 abstention: G. Johnson).
  - b. City Properties/Land Use – moved by I. Miranda; seconded by D. Perez and approved (2 abstentions: A. Bradshaw, C. Shelton).
  - c. Cultural Affairs – Moved by J. Brown; seconded by I. Miranda and approved (3 abstentions: C. Ramirez, F. Mastrotta, B. Vega)
  - d. Parks & Recreation/Randall’s Island Taskforce – amendment made to send the Randall’s Island mission statement back to committee for more discussion. Moved by I. Miranda; seconded by F. Brijia and approved unanimously.
  - e. Economic Development – correction on attendance to mark D. Quinones as present. Moved by F. Brijia; seconded by I. Miranda and approved unanimously.
  - f. Mental Health (For Information Only) – moved by G. Johnson; seconded by F. Mastrotta and approved unanimously.
  - g. Health & Human Services – moved by A. Vasallo; seconded by H. Vives-Vazquez and approved unanimously.
  - h. Carnivals Taskforce (For Information Only) – Moved by G. Johnson; seconded by C. Shelton and approved unanimously.
  - i. Seniors Committee – moved by G. Johnson; seconded by H. Vives-Vazquez and approved unanimously.
  - j. Marketing & Outreach – moved by A. Bradshaw; seconded by M. Ortiz and approved unanimously.
  - k. Public Safety & Transportation – correction to attendance to mark C. Shelton as excused. Motion moved by G. Figueroa, seconded by I. Miranda and approved unanimously.
  - l. Zoning - moved by C. Ortiz; seconded by M. Brown and approved unanimously.
- 8) **ULURP Application** – I. Miranda made a motion to approve the ULURP Application No. C080195HAM; with a condition that the two-bedroom units be provided as section 8 units, the motion was seconded by D. Perez. The motion was approved unanimously
- 9) **New Business**
  - a. Liquor Licenses – board members asked for clarification regarding the documents that Councilmember Mark-Viverito had presented earlier in the meeting during her report.

Chair Rodriguez was asked why he had not disclosed the correspondence that was presented by the Councilmember. The Chair stated that in lieu of a formalized process he felt that the correspondence was an acceptable way to help a constituent.

Some board members stated that the correspondence was a mistake made due to no formal process being in place. Other board members stated that this was a point of accountability and the fact that no process was in place was in part the fault of the Chairman.

After much back and forth on the issue a motion was made to close the discussion. The motion was made by M. Bell and seconded by I. Miranda and approved (5 opposed: N. Aslam, M. Ortiz, C. Ramirez, C. Villegas, M. Washington)

- b. East Harlem Arts Festival Outreach Material – B. Vega stated that the Arts Festival started as a Community Board initiative and was concerned with the Senators increased role in the event. B. Vega then made a motion that the top billing on the flyer be changed from Senator Serrano to Manhattan Community Board 11. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and approved (1 abstention: R. Rodriguez)

### **Adjournment –**

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Vega, seconded by I. Miranda and approved unanimously.

Meeting ended at 10:00 PM.