

NEWEST NEW YORKERS COMMITTEE, CB3, QUEENS MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2011

Prepared by: Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez

ATTENDEES:

Grace Lawrence, Chairperson CB3

Giovanna Reid, District Manager

Ann Brown

Vivian Dock

Kilder Fuentes

V.M. Gandhi

Raul Garcia, Esq.

Marta Lebreton

Bill Meehan

Edmund Rosenbaum

Leoncio Romero

Arturo Ignacio Sanchez, Ph.D.

Dudley Stewart

The initial meeting of Newest New Yorkers Committee (NNYC) was well attended and productive.

A.I. Sanchez opened the meeting with a set of generalized comments on the importance of immigration in CB3. The chair's core comments included:

- **Arturo Ignacio Sanchez:** Made the observation that – in many cases – the mental mapping of our Newest New Yorkers crosses formal administrative

boundaries (Community Board Districts, Police Precincts, etc.). As a result of this assertion it was posited that immigrants and their children approach and/or understand “community” differently – as a result of their personal and ethnic networks. Hence, it might benefit the members of NNYC – as we grapple with the rapidly changing immigrant demographics - to approach community and its physical boundaries in a more flexible manner. An example of this approach would be to view CB3 & CB4 as overlapping and inter-mingling communities and not as separate and distinct geographical areas.

- **Arturo Ignacio Sanchez:** Posited that dramatic differences in immigration are specific features within the neighborhoods comprising CB3 and result in particular challenges in the neighborhoods of Corona and East Elmhurst (influx of new ethnic groups, high housing residential default rates, overcrowded housing patterns, inferior schools, and dramatic unemployment rates – to mention just a few). While in the case of the Jackson Heights neighborhood the demographic changes are in large part – though not exclusively – associated with an on-going process of gentrification. This process is leading to residential and commercial displacement that negatively impacts working class immigrants, seniors on fixed incomes, and a balanced mix of small and diverse businesses.
- **Arturo Ignacio Sanchez:** Stated that more information is needed with respect to selected emerging and rapidly growing immigrant groups from Bangladesh, Ecuador, Mexico, Nepal, and Tibet to just mention a few.
- Because of rapidly changing nature of immigrant demographics in CB3 it would be useful to have a clearer understanding of the ethnic and racial landscapes. Consequently, it was decided that:
 1. Geographical Information System (GIS) electronic maps – documenting the changing demographics - will be constructed and posted on the CB3 webpage.
 2. The Committee chairperson was charged - by the membership - with speaking to council members Danny Dromm and Julissa Ferreras. The idea is to secure funding to produce the maps with the technical GIS assistance of Steve Romalewski (CUNY Mapping Services).

- **Bill Meehan:** Building upon the comments made by Bill it was decided to establish a sub-committee that would develop a list/directory of immigrant organizations in CB3 and possibly CB4. These immigrant organizations will include both 501c3 and non-incorporated immigrant/ethnic organizations. The sub-committee includes the following four members: Edmund Rosenbaum, Kilder Fuentes, Raul Garcia, Esq., and Dudley Stewart. They will report on their progress at the next meeting of November 9th.
- **Ann Brown:** Asked -- what is the purpose in creating a list/directory of immigrant organizations? The chair responded that it was a way of reaching out in a systematic manner to our Newest New Yorkers, casting a wide net, and supporting the generalized process of local immigrant incorporation. Bill Meehan added that it would also be a good way to update and expand the CB3 mailing list.
- **V.M. Gandhi:** Stated that the directory would be very useful in reaching out to the many undocumented immigrant that live in our communities and were severely under-counted in the Census 2011.
- **Kilder Fuentes:** Made a strong case for spreading the word among immigrants and the native born about the functions and services provided by Community Board 3. This call for immigrant and non-foreign-born incorporation was supported by the Committee.
- **Arturo Ignacio Sanchez:** Stated that he will be making two immigrant related presentations this month and invited the CB3 membership to attend these events:
 1. **Saturday, October 15, 2011:** Hofstra University – Presentation on immigrant demographic changes in Long Island and the establishment of college/community collaborations.
 2. **Tuesday, October 25, 2011:** Jewish Center of Jackson Heights - Presentation with Steve Romalewski (CUNY Mapping Service) of GIS maps that document the changing immigrant demographics in CB3 & CB4.
- **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** November 9, 2011, 7:00pm