

Bronx Community Board 8

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes March 31, 2016 Community Board Office

Attendance

Present: Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Irving Ladimer, Philip Friedman, Rosemary Ginty, Robert Press, Mary Yamagata, Herb Young

Absent: I. W. Stone

Meeting called to order at 7:05

1. Approval of February

In favor: 8- Martin Wolpoff, Sylvia Alexander, Irving Ladimer, Philip Friedman, Rosemary Ginty, Robert Press, Mary Yamagata, Herb Young

Against: 0 Abstention: 0

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

A. Chairman noted that scheduled April meeting falls during Passover. He recommended skipping the April meeting and reconvening on May 26. All agreed.

B. Chairman noted that COIB responded to chairs' inquiry about recusals. COIB's position is that any concern not specifically noted in the City Charter is outside their purview. Borough President's office has not offered any further illumination.

3. Review of COIB findings – There were no COIB dispositions to discuss

4. Review of City Council legislative spreadsheet – Spreadsheets prepared by Ms. Ginty were distributed and reviewed. It was agreed that future spreadsheets with only those pages that provide for updates or new items be emailed to committee chairs. Committee members requested some clarification on the introduced item concerning the position of council member as a "full time" position.

5. Update on CB Handbook – Mr. Ladimer provided a draft document "Voting Guidelines" to explain to Board members the spectrum of possible votes on resolutions. Committee members expressed appreciation for Mr. Ladimer's efforts and its clarity. Chairman requested further clarification on the "majority" impact when there are abstentions for cause. He suggested that he would suggest an amendment, share it with committee members. Chairman asked for a quick turn around so he could bring the matter to the Executive committee. There was also a request to improve the explanation of the concept of "Board approval" of requests for abstentions with cause. Finally, it was pointed out that these guidelines were planned to be part of the "Member Handbook" to be approved by the membership.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business – It was reported that the City is planning on opening a homeless shelter on Webb Avenue with 33 male residents and one female resident. It was pointed out that on February 8, 2016 the mayor signed bill 049-2014 A (Local Law 10 –2016) that requires the City to notify community boards of requests for C of O changes. It would appear that a request to modify a building to become a shelter without notification to the board was in violation of the law.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Martin Wolpoff,
Chair**

Additional notes provided by Mary Yamagata