Community Board 9 Manhattan

Economic Development/Harlem Piers Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday July 5, 2016
Location: New York City Women’s Chamber of Commerce, 1524 Amsterdam Avenue
Committee Members Present: Quenia Abreu, Chair, Nekpen Osuan, Nick Smith, Jose Taveras, Maritta Dunn, Orlando Ovalles. Absent: Basia Nikonorow, Public Member: Maritta Dunn (Present), Community Board Members: None. General Public: City Council Member Mark Levine, Kysha Smith from Councilmember Levine’s Office

 Called to Order at 6:45pm
Motion to adopt the agenda second by Jose Taveras, Minutes second by Marrita Dunn

Old Business
Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)/ NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- DCAS is reluctant to renovate the Marine Transfer Station (MTS) due to its poor condition.
- NYC Parks reacted the same way
- Costs the city millions of dollars to maintain the pilings
  - Main concern for DCAS/EDC is lack of funding
  - Also, the surrounding neighborhood is not designated as being “park starved” as other parts of the city (ex: Downtown Brooklyn)
- Are Businesses interested in developing the MTS? Should we open the door to commercial development?
  - We Act will strongly oppose
  - DCAS does not want to hold on the property and neither does EDC
  - However EDC is the key to get this project going. Provide guidance?

Small Business Job Survival Act (SBJSA)
- SaveNYC supports the SBJSA as it gives small business tenants equal protections as residential tenants.
- Bill passed (Intro 851-B) gives commercial tenants SOME protections including
  - the right sue landlords for harassment in civil court,
  - city to fine harassing landlords between $1,000 to $10,000
  - Provide legal assistance for small business owners including lease review, factual investigations, legal research and lease negotiations through Department of Small Business Services (SBS)
- However, it still does not provide total protections to small businesses as does the SBSJA.
  - Prevents chainification of the neighborhood.
  - Columbia University and City Government have a no chain policy.
    - DCAS has resistance with this policy.
    - Broadway between West 158th and West 159th Sts have a couple of chains including a Planet Fitness
  - Policy not discussed: creating affordable commercial space linked with affordable housing.
- Excited for the SBJSA, can work for both housing and commercial space. Must protect residential and commercial tenants.
• Nick: See to open up possible stronger laws. Replicate new housing tenant protections for commercial tenants.
• Who’s getting the fund? Forward this to SBS

New Building at West 148th Street & Broadway
• Will not rent its commercial space to chains. Resolution to have local preference.

Columbia Employment Information Center
• It is NOT a job placement center.
• Looks unwelcoming from the outside and looks like it is always closed.
• CB9 needs an actual job placement center similar to Workforce One. The one in Central Harlem is too far
  o Empire State Development Corporation is willing to provide funding for a new job placement center should another organization provide 100% matching funds.
  o Agreed with Kofi.
• Columbia is supposed to show names and addresses to CB9 on who uses the EIC. However, they have yet to provide the information.

Job Fair
• To be held in September?
• Conference call with CB10 and CB10 has agreed to work with CB9 in creating a job fair this fall.
• Use the Columbia EIC. Make them start doing workshops on resume building, etc.
• Google Drive/Share documents on job fair with CB10
• Columbia is only providing construction jobs. Not doing a job fair.
  o Update: CU has a job fair scheduled for September 7th.
• Job Fair: Location still to be decided.

New Business

Business Census
• NYCWCC has hired three bilingual interns for the summer. Possibly be conducting a census of all the businesses within CB9.
• New hats!
• Must ask to see if small businesses within CB9 are interested to create a West Harlem Merchants Association.
  o Conduct a conference
  o Possibly evolve this Association into a Business Improvement District (BID)

Janice Properties
• Has yet to create a Business Incubator for West Harlem.
• However, it is willing to work with the community.
• Must schedule and hold a meeting with Janice Properties and CB9
• CB9 & Community Benefits Agreement
  o Where does the money come from for these items.
• Red Barn industrial through building (on West 130th St between Amsterdam & Convent Avs) was torn down recently. Only one-third still standing
  o Used to be a storage building for the Metropolitan Opera
• West Harlem Development Corporation must be reminded of these issues. Schedule a meeting?