

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 Maritta 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
 - Empire State Development Corporation is willing to provide funding for a new job placement center should another organization provide 100% matching funds.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Conduct a conference
 - 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
 - Where does the money come from for these items.
- Red Barn industrial through building (on West 130th St between Amsterdam & Convent Aves) was torn down recently. Only one-third still standing
 - Used to be a storage building for the Metropolitan Opera
- West Harlem Development Corporation must be reminded of these issues. Schedule a meeting?