

Manhattan Community Board 9  
General Meeting  
April 19, 2018

The meeting was called to attention at 6:42 PM.

### **Presentations**

#### **Kofi Boateng, Executive Director of West Harlem Development Corporation**

Mr. Boateng first gave the floor to Patricia Johnson, CB9's elected representative to the WHDC board, who was appointed to the Grants committee. She spoke about upcoming categories and deadlines for community grants and the WHDC youth trip to participate in the March for Our Lives in Washington DC. Ms. Johnson met Victor Edwards about Strategic Planning.

Mr. Boateng next called up Alicia Barksdale, who runs the ARISE SYEEP program. She was accompanied by several young people who make up the steering committee of the program. They spoke about their work communicating what young people are interested in and organizing activities, including the Washington DC trip.

Next he brought up Migdalia Rodriguez, who runs the WHDC's Skills Center. The center's apprenticeship program sent 20 people directly from the program into plumbing apprenticeships. The program only requires a high school diploma or GED, and focuses on helping people find not just jobs but careers, including union jobs through 1199 with benefits and healthcare.

Quorum having been reached, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Meeting agenda and minutes adopted by unanimous votes.

#### **Sandy Helling and Antoinette Bumekpor, Columbia's Community Impact Program**

The program is a department of Columbia University (under the University Chaplain and Provost) and 501(c)3 non-profit organization. About 30% of their funding comes from the university, as well as substantial in-kind support like access to facilities. Intended to engage with other organizations in the neighborhood. Run 14 youth programs and 14 adult education, emergency services. Work with over 1,000 student (graduate and undergraduate) volunteers along with 200 neighbors.

The youth programs are mostly school-based: conflict resolution and tutoring, as well as one Saturday tutoring program open to all children ages about 7 to 13. School- and shelter-based programs go from toddlers to high school. The program evaluates reading levels and grade level equivalency to measure progress in their programs.

Adult programs include ESOL classes are held at various sites, high school equivalency classes, CUNY assessment test prep, a college prep seminar. These teach skills like research, writing, and public speaking, and some are taught by Columbia professors, as well as hard skills

like computer skills, food service, and resume and interview preparation. Adult programs receive funding from the State Education Department and is one of the top-ranked programs in the state.

The program serves the needs of people from 85 different countries. They are looking for volunteers in Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters to teach programs, including language classes; volunteers receive all necessary training.

The program is headquartered at Earl Hall, but classes are offered out of Manhattanville Center, PS 125, and other locations in the neighborhood. A lot of their programs have waiting lists, including applicants from all five boroughs. They choose based on applicants' ZIP codes giving priority to Upper Manhattan.

**Berthe Erisnor, Vice President for Ambulatory Services, Mount Sinai/St. Luke's Hospital**  
Ms. Erisnor has been at the hospital for about 2.5 years. The hospital has done significant investment in the campus, including expanding physician population through national and international recruitment. The hospital is starting and expanding programs and has purchased new equipment to bring on campus.

St. Luke's is one of the seven hospitals in Mount Sinai health system, having joined a little over four years ago. The investments were the result of a gap analysis by the executive team about four years ago.

The hospital has sold four buildings at 113th and 114th on Morningside Avenue. Proceeds from those sales will be reinvested back into the campus: both in the infrastructure like HVAC, painting; and medical like Pet scan, MRI equipment, bone density equipment.

More care is being done in the ambulatory space so the hospital is focusing on that environment. They have an outpatient building across from the main hospital that is being converted to a new ambulatory care center. The new outpatient lobby is opening this upcoming Monday.

The center is opening new centers of excellence including a Clinical Cardiovascular Care, a 10,000 sq. ft. space with a number of new experts and diagnostic services; an Imaging Center, with new equipment to promote prevention in things like osteoporosis, breast cancer, lung cancer. The neighborhood has seen an increase in cancer occurrences and the hospital is also working to provide oncology services in the new center.

*The Board chair asked for an update on DSRIP and FQHCs who have not been getting paid.*

Mount Sinai Health Systems has a Provider Performing System (PPS), with over 200 community organizations that are part of it. The focus was to reduce overutilization to provide higher quality care, reduce costs, and provide the community with health and social services to

meet non-medical needs. At a future meeting, Art Gianelli will provide more information about the Medicare program.

The PPS receives Medicare funds. Mount Sinai is the leader of the PPS, but each member FQHC has an allocation. The state provides specific measures that each provider is supposed to attain over a five-year DSRIP period. In year one, no one draws down: the PPS is supposed to be building the infrastructure to collect the data and hit targets. We are currently in year 3 of DSRIP. Certain organizations have been able to draw down on funds.

The first big investment was an IT system, which the entire PPS had to agree on, because all of these organizations share patients and needed to share records. Now programs want to move on to spend on different issues, and Mount Sinai has heard about apparent miscommunication about what investments had to be made to get reimbursed for services and how to draw down funds. Ms. Erisnor said the hospital needs to do better to educate its partners on how the process would occur because people did not anticipate, or did not have funds, to make initial investments that would be needed to reach target measures.

A discussion followed about individuals who are identified as abusing the medical system, whether that information has improved as a result of the new IT system, and which if any measures are now being taken to address those problems. Board members suggested that the hospital system's Community Advisory Board include a representative of CB9. The hospital is recruiting new physicians to staff their clinic on 147th street, which Board members suggested has been overcrowded and unable to meet demand in the past. Ms Erisnor suggested that people go back because there have been recent improvements to customer service there.

## **Reports**

The Board chair, District Manager, and Treasurer directed Board members to the reports in their packets.

### **Diana Howard, Borough President's Office**

On Monday the office had an event with My Brother's Keeper with a school on the East Side and will be holding an event with a school on the West Side as well. The office will be hiring summer interns; more information will be forthcoming.

### **Kyshia Smith, CM Mark Levine's Office**

The annual health fair is coming up, covering physical, mental, and emotional health at Riverbank State Park on May 19 in the afternoon. The fair will include classes, health screenings, and giveaways.

### **Nina Saxon, Comptroller's Office**

The Comptroller released an audit on playgrounds at NYCHA. Ms. Saxon commended the CB9 Housing committee on their NYCHA forums, which her office has been attending. The

Comptroller's Shred Day event, co-sponsored with Harlem Advocates for Seniors, on April 28 at Esplanade Gardens. The Comptroller is sponsoring a Haitian Flag Day breakfast on May 17 at the David M. Dinkins Municipal Building.

**Jennifer Greer, Public Advocate's Office**

The City Council passed the bill introduced by the Public Advocate's office to introduce a commission to update the City Charter. In the coming months, there will be forums to solicit ideas from the public.

**Clement James, Asst. Director of Community Affairs, FDNY**

The FDNY is offering fire safety workshops and CPR trainings in light of the increase in recent fires in our neighborhood. Anyone who needs a training can be in contact through the District Manager.

*The Board chair spoke about the fire at 773 St. Nicholas Avenue. The board sent a letter to the fire company that lost a firefighter in that incident to extend gratitude for their protection and condolences for their loss.*

**LaQuita Henry and Ken Miles, Board Members**

Along with the 125th Street BID, the board is working on a Healthy & Clean Harlem Campaign to promote cleaning up the community with friendly competition and incentives. The event will be held on May 18th with promotional postcards, flyers, ads on LinkNYC kiosks, and promotional radio interviews in the weeks ahead. The event will also help draw attention from the Sanitation Department to our need for more frequent pickups.

**Estelle Stryckers-Santiago, Manhattan DA's Office**

Clean Slate opportunity on April 28th: the DA's office is setting up an opportunity with Legal Aid where people with outstanding summons warrants to come to the event site (in Washington Heights this year) to resolve them without fear of arrest. Almost everyone (over 95%) who attends is cleared. Legal Aid will screen people before they appear before a judge to ensure their matter can be resolved at that time. At past events, with 300-700 people in participation, no one has been arrested, and hundreds of warrants have been resolved.

**Ken Miles, Board Member, on behalf of PAWR/COSMOS project**

Mr. Miles and board member Joel Mentor are CB9's representatives to the project. The project is a five-year NSF grant looking into next-generation WiFi. The community is pushing for K-12 applications of the research. The research is carried out in academic institutions but needs to come back and benefit the community and not just the private sector. District 5 is providing a six-week professional development program for teachers to understand how to integrate technology into the classroom. The Board is asking the project to keep the community informed about potential health impacts for the community.

*Apropos of the history of scientific research conducted on Communities of Color, the Board chair lauded the removal of the J. Marion Sims statue from Central Park, recognized as a pioneer of gynecology who conducted research without informed consent on People of Color.*

### **Public Session**

#### **Alicia Barksdale, Tenant Leader, 3333 Broadway**

A fire in the building has displaced one family. Fortunately the building is fire-proofed and the fire did not spread. HPD condemned the apartment until further notice.

The building implemented a senior program working with LILY (Lifeforce in Later Years) to provide arts and crafts workshops and fire safety classes to seniors in the building.

The building is working to implement Friday night movies for young people and Saturday night bingo for seniors. She called up William Hamer.

#### **William Hamer, Harlem Advocates for Seniors**

Mr. Hamer is the chairman of Harlem Advocates for Seniors. Their advocacy work has focused on seniors who do not go to senior centers, which do a terrific job of providing services and case management, but they are like membership clubs and non-members do not get services. A lot of seniors are dealing with hunger issues, isolation, or poor quality of life. The group primarily works in Central Harlem but is extending into CB9, particularly at 3333 Broadway, where many of the seniors are original tenants of the building, built 45 or 50 years ago.

#### **Maritta Dunn, Board member**

Ms. Dunn attended an excellent performance on Martin Luther King, Jr. called March On, put on by fellow board member John-Martin Green. She remembers seeing Dr. King and Andrew Young just a few days before Dr. King's assassination.

#### **Adele Herrera, Argus Community**

Argus provides substance abuse services around New York City. They have a project at 730 St. Nicholas and will hopefully be starting renovations inside the building soon. They had a table at the 150th Street Block Association health fair this past weekend and got a handful of referrals. Argus wants to be a major part of the community going forward.

#### **Corey Ortega, District Leader, AD 70 Part D**

Mr. Ortega has been working with constituents on community issues and working with elected officials to resolve them. Mr. Ortega brought NYCHA residents to the Governor's signing of the executive order declaring a state of emergency at NYCHA. Mr. Ortega described the terms of the funds available to NYCHA, which include the appointment of an independent monitor and construction contractor.

### **Action Items**

The Uniformed Services committee presented resolutions on three proposed speed bumps.

Item 1 passed 28-1. Item 2 passed 27-2. Item 3 passed 26-3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Barrett  
Assistant Secretary