

Manhattan Community Board 9
General Board Meeting
April 16, 2020

Meeting is held via conference call due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting called to order at 6:40PM. TK moves, VE seconds adoption of agenda as amended; motion carries. Minutes from March adopted unanimously.

Presentations

Timothy Harrell, CCRB

City agency independent of NYPD that investigates and prosecutes misconduct allegations. Taking complaints online and over phone; offices are closed due to pandemic. Conducting presentations online. Compiled and shared a list of free resources for community including food pantries and entertainment options. Right To Know Act is still in effect. In police encounters, you are still legally entitled to name, rank, shield of officer who stops you, and right to FOIL video from the encounter.

People have up to a year to file a complaint. Negative encounters that can be reported include violent behavior, verbal abuse, sexual harassment. Anyone can file a complaint: you can be a witness, you do not have to be the victim.

Chair's Report

Continuing to work remotely, including by conducting Zoom meetings via IT. Everyone should have been checked in with by the co-chair of a committee they're on, so we can try to make sure everyone is well. Priority is to reach those most isolated/without digital access via mail or robocalls.

Talking to people having difficulty with their rent or co-op's finances. Recognize YEL for ensuring children have access to remote learning and Senior Issues for working to make sure our seniors aren't cut off.

City and state about to face difficult fiscal times. City budget likely to be worse than anticipated. Executive committee passed a letter urging DYCD to find remote employment opportunities for youth via SYEP instead of canceling it as announced. Serves 75,000 throughout city including many in our neighborhood.

Treasurer's Report, April Tyler

No expenditures this month because office has been closed. Will work with Eutha and Zita to figure out how to spend office budget for the rest of the year, along with outreach funds allocated by City Council members. Board office has to cut \$4K from this year's budget and \$8.7K from next year's.

District Manager's Report, Eutha Prince

Office will continue to distribute vital information via email, Facebook, and website. Continue to reach office via phone (212-864-6200) M-F 10a-6p. In contact with Columbia about food donations, and they are considering donating cleaning supplies to local NYCHA buildings. OMB shared revised budget; asking committee chairs to contact city agencies. Will not affect budget to furnish new office. Nicole Yearwood, regional director of 2020 Census, has been in contact. 40% response rate for District 9. Please fill out census form! Sorry to report passing of former board member Ernestine Welch.

WHDC, Pat Johnson

Office closed March 18, staff working remotely. Updates will be posted on website. Columbia Spectator published article about struggling 12th Ave. businesses featuring WHDC. Board meetings being held by conference call. New board members elected. mInfo sessions have been cancelled. Grants have been submitted for July funding period; announcements to be made late April. Cautiously optimistic about summer ARISE program (summer youth and senior employment).

MBP Gale Brewer

Manhattan census response rate: 40.7%; only SI is higher at 43% in NYC; State is 43%; US is 49%. Calling NYCHA leaders to mobilize tenants to complete census. Check in with everyone you can to remind them.

Working on restoring SYEP: disagree with mayor that youth won't need jobs. CBs will be leaders in connecting people with technology. Getting money to restaurants that are doing deliveries to hospitals. Columbia law and business schools working with nonprofits to help them navigate federal stimulus.

Concerned with rents. Support Kavanagh bill to allocate funds for those who can't pay rent. Trying to get PPE to NYCHA for cleaning. Borough Board and Borough Service Cabinet meetings ongoing. Looks like at least another month of isolation.

Elected Officials

Sen. Robert Jackson and Porfirio Figueroa

Supposed to go to Albany April 20, though passed a resolution to vote virtually as long as senators check in in person. But you lose the effect of being there in person, having spontaneous conversation, debating face to face. Budget process was very different this year. Budget Director has authority to do an assessment of budget on April 30, June 30, and December 1 to determine if cuts are needed, giving legislature 10 days to reject it or else it goes into effect. Office has put together mutual aid call lists to facilitate neighbors helping each other. Office is responding in real time to calls. Sen. Jackson fielded questions about the state budget (including the changes to bail reform).

Nina Saxon, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Office is working virtually. Comptroller holding a MWBE university webinar on resources from government and private sector. Everyone is working from home, call if you need anything.

Kyshia Smith, CM Mark Levine's Office

Serving as a resource hub: call, email, or visit website. Will be hosting a food pantry on April 30 out of district office 10:30am-12:30pm, with safety precautions observed. Still offering legal services.

Public Session

Padmore John

Emphasized the importance of a full Census count. Thanked everyone for their support of the count. Our 39.7% is lower than the average for the state. We can do better; we need 100% from the CB9M district

Action Items

Item 1: Ratify Exec Committee action to sign onto SYEP letter. Passes 33-0-0-0 (Y-N-A-P).

Item 2: Letter in support of Osborne Foundation. Passes 33-0-0-0.

Item 3: Support for state senate rent freeze bill. Friendly amendment re property tax forgiveness adopted. Passes 30-1-2-0.

Item 4-5: Parks committee letters of support (Jacob Schiff Park and Central Park East projects). Friendly amendment to Jacob Schiff letter adopted. Passes 32-0-0-0 (Jacob Schiff) and 30-0-2-0 (Central Park East).

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.