

General Meeting
Manhattan Community Board 9
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Meeting called to attention at 6:43pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm. Agenda and minutes adopted.

The holiday lights celebration will be postponed from tomorrow (Thursday, November 15) to Monday, November 19.

Presentations

Assemblymember Dan Quart

Mr. Quart is also professionally a criminal defense attorney. He has written a bill in the Assembly to eliminate cash bail, which did not advance in the legislature last year. The RFK Commission offered to put up bail, totalling several million dollars, for all 16- and 17-year olds on Rikers Island, and District Attorneys spoke out against this plan. Various groups support keeping bail as a system of punishment. True bail reform will limit the ability of judges and DAs to use their discretion in deciding who they think is a bad person.

Marijuana reform is an important related issue. Mr. Quart is currently representing a 22-year old man who received a summons for marijuana and ended up in criminal court. The policy of DAs not to prosecute applies to arrests, but they are writing more summonses than before. Only legislative legalization of marijuana will have the effects on the criminal justice system that are desired -- we cannot rely on the goodwill of DAs and the NYPD.

Mr. Quart would like put the bail bond industry out of business because it is a usurious practice inconsistent with our values.

Anthony Posada, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Justice Unit

The LAS is working to dismantle the NYPD Gang Database. The LAS provides crisis management systems to cure violence organizations that use a public health approach -- they see the solution to gun violence as a public health intervention. People running these programs are credible messengers, i.e. people who have been personally affected by mass incarceration.

The NYPD has conducted large military-style raids in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies like ICE, DEA, ATF. Mr. Posada shared a video, which characterized the gang database as "stop and frisk 2.0". The gang database includes minors as young as 13 years old. The database is "overinclusive and inaccurate," and being in the database can have real consequences during criminal justice proceedings, resulting in higher bails. Criteria used to identify people for inclusion in the database are broad and vague, including venues as general as projects, bodegas, and basketball courts. The video showed testimony from a City Council

hearing by family members of individuals affected by a gun murder and mass arrests in West Harlem several years ago.

Parents are not notified if their children are entered into a database, so they have no opportunity to challenge their children's inclusion. The database is 99% comprised of people of color. Inclusion in the gang database can also lead to deportation for immigrants.

It is important for the public to submit FOIL requests for NYPD data about themselves, which the Legal Aid Society will submit on people's behalfs. The Legal Aid Society and NAACP LDF is submitting litigation around the database and people whose FOIL requests have been denied and appealed may be eligible to join.

Further information is at <https://www.legalaidnyc.org/nypd-gang-database>.

Marcelo Valez, Manhattanville Development Group

Goals guiding the development of Columbia's Manhattanville Campus included growing space; building modern facilities; create an integrated urban campus within a defined boundary; and promote interactions among students, faculty, staff, researchers, etc; and to create an open campus. The project consists of 16 million square feet over 17 development sites (buildings).

Campus buildings were designed in order to: provide transparency into the buildings, especially at the street level; below-grade services including a central energy plant with all boilers and cooling, and a loading dock; no gates or walls; open spaces and waterfront linkages; and active uses of the buildings' ground floors.

The project uses green construction and LEED certification for its buildings, and goals to use minority/women-owned and local employment and construction contracts.

Mr. Valez and Victoria Mason-Ailey from Columbia fielded questions and concerns from the audience, including the duration and timing of later phases of the construction project, and the inclusion of West Harlem NYCHA residents in construction jobs and apprenticeship programs.

Assemblymember Al Taylor

Assemblymember Taylor commended the voters of this district for turning out last week. He is also working to convene a meeting of stakeholders with Argus Community, who embarked on planning a methadone clinic without consulting the community and were rebuked for it.

Shakiba Muhammadi, Mt. Sinai Mobile Mammography Program

Ms. Muhammadi shared information about publicly available screenings around the city. She also shared facts and common myths about breast cancer. Breast cancer occurrence rates are lower, but mortality rates are higher, for women of color. The hospital is partnering with the Cancer Services Program for people who are not insured. Under New York State law, insurers cannot require cost-sharing for mammograms.

Reports

Kyshia Smith, CM Mark Levine's Office

Currently the Right to Counsel bill for housing court applies an income threshold of \$50,000 for a family of four (200% of the poverty line), which CM Levine and CM Gibson are working to push to 400% of the poverty line as it does not currently cover an individual earning a minimum wage. The councilmembers are also looking to extend the right to Mitchell-Lama residents.

April Adams, MBPO

The MBPO's capital grants program is starting up; interested groups should schedule a meeting with the office. They are also rolling out cultural tourism grants. They are convening a short-term small business task force to deal with vacant storefronts and disappearing small businesses. The office is also running a diaper drive. The office is forming a "complete count" committee in advance of the 2020 census. The office is opposed to proposed FCC rules on cable franchising agreements.

Public Session

Michael Steigman, Down to Earth Farmers Markets

The company helps to run Farmers Market at 110th and Manhattan Avenue, which operates year round, Saturdays 9am-3pm. Local shoppers were excited to learn that using SNAP at farmers markets leads to bonus spending. Vendors don't currently have enough parking on Manhattan Avenue. He requests 5 additional parking spaces for vendors on the west side of Manhattan Avenue and the north side of 110th street.

Brad Taylor, Friends of Morningside Park

Mr. Taylor urges support for the letter of support for additional parking.

Thomas Patterson

The charter revision that passed last week will allow the mayor to impair the effectiveness of community boards, leading to even greater gentrification of our communities.

Action Items

Both items were introduced by the chairs of the Landmarks and Parks committee and were adopted by votes of 23-0-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.