

**Manhattan Community Board 9
General Board Meeting
October 15, 2020**

Meeting held over Zoom. Called to attention 6:35 PM.

Presentations

Harlem Boys & Girls Club, Dominique Jones

Spoke about summer day camp - 40 elementary-aged kids. Free of charge thanks to WHDC, Robin Hood, national BGC. Parents motivated to enroll kids for socialization; without it, parents would have had to stay at home. Range of levels of concern for COVID among parents. Teen program - 15 kids in service learning and leadership program on food justice. Held three food distribution events.

Virtual programming included literacy and STEM lessons, book club. Direct provider of Summer Food Service Program. Partnerships with orgs like New York Common Pantry. DYCD-designated Learning Lab serving local students, expecting more sites this fall.

Called to order at 6:51 PM. TK moves to adopt agenda, DMC seconds. CT moves to adopt minutes, VE seconds. Both pass overwhelmingly.

Pa'lante Harlem, Elsia Vazquez

Closed office in March, doing construction to expand basement to serve more clients. Operating remotely is challenging - clients don't all have technology to work remotely. Focus on applying for grants for renters. Received two from WHDC, to help HDFC residents working on becoming homeowners, and homeless prevention program. Giving out rent relief grants.

Distributing masks directly to families in their homes, and sourced culturally relevant food baskets from local businesses for 97 families. Partnered with NYC DOH to provide air conditioners to seniors.

Some tenants had rent reduced to 2017/2018 levels. Brought landlord to court over rent reductions. Holding zoom webinars on eviction moratoriums, legal documents, immigration processes, and more.

Partner with reputable property owners to direct renters falling behind to Pa'lante for grants or assistance. Assisted almost 500 families in all. Bracing for lifting of eviction moratorium.

There was an exchange between Ted Kovaleff, in his capacity as a WHDC board member, and Elsia Vazquez, about the status of WHDC grants and Pa'lante's obligations under them.

Black Lives/Black Lungs, Ayodele Alli and youth participants

Reality Check program for youth to learn and combat tobacco products. Collaborate with center at Columbia to create teen-led webinar on smoking/vaping awareness. Educate elected officials about tobacco use pandemic. Writing op-eds. Group screened short educational video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eeg5BNx--uQ>

Video shares lessons learned about history of tobacco industry's campaign to market to Black community, especially menthol cigarettes; experience of student researchers and activists; and

entanglement of tobacco industry with Black civic and social organizations. Youth provided additional comments about vaping, quitting campaigns, and efforts to outlaw popular flavors.

Senator Chuck Schumer

Facing simultaneous health and economic crises. Federal government stepped up with funds in March. Federal relief went to unemployment, hospitals, MTA, churches, K-12 and higher education.

Sponsored bill to extend \$600 unemployment benefit, hospitals, food assistance, state and local governments. President and Senate Republicans opposed to paying more so government can help people. Will pass if Democrats win in November.

Crisis of democracy and justice in America, made more severe by passing of Justice Ginsburg. Please vote in November. Ambitious legislative agenda if Democrats win majority.

CM Mark Levine

Regret to share news of poor health of Cecil Corbin Mark. City already banned flavored e-cigarettes. Companion bill would ban menthol cigarettes, still pending, 36 co-sponsors.

COVID hotspots emerging in Brooklyn and Queens, but Manhattan trending up too for last 3 weeks. Over 70 new cases/day, particularly in W. Harlem.

Council passed bill to make outdoor dining permanent and year-round, much needed relief for restaurants, including outdoor heating (gas and electric on sidewalk, electric only on curbside).

Free legal assistance to small business for eviction defense, renegotiate commercial leases, applications for federal COVID assistance.

Housing courts reopened in August and are processing cases that were already underway but put on hold in March. Anyone given eviction notice has right to counsel.

Renewing push for residential parking permits.

Chair's Report, Barry Weinberg

District needs statement due October 30. Public hearing this Tuesday evening. Be very specific in budget requests. Gun buyback by DA and NYPD.

Election coming up. Find poll site information online -- both early poll site and election day poll site, which may be different. Make sure you, relatives, neighbors have plan to vote.

Interagency meeting with DDC, DEP, DOT re 12th ave sinkhole. CB9 team-up to clean-up West Harlem. Census deadline is tonight.

Task force on drugs and crime in Hamilton Heights (135-145th). Issue related to dealers from Bronx who recruit local youth and prey on neighbors. Coordinate with substance abuse agencies, outreach orgs, police.

DM's Report

Provided in packet.

Treasurer's Report, Barry Weinberg

Think of creative ways to spend \$11K in grants from councilmembers.

WHDC Rep's Report, Pat Watler-Johnson

Updates on seniors and pathways to apprenticeships programs.

MBP Gale Brewer

Challenge of getting 37K poll workers to their sites by 5am. Help imagine public spaces czar function to coordinate all of the city agencies with an interest in streetscape, curbside usage, and adjoining parks.

Challenge of vacancies on Broadway. Spaces aren't renting. Envision alternate uses. By Feb 2021 owners have to provide data about their storefronts. Childcare centers need to be funded, Manhattan received unfair cuts, especially important to get women back in workforce. Contrary to mayor's claim, some students still cannot get a tablet for remote learning.

UMEZ Rep's Report, Georgette Morgan-Thomas

Not direct provider of workforce development, but has funds to partner with non-profits that provide services. Contributed to National Urban League headquarters on 125th. In turn will provide jobs to our community.

AM AL Taylor

No federal relief yet. Had hoped for a few billion dollars for state and city. Letter to governor asking him to open MTA because thousands of people need it to get to work.

Events with DA's office on domestic violence and elder abuse. Working with Street Corner Resources to provide activities at places where young people hang out.

Reflect on what happened in election four years ago and how to increase youth engagement in politics.

Public Session

Signe Mortensen

Neighborhood cleanup on October 24 to fill gap left by sanitation budget cuts. Register to volunteer. Will provide early voting information. Register your block: www.bit.ly/33REQLp

Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office, Nina Saxon

Comptroller's workforce development proposal includes free CUNY paid for by NY state, expansion of technical education in city HS.

Sen. Jackson's Office, Porfirio Figueroa

Senator is moderating panel at Hispanic Federation education summit next week. Get out of the vote. Planning forum for housing rights in light of increased requests for help with evictions. Supporting Alzheimer's awareness and upcoming march.

DA's Office, Ely Silvestre

Gun buyback coming up, thanks for help spreading the word. Companies and organization can co-host domestic violence trainings with DA's office in October, DV awareness month.

Action Items (Y-N-A-PNEV)

Item 1: Senior issues committee on city Intro 1563 (cooling centers): 38-0-0-0

Item 2: YEL committee on state bill S7553A (child services): 38-1-0-0

Item 3: Parks & landmarks on housing justice: 35-0-3-1

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.