

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 19, 2019
18 Old Broadway
N.Y.N.Y

Attending CB #9 Members:

Victor Edwards – Chair,
Maxine Best (YEL)
Deidre McIntosh- Brown (YEL)

Patricia Walter Johnson (Uniform Services)
Padmore John (Health /Environment)
Martin Wallace (Street Safety)

Guest:

Emma Barricelli - Manhattanville
Joron Brice – Grant
Stuart Reid

Carol Williams - Manhattanville
Ramon Bellois
Doug Frazier

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.
Agenda and minutes were adopted.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the committee members and the guest. He continued by stating he especially glad to have the resident leaders from both Manhattanville and Grant Houses in attendance.

Discussion:

I. The West Harlem Restoration / Re-entry Program.

This program is a direct result of the 2014 drug/gang arrest of 103 individuals at Manhattanville Grant Houses. The program under the guide of the Manhattan D.A's office will be administered by 3 community based organizations. These organizations will be meeting with the community in late January 2020 to present a full program explanation.

The West Harlem Restoration / Re-entry Program will consist of 3 components:

Credible Messengers (Mentors): An individual that has been justice involved will be assigned to each individual returning from incarceration.

Restorative Justice: This process seeks to address emotional harm and foster healing through supportive groups and counseling while also strengthening the community.

Capacity-building Incubator: "The capacity-building incubator will empower and resource existing local community-based organizations in administering services and supports to promote public safety in the Manhattanville and Grant Houses and surrounding community."

* Questions raised by resident leaders

1. The number of individuals being released and time frame(s)?
2. Will these individuals be offered housing in a halfway house in the community?
3. Will there be employment and or training opportunities?

Several attendees suggested that the community develop priorities in advance of meeting with the sponsors of the program.

II. NYCHA Family Re-entry Program

(NYCHA representative was scheduled to attend but could not make it to the meeting).

This program provides residents that have been incarcerated an opportunity to move back in with their family under certain circumstances. The Chair reviewed some of the criteria for acceptance to program and distributed written materials providing further details.

* Questions raised by resident leaders

1. Since Manhattanville is managed under the NYCHA " Mixed Finance" model how will residents wanting to return to their family's home be handled?
2. While the family member is awaiting a decision on acceptance into the program will they be offered housing in a halfway or supportive facility?

(These questions will be followed up with NYCHA administrator's for the program).

III. Columbia's Thomas Munoz scholarships

Several aspects of this scholarship program were discussed within the group. There was agreement that more canvassing of local networks in the community was needed. It was also agreed that students need to know about this opportunity in middle school as well as high school.

The Chair noted the Youth, Education and Libraries committee would be following up on idea of expanding/additional canvassing.

The meeting was adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
V. Edwards