

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 News Letter

December 2023

The latest news, views, and announcements

Upcoming Events:

Manhattan Community Board 9 Health Forum

Save the Date:
March 16, 2023

MBPO Capital Funding Sessions for City Agencies

Date: December 14th, 2 pm

PALANTE HARLEM

FREE Housing Legal Services Coming Soon

For further information regarding our upcoming events please visit:

www.cb9m.org
212-864-6200
info@cb9m.org



Back Pack to School

On August 31st, 2023, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 joined forces with NYPD's 26th precinct to give back to the wonderful community of West Harlem. We were able to give away over a hundred backpacks filled with all the supplies and tools necessary for students to have a successful and productive school year.

In addition, businesses in the community were volunteering their services for free. One of them is Levels Barbershop located at 425 West 125th Street. They were able to give kids free hair cuts. And finally, community-based organizations were also able to provide resources and information to constituents as well.

In all, the event was a huge success and CB9 can't wait to take part in the Annual event again next year!

HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE

The Harlem Holiday Lights celebration is a street lighting event that stretches along 125th Street from Fifth Avenue to Marginal Street. The 125th Street BID along with Manhattan Community Board Nos. 9, and 10 along with various other organizations participated in the “Harlem Holiday Lights” on Tuesday, November 14th. The event included: Dazzling Light and Sound Displays along 125th Street with interactive Musical Trees and has revitalized Harlem’s cultural scene by promoting the arts, entertainment, dining, and business community for over 30 years!!

The theme for this year’s Harlem Holiday Lights focused on “Celebrating Our Youth,” featuring two special Grand Marshals including Stephanie Pacheco, NYS Youth Poet Laureate and member of the 2022 NYC Youth Slam Team, and Grand Marshal Dr. Lena Green, DSW, LCSW, CLC, Executive Director of HOPE Center Harlem.

A GRAND TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!

Are you facing Eviction?

Do you need Repairs in your apartment and they are not being addressed?

Are you being Harassed by your Landlord?

If you answered YES to any of the questions Above...PA'LANTE Harlem can help you with ALL your Housing Concerns **FREE!!!**

Coming Soon: PA'LANTE Harlem will be Addressing your Housing Concerns at the Manhattan Community Board No. 9 District Office at 3295 Broadway @133rd St. monthly.

PA'LANTE Harlem located at 1411 Amsterdam Avenue @129th St. **is Committed to Advocating for Tenants when their Rights have been Violated by unresponsive Property Owners (LANDLORDS).** Visit their website at <https://www.palanteharlem.org/> for a full description of their services.





CB9 Seniors take over Broadway!

Huge thank you to the West Harlem Development Corporation for providing our Seniors with tickets and transportation to see the hit Broadway music Aladdin!

Our seniors were able to sit back and enjoy the wonderful Broadway production and experience the pinnacle of theatrical artistry. There is nothing truly like it!



Manhattanville Community Day

Manhattanville Community Day was a fun-filled celebration of our unique community. There were several giveaways, performances, and services. Several of our board members along with our District Manager attended the event to inform the community of the resources that CB9 is able to provide such as free legal services, workforce workshops, and connection to city agencies.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with Columbia University to empower and serve the West Harlem Community.



Governor Hochul Announces \$5 Million in Funding to Support the Launch of New and Existing Cannabis Accreditation Programs

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that SUNY and CUNY community colleges will receive \$5 million in funding to support the creation or enhancement of short-term credential programs or course offerings that provide pathways to employment in the cannabis industry. The selected CUNY campus which will receive \$2 Million is Borough of Manhattan Community College which will serve as a lead campus with partner Lehman College. It is estimated to include over 360 participants.

139th and Riverside Officially Becomes Named After Honorable Ms. Genevive (Jenny) Eason

On October 30, the West Harlem community joined the Eason family and Councilman Shaun Abreu in honoring former CB9M member Genevieve Eason in the dedication of "Genevieve (Jenny) Eason Way" at the NE corner of 139th Street & Riverside Drive - River View Towers, where Jenny lived for decades until her passing in 2003. The event was held on what would have been Jenny's 107th birthday, and this year marks the 20th anniversary of her passing.

In addition to the Eason family & Councilman Abreu, guests & officials attending included: NYS Senators Cordell Cleare and Robert Jackson; NYS Assembly Members Daniel O'Donnell and Rev. Al Taylor; Manhattan Deputy Borough President Keisha Sutton James, representing MBP Mark Levine; Manhattan Democrat County Leader, Keith L. T. Wright; District Leader Norma Campusano; CB9M Chair Victor Edwards; CB9M District Manager Eutha Prince; Peggy Shepard, former District Leader & Co-Founder and Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Rev. Dr. Alphonso Wyatt, retired Vice President of the Fund for the City of New York; Silvia Luna, Chair of the River View Towers Board of Directors; Mercedes Nesfield & Tania Otero, representing Jenny's many friends & neighbors at River View Towers; Valerie Jo Bradley, Co-Founder & President of Save Harlem Now; Angela Dews, teacher and published author.

Jenny was born in Hertford County, North Carolina & graduated from Virginia State College, with a degree in English. She later saved enough money to move to New York City where she met and married Joseph Leon Eason in 1939; that union produced two children, Judith Olivia Eason and Joseph Leon Eason Jr. She was employed as a Social Worker in the NYC Department of Social Services then the Mayor's Office of the NYC Department for the Aging. In 1977, she was appointed by then-Councilman Frederick E. Samuel to CB9M, where she actively served as Board Treasurer, Co-Chair of both the Senior Issues & Youth, Education, and Libraries Committees, member of the Housing Land Use & Zoning Committee, etc.

Her activism and community service included joining the environmental protests that led to the creation of Riverbank State Park, membership & leadership in the West Harlem Independent Democratic Club, WE ACT, Convent Avenue Baptist Church, M.L. Wilson Boys & Girls Club, the Dorothy Rose & Albert Blumberg Community Fund, et al. She received many awards for her community service.

Daughter Judith Eason Thames Sr. and granddaughters Jasmin Thames and Judi Thames Jr. are actively carrying on Jenny's legacy of community service to West Harlem in her memory. In fact, Jasmin & Judy Jr. did a wonderful job of organizing & presiding over the October 30th ceremony.

I've had the honor of knowing Jenny since joining the West Harlem Independent Democratic Club where I served in various leadership positions including President from 1994-1997. I was honored to be acknowledged by the Eason family during the ceremony in recognition of the friendship and love between our families. She was an inspiration to me and so many others who knew her & respected her "straight no chaser" way of communicating. Because she wanted the best for everyone who came into her life, she regularly doled out healthy doses of tough love to everyone she cared about.

Because of her persistence & dedication to West Harlem and CB9M, Genevieve Eason leaves a legacy for her descendants and future community leaders & activists who will see that street sign and know that a warrior once lived nearby. Rest in peace Jenny, rest in power and love...

Patricia Watler Johnson, CB9M





Congressman recognizes CB9 Veteran!

Chair, Victor Edwards had the honor of accepting the 2023 Veterans Recognition Award on behalf of Ms. Kneesman who proudly served our Country. He was able to give Ms. Kneesman her award at our November General Board meeting where all board members were proud to honor her.

Additionally, we would like to thank all the veterans for their sacrifices, for their valor, and most of all for protecting us, and for defending our rights.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Hello Neighbors,

My name is Victor Edwards and I have the pleasure and honor of being the new Chairperson of Manhattan Community Board 9 (CB9).

I am a lifelong New Yorker who has lived in Community Board 9 on Riverside Drive for 40 years. My professional career includes working for several NYC agencies, including the Dept. of Education, and the New York City Housing Authority. While employed by the Dept. of Education I worked as a counselor in an alternative educational program at JHS 164 on Edgecombe Ave. At New York City Authority (NYCHA) I worked in different management positions, from a Manager at several Housing developments to NYCHA 's Borough Director in the Bronx and Staten Island.

I have served on Community Board 9 (CB9) for the past 10 years, previously holding the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs. In addition, I have Chaired CB9 Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) for the past 6 years. One of the main functions of the SPC committee has been to monitor the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with Columbia University. Monitoring the CBA is extremely important to ensure that Columbia University remains committed to providing over \$ 100 million in benefits promised to the West Harlem community.

So as I take on the position of Chair of CB9, be assured that my priorities remain constant:

- (1) Being an advocate and a voice for our community.
- (2) Being transparent and acting on behalf of improving the lives of fellow residents.
- (3) Being aware of and committed to the community's priorities.

To ensure that we are on the same page CB9 is developing a community survey. The survey will be widely distributed to community residents and the feedback will assist in prioritizing our CB9 goals.

A few of the current priorities for Community Board 9

- Housing - establishing additional affordable housing while preserving current affordable housing and area HDFC co-ops
- Addressing quality of life issues: crime, sanitation, health-related concerns
- Improving the educational services and opportunities of our young people

Respectfully,
Hon. Victor Edwards