



Newsletter

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE, MR. PADMORE JOHN

This month (June 2019) will mark the end of my term as Chair of Manhattan Community Board No. 9. It has been an honor to work with the diligent and dedicated members of the board, elected officials, Community Based Organizations, and the community at large. I would like to take this moment to thank all of those who have assisted and continue assist the Board in addressing a multitude community concerns. During my time as Chair we have faced many issues, ranging from major fires to lack of affordable housing and beyond. Together as a "Village" we have come together to resolve several major issues and continue to push through on others. Manhattan Community Board No. 9 (MCB9) is the voice of a large portion of West Harlem. We must continue to be informed by area residents of issues affecting our neighborhoods. I urge all residents to be pro-active, involved and informed about political and social events occurring in this vibrant community.

Traffic safety has been a major concern throughout the city as well as in MCB9. To that end we are currently working with NYC Department of Transportation on major changes to Amsterdam Ave. (eliminating one lane in each direction for the addition of bike lanes). As a result we are in the process purchasing air monitoring equipment to ensure that this change and others do not negatively impact the area's air quality. Being able to collect, analyze and share data is vital, and important to the board and the community as a whole in making strategic decisions.

As I leave the position of Chair, I ask that you afford the next Chair the same support and cooperation that you have afforded me during my time as Chair of MCB9.

In July and August, the board will be in recess for the summer and will resume its regular monthly meetings in September, 2019. Please visit our website for our calendar of meetings and upcoming events at www.cb9m.org.

Have A Splendid Summer!!!!

Update on Safety Streets in District 9

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 (MCB9) has been in discussions with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) on improving traffic safety in West Harlem. Four years ago NYC DOT presented MCB9 with proposed traffic changes on Riverside Drive and Broadway; changes included removal of lane(s) adding turning bays, creating pedestrian walkways, increasing timing on street signs, and restricting parking in certain areas, and other alterations. Through meetings and by conducting neighborhood "walk-throughs" several changes were implemented and other were eliminated. As time progressed community Board members have noticed that a few of the changes are not working as well as predicted and a request was made to NYC DOT to address these areas which has yet to be done.

Currently there are discussions with numerous presentations and press conferences extolling the benefit of the changes that are proposed on Amsterdam Avenue with the removal of one lane and other factors. MCB9 supports safety improvement on the Amsterdam Avenue corridor. The board supports the removal of a lane, the introduction of a bike lane for safety concerns however, many residents feel a dedicated bus lane would be more beneficial to the entire community. MCB9 has concerns regarding the increased vehicle emissions as a result of the planned changes and will be monitoring the area air quality with their own devices and analyzing the data with the assistance of Fordham University and CCNY. MCB9 has requested that increased enforcement accompany the proposed changes and that DOT be receptive to changes based on ongoing reporting and feedback loops. In essence if the changes are not helpful that DOT be prepared to discuss any necessary alternations to their plan.

In demonstrating the importance of traffic safety, MCB9 created a Taskforce with the sole purpose of identifying an equitable and holistic ways to improve safety on our streets. The Street Safety and Design Task Force is working with community members and multiple city agencies including DOT; NYPD; Sanitation, and the Borough President to make safety improvements to our community.

It takes a deep commitment to change and an even deeper commitment to grow" -

Ralph Ellison

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Update on Taystee Lab Building

The principals of the Janus Property Company were thrilled to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Taystee Lab Building on May 9th with representatives of Community Board #9 and elected officials. The event was kicked off by the Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas, former Chair of CB9, stepping in for current Chair Padmore John. This was followed by warm words of support from Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Deputy Mayor Vicki Been, Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Mark Levine and State Senator Brian Benjamin. Congressman Adriano Espaillat also sent a proclamation lauding the project and the effort it took to realize. Janus Principals Jerry Salama and Scott Metzner appreciated the recognition of the close collaboration with the local community on all their projects in West Harlem.

The Taystee Lab Building is located on West 126th Street between Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues. It has been in construction since July of last year and completion is expected in the fourth quarter of 2020. The building is designed as a 350,000 RSF Class A building to serve lab and life science users as well as commercial, non-profit and community facility users. Given its ideal location within a stone's throw of the 125th Street arts and culture corridor as well as Columbia University and City College and within the corridor of Columbia University Medical Center, Taystee seeks to be a local economic development hub. Complemented by all the other buildings that Janus has developed in the Manhattanville Factory District—the Mink, Malt and Sweets Buildings—the vision of achieving a jobs center in West Harlem is coming to fruition.

With the Taystee Lab Building, Janus aspires to the highest quality standards. The LEED Silver-certified building will offer 11 stories of commercial space with floor-to-ceiling glass and terraces on four floors. These terraces are just part of the 20,000 square feet of outdoor space that Janus is developing as part of Taystee alone and throughout the Manhattanville Factory District. Adjacent to the main entrance of Taystee, Janus is developing a landscaped courtyard with seating and plantings that will be open to the entire community as will the other courtyards that Janus is developing. These outdoor spaces are also expected to attract vibrant retail and restaurant users on the ground floor of all the District buildings, to provide services to tenants and neighborhood residents alike. Scott and Jerry are very proud to be part of the West Harlem community and look forward to ribbon-cuttings and more celebrations together with CB9. To view the project visit <http://www.taysteebldg.com/>

WHDC Grant Applicant & Recipient

While We Are Still Here (WWHS) is an applicant and prior recipient of West Harlem Development Corporation grant. WWHS is a cultural heritage project that aims to counter effects of gentrification through education on the historical significance of 409 and 555 Edgecombe Avenue to the African-American experience in Harlem, especially during the Harlem Renaissance. Many African-American cultural icons have called these buildings home. While WE are Still Here is a 501 (c) (3) corporation that includes long-term residents of 409 and 555 Edgecombe Avenue. These two historical buildings define Harlem to a large extent.

During the mid-20th century, African-American artists, attorneys, bankers, builders, dancers, musicians, playwrights and many more types from all walks of life were drawn to it. These buildings were home to Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, Count Basie, and others. WWHS have a documentary online. For more information visit <http://www.whilewearestillhere.org/>





Family Shelter on Amsterdam Ave

The Child's Memorial Temple Church of God in Christ (COGIC), known as the church where Malcolm X's funeral was held and where Ossie Davis delivered the famous eulogy, no longer exists. Even the rubble is gone. Now it is just another vacant lot. The building that started out as the Bluebird Theater and became a well-known and popular COGIC was demolished more than a year ago.

The Church, like many in Harlem, was cash and congregation poor and real estate rich. What remains to be seen is if this church will rise again or become a sad victim of savvy real estate investors and developers. A new edifice for the church was to be rebuilt on the southern end of the property and the northern end was to hold a ten story apartment building. However, what was recently presented to the Community and the Community Board's Housing/Land Use and Zoning Committee was very different.

The Department of Homeless Services and Urban Resource Institute (a social services organization) presented a proposal to build a "family" shelter with 132 studio units with billionaire developer Moujan Vahdat. This proposal was presented as a way to potentially reintegrate former residents of CB9 who have become homeless back into the community. The problem is that there are too many unanswered questions and too many flaws with the proposal, not to mention that West Harlem is already over saturated with supportive facilities. Ultimately members of the community and committee expressed opposition and proposed instead that the developer/URI and HPD get together with the West Harlem Development Corporation to develop PERMANENT affordable housing in the space and ensure that the church's sanctuary and ancillary space be incorporated in any design. The Board will illicit the support of the community and local elected officials over the summer break to achieve this goal



SIGNE MORTESEN

A Seattle native, Signe now lives in New York City where she works as a coffee Education Administrator, community organizer and musician in her West Harlem community.

Since moving to W 150th St (Amsterdam/Broadway) in 2008, Signe has found a home and community that inspires and excites her healthy curiosity for other people and their cultures, stories and backgrounds.

She has been a board member of her W 150th Block Association since 2010 and serves with an amazing group of neighbors who have created the **Unify and Beautify W 150th** campaign which aims to build pride and unify the block through beautification, education and youth outreach.

She is a co-coordinator of the NYRP owned **Lucille McClarey Wicked Friendship Garden** on W 150th St and often collaborates with other gardens and interested gardeners in the area to create or maintain green and open space in West Harlem.

In 2011 she joined a group of concerned citizens, clergy and NYPD to form the **West Harlem Empowerment Coalition** which exists to connect our youth and community with needed (and existing) resources in the West Harlem area to help empower them and excel to their greatest potential.

In 2013 she joined local **Community Board 9** as one of 50 members of the board where she continues to learn from those who have served for decades. She currently serves on the Housing Land Use and Zoning committee.

In 2014 she began serving on the board of the **30th Precinct Community Council** having worked closely with the NYPD for many years before joining the Board. She proudly works with the Community Affairs officers and the council to continue to strengthen Community and Police relationships.

Signe helps to coordinate community events, lending a hand whenever possible to other local block associations, social justice groups and city agencies including WeAct for Environmental Justice, Brotherhood/Sistersol, Broadway Malls, TreesNY, Citizens Committee for NYC, City Tabernacle 7th Day Adventist Church and many more.

During the days, Signe is the Education Administrator for illycaffè North America where she coordinates and teaches about coffee and all things related.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The 26th and 32nd Precincts Police Department presents “Together in Harlem” on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Morningside Avenue (between West 125th and West 126th Streets) from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information/Questions contact Officer Johanna Urena at (917) 328-4818
- New York City Council Member Bill Perkins 2020 Census Job Fair, Monday, June 24th, 2019 at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor (Art Gallery) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information/Rsvp contact Keith Lilly at (212) 678-4505
- New York Public Library presents SAT Test Prep at the George Bruce Library located at 518 West 125th Street on Saturdays - July 13; 20; 27 and August 3; 10; and 17 at 11:00 a.m. For more information/Questions call (212) 662-9727
- NYPD Patrol Borough Manhattan North presents 2019 Harmony Day Picnic on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Central Park’s Band shell (entrance at 5th Avenue and 72nd Street) from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information call (212) 678-1887/1872
- The Community Service Society presents the Volunteer Health Advocate Program. To apply, please go to <https://secure.cssny.org/page/signup/volunteer-application>. For more information call Charlotte Brookover at (212) 614-5305

DID YOU KNOW?

Street Storage: When parking is not otherwise restricted, no person shall park any vehicle in any area, including a residential area, in excess of seven (7) consecutive days.

Call 811 before you dig: Ever wonder what the different color markings on the ground mean? Wonder no more and keep information below for easy reference

White - Proposed Excavation

Pink –Temporary Survey Markings

Red –Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit & Lighting Cables

Yellow –Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum & Gaseous Material

Orange –Communications, Alarm, Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit

Blue –Potable Water

Purple –Reclaimed Water, Mitigation & Slurry Lines, Radioactive Material

Green - Sewers & Drain Lines

CONTACT US:

Manhattan Community Board 9
16-18 Old Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 864-6200
Fax: (212) 662-7396
Email: info@cb9m.org
Website: www.cb9m.org

NOTE:

Our General Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of every month at Castle Gardens located at 625 West 140th Street (**unless otherwise noted**) [between Broadway and Riverside Drive] For the full monthly calendar of our scheduled meetings, please visit our website at: www.cb9m.org

TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Please send an email of your contact information to: info@cb9m.org or hzita@cb9m.org

