

Chair's Report

April, 2018

St. Nick's Pub

On March 22nd, a devastating fire took the life of a firefighter and destroyed a cherished, if forgotten landmark, on St. Nicholas Ave. St. Nick's Pub, which officially closed its doors in 2011, was gutted by a raging fire that night, which eventually saw the demolition of the façade, and some damage to adjacent buildings. The fire began in the basement, where a film was being shot, and rapidly spread throughout the entire building. The cause is still currently under investigation. At last week's executive meeting we received an update from Vincent Lampkin. The goal is to renovate and rebuild, with an intent to replicate the façade as much as possible. St. Nicholas Ave between 148th and 150th streets has reopened as of Sunday April 15th, after being closed since the fire. I have also authored a letter of condolence to FDNY Engine 69/Ladder 28/Battalion 16 together with the chair of CB10, Cicely Harris, giving support to this brave company in the face of their recent loss.

Focus on Improving Relations at The School at Columbia

The following is a timeline that demonstrates efforts by concerned parents with The School at Columbia to ensure transparency and accountability. We have engaged with these parents and look to develop ongoing conversations with the leadership of the school to provide answers and distinctive way forwards towards ensure the spirit of community is being supported within and without the school.

- **2013/2014-Kaleidoscope Bridging the Gaps Meetings:** *The idea of hiring a diversity professional to address various diversity concerns in the TSC community is first raised and discussed in meetings throughout the year.*
- **2014 Dalton Diversity Conference:** *Attended by Kaleidoscope leader Kathy Leichter.*
- **2015 Dalton Diversity Conference:** *TSC faculty, student, staff, and alumni, PA President Marie France Fleuristal, Vern Ballard.*
- **10/20/15:** *PA Agenda/Meeting notes- Diversity Coordinator on agenda; propose discussion about role with Provost; suggestion is made to bring a diversity speaker in to collaborate with Kaleidoscope.*
- **11/10/15:** *PA Agenda/Meeting notes: Amani and Dennis Mitchell from Columbia discuss diversity coordinator role. Michael Paulin states since Kaleidoscope initiated the discussion it should fall under the PA and a committee should be established.*
- **12/9/15:** *An email is sent to Executive Board: Requesting input from board regarding a request for TSC Community Annual Reports provided to Community board 9. The reports are for reference to improve future data and measures in support of TSC's diversity mission; attachment of a previous Community Report is provided for review.*
- **1/6/16:** *Meeting Oversight Chairs/CEID/PA Members: Oversight Council Chair George Deodatis, Vice Provost Troy Eggers, Amani Reed, Kate Parabue, Michael Paulin, Jon Sea, Marie France Fleuristal, Kathy Leichter, Vern Ballard, Lida Rubenstein. Chairpersons request a written report on diversity concerns discussed for review at Oversight Council meeting.*
- **1/12/16:** *PA Meeting notes: Update given on 1/6 meeting (listed above); request made for a special board meeting to review the CEID report prior to the Oversight Council meeting on 1/27.*

- **1/16/16:** MLK Day Celebration Kaleidoscope Bridging the Gaps: Diversity Matters Understanding the Impact of Bias: TSC Parents Cynthia H. Bowman & Katherine W. Phillips
- **1/18/16** - Email sent to Amani to request a meeting. CEID meeting to discuss goals scheduled for 1/25/16.
- **1/19/16:** Community Share: CEID participated in discussions on concerns, recommendations, and school processes with Amani Reed, Kevin Fittinghoff, and Belinda Nicholson. Marie France Fleuristal, Vernon Ballard, Michael Paulin, Lida Rubenstein
- **1/22/16:** Email is sent to Executive Board: CEID requests input from board; attachment of outline is provided for review of committee's work.
- **1/24/16:** CEID Meeting: to expand outline presented into a report Marie-France Fleuristal, Vern Ballard, Kathy Leichter, Linda Ramirez Burke, Natalia Francois, Cynthia Bowman
- **1/25/16:** CEID Meeting: Amani Reed, Diversity Committee and PA members: Marie France Fleuristal, Vern Ballard, Kathy Leichter, Linda Ramirez Burke, Michael Paulin, Jon Sea, Lida Rubenstein. Meeting to discuss and clarify the aims of the committee prior to oversight meeting on 1/27/16.
- **1/26/16:** CEID Report (10pgs) is emailed as requested by the Oversight Council Chairpersons George Deodatis and Vice Provost Troy for review at the Oversight Council meeting on 1/27.
- **2/7/16:** Email sent to the Executive Board: An update on 1/27 Oversight Council meeting (report was forwarded to Provost office; an official response to come); an attachment with a summary of the CEID Report and comments from Michael Paulin regarding the status of the committee and whether a vote to instantiate the committee was ever done.
- **2/29/16:** Email sent to Oversight Council members: George Deodatis and Troy Eggers, (Amani Reed, Michael Paulin cc'd) to inquire about status of CEID report. A response is given which states that a school community announcement on diversity is forthcoming.
- **4/12/16** Community Share presentation of Committee on Diversity finding and recommendations by Vernon Ballard, Marie-France Fleuristal, Kathy Leichter, and Natilia Francois, including a distribution of a brochure (see attachment) explaining the Committee's aims and objectives. **Primary Division Director** Kathryn Kaiser and **Middle School Division Director** Belinda Nicholson respond to proposed ideas. **Oversight Council Chair** George Deodatis gave a verbal report addressing issues raised by the report submitted to the Oversight Council by the Diversity Committee
- **5/3/16** Parents Association Executive Board votes discusses Diversity recommendations in light of the recent Community Share and Dalton Conference and unanimously votes to create **Committee on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity**.
- **5/12/16** Community Share dedicated to PA Executive Board Nominations in which the formation of the Committee on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity is announced and updated brochure is distributed.

Response from DA Cy Vance

At last month's general meeting some very important questions we put to the representative of DA Cy Vance's office. Please see the responses below. Any further questions, please direct to the District Manager and we will contact the DA's office for further resolution.

Misdemeanor Bail Policy

In January, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office began operating from the presumption that no bail is to be requested in misdemeanor and violation cases.^[1] Prosecutors have been instructed to continue to ask for bail in certain cases where an individual has been charged with domestic violence, a sex crime, or injury against a police or peace officer, among other reasons. This new policy in Manhattan aligns with one that has been in effect in Brooklyn for nearly a year, and it has already been replicated in whole or in part by District Attorneys in Philadelphia, Westchester, and Middlesex County, Massachusetts. We are looking to expand this policy to select felony crimes in the near future as well.

Pre-trial Detention Statistics

Many reports that analyze incarceration rates at Rikers Island by borough include defendants being prosecuted by the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office in Manhattan's total. Although the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office is located in Manhattan, it is a separate and distinct office in that it handles cases citywide, and its overall incarceration statistics should not be included in those of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Additionally, with more than 76,500 arrests in 2017 (excluding Special Narcotics cases), Manhattan's caseload is larger than that of other boroughs, with the exception of Brooklyn.

Expungement of Records

In October, New York Criminal Procedure Law 160.59 went into effect. Under New York State Office of Court Administration guidelines,^[2] individuals can apply to have their court records sealed if they meet the following criteria: (i) they have been crime-free for at least 10 years since the date of conviction and/or release, and (ii) have two convictions or less on their criminal record, meaning no more than two misdemeanor convictions or one felony and one misdemeanor conviction. Sex offenses, violent felonies, and serious felonies are not eligible for sealing. Since October, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office has received 95 requests for expungement. Of those requests, 39 candidates were found to be eligible and our Office did not oppose their request for sealing. We have opposed sealing in just four cases; the remaining requests are pending.

Youth Opportunity Hubs

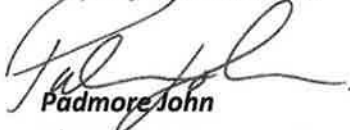
In 2017, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office awarded \$45.9 million in grants through its Criminal Justice Investment Initiative to fund the creation of five neighborhood-based Youth Opportunity Hubs in Manhattan (an additional \$12 million was awarded to expand existing family and youth development programs around the borough).^[3] Community Connections for Youth (CCFY) was selected to serve the

West and Central Harlem communities. The pilot period began in October and all of the Hubs are now operational, offering coordinated services to young people in new or updated physical spaces. In total, approximately 100 community-based organizations received funding through this grant program, which is expected to benefit more than 2,800 young New Yorkers annually.

Harlem Eat Up!

As the Harlem Eat Up celebration approaches, we have been engaging with representatives for the company to ensure that some of the requirements are met as per conditions for continuing to have the event at Morningside Park. Besides ensuring that the grounds are returned to pre-event conditions among others, Harlem Eat UP is working with youth focused CBOs to develop affordable programming for the youth. As the details are finalized it will be shared with the board and community.

Respectfully submitted,


Padmore John
Chair