

CHAIR'S REPORT

AUGUST/2023

A New Role and a New Experience.

As I take on the new role as Chair of CB9, I'm inspired by the individuals that surround me.

We once again have a full office staff, with the addition of two excellent workers in Madison Ayala and Hakeel Elliston. Our District Manager Eutha Prince for the most part has held down the entire office on her own for many months, including during the relocation of the CB9 office. We are truly thankful for Eutha's dedication and endurance in managing the office over the past several months.

In addition to 2 new office staff members, we also have 3 new Co-Chairs joining our current extraordinary CB Co-Chairs. We welcome:

Tina Lumley - Co-Chair of Arts/Culture

Solomon Prophete - Co-Chair of Uniform Services

Annette Robinson - Co-Chair of Landmarks Preservation, and Parks

I would also like to give a special welcome to all of our new Community Board members, 13 in total. This is truly an extremely diverse group, representing many backgrounds from High School and College students to medical professionals. We are all looking forward to great input from these new extraordinary Board Members.

As our community undergoes several transitions, it is important that our voices are heard and our concerns acknowledged. We must remain a beacon of information, advice, and advocacy. I look forward to the strength we can bring as a team in this coming session.

Board Chairs Activities:

Meeting with Borough President Mark Levine:

On July 17th I met with Borough President Mark Levine. We discussed concerns ranging from maintaining affordable housing and creating new affordable housing to the deterioration of certain quality-of-life issues. We also discussed the current status of the health center at 1727 Amsterdam, where I voiced my opposition to the current plan to demolish the building.

Columbia University Double Discovery Club:

On July 27, I attended a conference at Columbia University for their Double Discovery Club (DDC). In attendance were Council Member S. Abreu, staff from BP Levine's office, the Superintendent from School District 5, the Columbia College President, and a host of other Columbia University staff. This event also provided me another opportunity to meet with the new Columbia President, Nemat (Minouche) Shafik. One thing that stood out in particular to me was the lack of students in this summer program from the CB9 area. I addressed this concern to the new Director of DDC, Sasha Wells, and requested a meeting to discuss this issue further.

National Night Out Against Crime:

On Tuesday, August 1, I had the pleasure of attending both of our area precincts' (26th and 30th) National Night Out Against Crime events. I was accompanied at these events by the CB9 Office Staff.

The 26th Pct. event was held on Morningside Ave (between 125th and 126th Streets). It was a great celebration with food, live music, and several NYC Agencies as well as CBO's representing various services available to the community.

The 30th Pct. event was held at the playground on 153rd St. and Amsterdam Ave. Our own Joyce Adewumi, the 30th Pct Community Council President was one of the hosts, also on hand was the Community Council Secretary, Carolyn Thompson. The evening featured the distribution of community information, food, and a raffle of several bicycles for the young people who attended. Mayor Adams and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg made a special appearance along with area Elected officials, including Councilmember S. Abreu and State Assemblymen A. Taylor.

Discussion on MCB10 Cannabis Dispensary:

August 3 - CB10 held an online discussion regarding the opening of a Cannabis Dispensary on 125th Street. A lively discussion ensued in favor and against the placement of the facility on 125th St. There were only a few attendees totally against the dispensary, most opposition was regarding the placement of the facility on the busy 125th corridor.

Zip Car/ Rental Car Parking Spaces:

Earlier this month I requested that DOT provide a listing of Car Share parking spaces. At the same time, I requested that the Board be notified of new planned locations for this program before the actual placement occurs. - We are still awaiting a response from the DOT.

Sanitation Rat Mitigation Program:

On Monday, August 7th, I along with several Board members, and the District Manager received emails from MCB9 residents complaining about flyers that were mailed to them describing changes in the garbage pick-up on their streets. These changes involve 6-day-a-week garbage collection, as well as the placement of the new garbage containers on their street. The Board was not informed of these changes of the garbage pick-up schedule nor were we informed that the selection for the placement of the containers had been decided. Upon hearing this disheartening news we immediately reached out to the BP's office, Councilmember Abreu's office as well the Assistant Sanitation Commissioners that had attended MCB9's June 15th General Board Meeting. This move by Sanitation lacks the transparency and cooperative spirit we were promised.

Submitted by:

Victor Edwards,
Chair-MCB9