



**Chair's Report
December, 2018
Executive/General Board Meeting**

Happy Holidays:

I would like to extend a Happy Holidays, to all residents of and visitors to Community District 9. This has been quite a year. We have addressed issues ranging from lack of affordable housing and the loss of wealth-building opportunities through the loss of HDFCs in Harlem; preserving neighborhood character addressing the significant amount of developments that are underway or being considered; building relationships and collaborations to safeguard and preserve our parks, addressing the air quality of our neighborhood; addressing epidemiologic outbreaks such as Legionnaires Disease, all the while providing for our families and surviving a charged political climate. As we prepare to go into the new year, the Board asks that the sense of community and respect that we have developed continue to persevere and guide our decisions and interactions with each other. Happy Holidays and have a blessed New Year.

Air Monitoring at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park:

We have requested the presence of representatives of Dept. of Environmental Protection as there is a serious change to the way air monitoring will be conducted at the park and in the community. When we raised the question of what that means we received the below.

North River WWTP Title V facility permit has expired. The Title V facility permit is a permit issued by State DEC to our wastewater treatment plants and other major facilities with air emissions. With the air permit State DEC, going by the equipment and process/activities within the plant, DEC lays out a plan/regulations, correspondence, review process for DEP to follow. DEP installs the air monitors, hires consultants designing and operating the system, we provide all the air quality monitoring network information to State DEC before implementation and during the operations/maintenance for their approval. Basically the air permit stipulates DEP what air emissions/emission units need to be monitored, data collection to have State DEC review and enforce if we do not meet their standards, conditions. For example H₂S, which is hydrogen sulfide, it's a common odor associated with treatment plants. The permit includes new equipment, ongoing construction in the plant.

That's the general background on this matter, to briefly answer your question, with the Title V facility permit, the new DEP application for air permit, replacing the previous air permit conditions, DEP has proposed to State DEC the removal of the H₂S monitoring network in the community, discontinue operation of the 3 community H₂S monitoring stations and keeping only the 4 H₂S

monitoring stations inside the plant. Along with the request, we have provided State DEC with data, documentation supporting our request. To briefly name a few:

In 2013, DEP upgraded the NR H2S air quality monitoring network as required by the previous Title V air permit. With the new equipment DEP was able to collect accurate quality data which showed for a period of 12 months, and since that time, showing State DEC there were NO H2S exceedances, which would lead to an investigation and corrective action or a violation. The stipulations were no more than 3 exceedances of H2S standards attributed to the NR WWTP during the 12 month period. The H2S monitoring stations, from the third quarter of 2013 and 15 quarters since then, have attained between 88% and 98 % data for each quarter, above the required minimum of 85%. Between 2014 - 2016 the annual data capture was between 94.1 % and 98.5. %, above the required minimum of 90 % annual data capture. We have continued to show above average data capture since.

The continuous H2S monitoring inside the North River Plant, using the 4 stations will provide a more accurate assessment of potential odors from the plant operations. Which is in the new Title V air permit and continuously reviewed, enforced by State DEC. DEP is still monitoring for opacity as well.

In addition, all fuel combustion blowers engines were removed (June 2018) from the North River plant which were replaced by electric blowers, in turn powered by utility power and eliminating air emissions. As you are aware as part of the DEP North River cogeneration/electrification project DEP will be removing all the pumps and blowers engines and installing new cogen engines.

"Replace 10 existing pump and blower engines with 5 new dual fuel (natural gas and digester gas) cogeneration engine generators and main sewage pump electric motors. New engines reduce emissions and use digester gas as renewable fuel to power the engines."

DEP has completed and submitted the renewal air permit application with State DEC. The Notice of Complete Application was published by State DEC on 10/31/2018 in their website, Environmental Notice Bulletin. You can read it following this link:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>,

State DEC made a technical review of the application; they have approved the removal of the H2S community air monitors in their draft permit/permit review report (draft – not final). You can read the State DEC permit review report by following this link:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/dardata/boss/afs/draft_atv.html.

-- Humberto Galarza

As you imagined and we were not completely appeased by this response and have requested that DEP present to the General Board in January.

Mayor's Office of Film and Television (MOFT):

Complaints of filming crews causing disruptions to normal routines has been coming in steadily over the past few months. From gobbling up parking spaces, late night filming and associated lights and noise; lost of activity at small businesses and the nuisance of cable obstacle course have caused increased community anger to production companies. We have reached out to MOFT where they have acknowledged the disruption this causes to community. They are considering implementation of a moratorium but we will have to be vigilant in ensuring that this is enacted. We will be welcoming MOFT representatives early in the New Year to a general board meeting and will keep on pressing for increased awareness of shoots; that information provided by the production companies are accurate and that there is an effective means by which our complaints are elevated to leadership at MOFT as well as by production companies.

Collaboration with CCNY:

We will be strengthening our relationship with faculty at CCNY to utilize the expertise they possess as we deal with many of the challenges facing the board. I have been in conversation with Prof. Shawn Rickenbacker about the variety of issues we face and how his Max Bond Architecture Center can be of help. Prof. Rickenbacker was first engaged for the RKO Hamilton Theater, but after numerous conversations there remained a distinct opportunity to build partnership and collaboration on a few fronts.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Gordon Gebert, Dean of the Spitzer School of Architecture has approved additional resources and staff to conduct a semester long research program on the 135th Street Initiative facilitated through the Bond Center. In summary I will be leading a core group of CCNY faculty from several departments including the School of Architecture and a selected group of graduate and upper lever undergraduates. The work will commence during the Spring 2019 semester beginning in January. It is expected that the work produced over this period will both be instrumental in providing a foundation of critical information to be shared with community partners as well as assist in attracting additional support for a more sustained effort beyond.

Ideally, I would like this to be a collaborative community led effort and hope to work closely with members of the Chamber and the community. I've had some fruitful follow-up conversations with Carlton, and Lou and look forward to continued sessions as we build a strategic community plan.

In planning for the the term I'd like to finalize an outlined scope of work that we've begun to discuss. Referring back to several of our meetings that scope would include the following:

- *The Future of Harlem (1 – 3 Generations Ahead and Historic Data Profile)*
- *Community Driven Development (Public and Private Partnerships)*
- *The Future of Affordable Housing*
- *Community Assets Identification*

- *Harlem History and Arts*
- *Cultural and Spatial Sustainability*
- *Economic Sustainability*
- *The Technological Future (Silicon Harlem)*
- *Social and Spatial Determinants of Health*
- *Lessons from East Harlem, Inwood and 125th Street*
- *Public Agency and Elected Officials Participation and Support*
- *Philanthropic Opportunities*
- *Media and Public Support Campaign*

#BeyondSims:

The Committee to Empower Voices for Healing and Equity would like to hear from you. We are asking your assistance in providing information about your thoughts on the Dr. J. Marion Sims statue, its removal, and what you would like to see in the space. Please briefly answer all or any of the 5 survey questions which will help us identify a more appropriate representation. **Community members can access the survey at the following link (English and Spanish versions):** <https://goo.gl/forms/veW7f5fvSW3T5Bfw2>.

After decades of activism, on April 17, 2018, the City of New York relocated the statue of Dr. J. Marion Sims from Central Park East. Sims was a physician who gained fame in Western medicine for his experiments on enslaved African-American female on whom he performed invasive gynecological procedures without obtaining consent or providing anesthesia.

Surveys are at various locations throughout Harlem, including CB9's Board office. The deadline is to get the statue up by 2020. Once its up there's no going back. Let your voice be heard on what you would like to see there.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Padmore John
Chair

Background: After decades of activism, the City of New York relocated the statue of Dr. J. Marion Sims on Central Park East on April 17, 2018. Dr. Sims gained fame in Western medicine for his experiments on enslaved African-American women on whom he perfected invasive gynecological procedures without obtaining consent or providing anesthesia.

Instructions: We are collecting ideas from community members to help shape the artwork that replaces the Dr. J. Marion Sims statue. New artwork will be installed by 2020. Please answer any of the questions that you like by writing your response on the back of this sheet. When you are finished drop it in the ballot box.

Thank you for sharing your voice.

Your Community, Your Voice

1) How did the J. Marion Sims statue make you feel when it was in East Harlem?

2) How did you feel when it was removed?

3) Imagine standing in front of the new artwork that will replace the statue. How would you like the art to make you feel?

4) What ideas do you have for what the new artwork could look like?

5) What do you think should be considered when selecting an artist to create the new artwork?

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