

CHAIR'S REPORT

DECEMBER - 2023

BRC – 1727 Amsterdam Ave.

Earlier this month a meeting was held with one of BRC's representatives regarding the demolition and building of a new facility at 1727 Amsterdam Ave. Before the meeting, I reached out to our Health/Environment, HLUZ, and UST committees to obtain their individual concerns. The following information was shared during the meeting:

- The building is anticipated to be 9 stories in height / containing 200 apartments
 - 120 units for Supportive Housing / 80 rental units/seniors will comprise ¼ of the units
- Security will be present inside as well as around the perimeter of the building
- Supportive Services will be available to building residents
- BRC expressed an interest in having CB9 work with them to conduct community outreach to the various neighboring schools, Daycare center churches, etc.

Emma Bowen Center

On December 11, CB9's Co-Chair of the Health and Environment committee and I met with the Board of the Emma Bowen Center. This meeting was held as a follow-up to a prior meeting with the BRC Group and their plan to demolish and build a new facility at 1727 Amsterdam Ave. CB was informed during the meeting with BRC that the Bowen Center would return to a smaller space in the new building, therefore this raised some concerns. During our discussion with the Bowen Board, they informed us that they were quite satisfied with the new layout and would keep us informed as the project progresses.

P.S. 125 Playground

For several months the playground located at P.S. 125 appeared to be completed with its long-awaited renovations but still had not opened. A huge outcry from community parents began along with calls to our Electeds from CB9. On December 4, after a huge outcry, the new playground was finally opened to the delight of the children who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

CB9 Attendance /NY Open Meeting Law

While attending committee meetings in person and virtually I observed that many committees are not obtaining an in-person quorum. This is problematic specifically for voting purposes since voting can only take place with an in-person quorum. I know this is a point of frustration for our co-chairs as well as myself. A hearing was held earlier today that will hopefully address this ongoing dilemma.

Cannabis Dispensaries

CB9's 2nd Vice Chair, District Manager, and I, recently attended a meeting with the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) via Zoom. This meeting was intended to assist CB's in moving forward with their screening of applicants for dispensaries in their catchment areas. While some important questions were answered for all Community Boards, there remain many inconsistencies in this process. As the presenter admitted they are "building the plane while flying it". Our Cannabis Task Force continues to press on to vet eligible applicants for dispensaries despite the changing parameters.

THANK YOU !

As this year comes to a close for our meeting purposes, I would like to thank each one of you for the tireless work you do on behalf of the Board for our community. Every vehicle must have an engine that drives it and for CB9 that is you:

Our Officers, Our Co-Chairs and Our Awesome Office Staff. !!!

If not Us, then Whom !

If not Now, then When !!

Submitted by,

Victor Edwards
Chair