

**Chair Report**  
**February 13, 2020**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

***CB9 Is Doing Big Things!***

I am surprised that we have already reached the middle of February, as it seems so very recently that I was writing my Chair's Report for January 2020.

The time has flown by as the Board continues to work and make progress on a number of initiatives. The former site of Child's Memorial Tabernacle Church, which the Department of Homeless Services and the developer had originally be proposed as the site of temporary housing for homeless families with children consisting entirely of studio apartments, may, with CB9's work, instead become a site for permanent, truly affordable housing with a large set-aside for formerly homeless families. Our Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee continues its work on ensuring that our neighborhood schools have adequate facilities and enrichment programs, and members of the Board also participated in a January 29<sup>th</sup> Town Hall on Morningside Park and ways to increase community support for our youth. Work on assisting our small businesses on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue continues apace, and we continue to work with the DOT and EDC on ways to improve business in the area. The Health and Environment Committee has also stepped up its communications with DOH and other agencies as they assess the data to determine if our community will benefit from additional methadone clinics or other services in the area.

I also want to remind all of the Committee Co-Chairs that you should be reaching out to your agency budget counterparts to ask for additional details on their response to our capital and expense priorities submitted last fall. It is imperative that issues identified by the community as priorities for funding be discussed with these counterparts if they have recommended against funding, so that we can better understand the agency's position and can work to find other ways to get these projects funded or re-prioritized in the budget.

Unfortunately, the past month has also seen an uptick in violence in the blocks surrounding W 135<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway, including a tragic shooting on the 600 W block of 135<sup>th</sup> Street that left one dead and two wounded. We are working with the 30<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Iesha Sekou and Streetcorner Resources Project, and others to ensure that the cycle of violence stops and our community members are provided with alternative solutions.

Our Treasurer, April Tyler, has also received several funding requests for the use of the Discretionary Funding provided by our City Council Members, and we will be in contact with the Committee Co-Chairs in the coming weeks about their applications for outreach events. Please

accept my humble thanks for your drive, initiative, and hard work in making our community a better place to live.

As always, I want to thank you for serving our community of West Harlem.

Barry Weinberg

***Public Hearing on Agency Response to CB9 Capital and Expense Priorities for FY22***

Community Board 9 will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at 583 Riverside Drive, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Art Gallery to discuss the City Agency responses to our capital and expense budget priorities submitted as part of the FY22 budget planning process. This will be an important opportunity to dig deeper into the what projects have been designated for funding and which ones may require a more extensive dialogue with the agencies and our elected in order to secure funding for the priority or alter the priority so that it better meets agency guidelines. Community Board members are expected to attend, and the public is also welcome. The hearing will inform CB9's response letter to the agencies.

***Census Recruitment is Still Happening!***

Census 2020 is still hiring! Their goal for Manhattan is to have 10,000-15,000 people, as there is at least one census tract in every Community District that is considered "hard to count," with low response rates on previous counts. Community Board 9 held a Census Recruitment Day in partnership with Columbia University and the West Harlem Development Corporation, and we had over 20 people stop through the CB9 office alone to apply for census jobs. If you know of anyone who is interested in working for the Census next year, please send them to the Community Board office 15 16-18 Old Broadway for additional information on how to apply!

***State Budget Is Heating Up in Albany***

To continue the budget-related issues, the Governor released his proposed budget for the State of New York, which attempts to deal with a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit. The Governor has proposed cutting State funding to Medicaid and pushing costs down to localities, cutting required Foundation Aid increases to school funding, and finding additional cuts in Medicaid.

Many of us in CB9 rely on programs funded by the state for access to healthcare, housing, education, and other basic human needs. Our elected officials in the State Assembly and State Senate will be working to draft their own one-house bills in an effort to collectively align on a budget that they can pass and the Governor can sign. Please be sure to educate yourselves and your neighbors on this important debate going on in Albany that will affect us all, but especially the most vulnerable.

***Union Theological Seminary Begins Construction on New 40-story Tower***

Union Theological Seminary has begun construction on its new 40 story tower on 122<sup>nd</sup> Street and Claremont Avenue, and they have been releasing construction updates to keep the community informed about street closures and crane activity. Regular work hours are from 7am-3:30pm, and they anticipated a need for continued weekend work, which usually runs from 9am to 5pm. Please contact [comms@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:comms@uts.columbia.edu) to subscribe directly to construction updates.

***Community Board Applications Close on Friday!***

As a reminder, Community Board applications are still open! If you are on the 2018-2020 cycle, please be sure to submit your reapplication to the Manhattan Borough President's Office by going to [www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/cbapplication/](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/cbapplication/). Paper applications can be requested individually from the office for those unable to apply online. Please also be sure to encourage others you know who may have the time, dedication, and interest to serve their local communities to apply! The applications are due Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>!

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Weinberg". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Barry Weinberg

Chair