

## **MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 9 CHAIR'S REPORT - November 2023**

### **Installation of 5G Towers within CB9**

During the October CB9 Landmarks Preservation and Parks (LPP) Committee meeting we were informed of a serious situation involving 5G Towers. There is a plan to install a number of 5G towers (possibly up to 85) within CB9 boundaries. These 30-foot towers would replace the Link NYC kiosk in their current locations and incorporate the same features as the kiosk while providing cell service to the area.

In spite of the major health concerns (excessive radiation), this plan is being pushed forward in the city. We were informed that our best option to halt this installation is to utilize our historic landscape which these towers would negatively impact. Along with CB9's LPP we will be asking other CB9 committees to assist in the project.

### **1727 Amsterdam Ave**

CB9 and many community residents have concerns about the planned demolition of 1727 Amsterdam Ave, as well as what will return in its place. To this end, I met with 1st Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright and Councilmember Shaun Abreu to express our concerns. We are requesting their assistance in ensuring that:

- The Bowen Center is returned to the location with the same facility space to continue all its current programs.
- Heritage Health is provided the required amount of time to remain at 1727 Amsterdam Ave until their new facility is completely move-in ready.
- Adjustment to BRC plans to provide more apartments for lower-income families at 40% of AMI.

### **Demolition of Townhouses at 142nd and Riverside Drive**

In spite of efforts by many community groups, the demolition of 3 townhouses at 142nd Street and Riverside Drive has begun. We will be requesting a meeting with the developers and will closely monitor this process as it moves forward.

### **Cannabis Dispensary Applications**

CB9 as well as most Community Boards throughout the city have begun receiving applications for Cannabis Dispensaries in their District. This review process for CB is being jointly administered by our Cannabis Task Force and our Uniform Services & Transportation committee. The Cannabis Task Force and UST committee members have begun visiting the applicant's proposed locations for dispensaries within CB9.

### **P.S.125 Playground Opening**

CB9 has received numerous emails from local parents regarding the delayed opening of the renovated playground adjacent to P.S.125. During the CB9 Landmark Preservation and Parks monthly meeting where over 100 parents attended, this topic was discussed. NYC Parks Dept. stated that the park had not been fully completed by the School Construction Authority and therefore had not been released to NYC Parks to be

opened for any activities. Parks informed the audience that once the playground was open, it would be utilized by the students during school hours and open to the public thereafter. In addition, organized teams/groups wanting to utilize the playground would have to submit a request to obtain a permit for the field. CB9 will continue to watch the developments surrounding this issue.

### Chair's Monthly Activities

#### Meeting with Elected Officials

In October I had the opportunity to meet with three of our Elected Officials to discuss issues pertinent to the CB9 community. These meetings included NYC 1st Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Borough President Mark Levine, and City Councilmember Shaun Abreu.

In all three instances, I discussed the following items and requested their support in moving our concerns forward:

- 1727 Amsterdam Ave. - The demolition of this building and new facility replacing the current structure
- 142nd St Townhouses - Demolition of these townhouses and the future housing to be built on the site
- Rat Mitigation Program - Requested more transparency from DSNY and continued input from the community.

#### Columbia University Manhattanville Community Day

Columbia University held its Manhattanville Community Day on October 21. CB9 was represented by 2nd Vice Chair Monique Harden-Cordero who hosted a table concerning kidney disease, Health & Environment Co-Chair LaQuita Henry who hosted a table regarding various important health concerns, and District Manager Eutha Prince and I represented CB9 providing information on the Community Board. It was a fun and informative day that was filled with games for young people, a vast amount of information for all, as well as various types of foods to sample.

#### Genevieve "Jenny" Eason

On October 30, I joined other CB9 and community members to celebrate the co-naming of West 139th Street after Genevieve "Jenny" Eason. Jenny, as she was affectionately known, was a CB9 Board member for several years serving as Treasurer and Chair of several CB9 committees. It was a pleasure to see the outpouring of love for one of our beloved neighbors and Board members. Elected officials in attendance included, the host of the event -Shaun Abreu, Robert Jackson, Al Taylor, Danny O'Donnell, and former representative Keith Wright also was in attendance to celebrate this event. ***Gone but never forgotten, she will always remain in our hearts!!!***

Respectfully Submitted by:

Hon. Victor Edwards

Chair

11/16/23