

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **September 21, 2017**

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all board members back from the Summer recess. I know many of you continued to work on issues that are of great concern to the community, especially around Strategic Development; Housing and Uniform Services and Transportation. As we look to get back on track for the new session, I ask that we continue to work with each other, city agencies and the community with respect and dignity with all intent of ensuring that the improvement and growth of our community is the unified goal. I also ask the more seasoned board members to provide support and guidance to the newer members, but also urge the newer members to ask questions and speak up to ensure that we are getting as many ideas as possible to strengthen our community. Looking forward to working with you all to support our West Harlem community.

#### **125<sup>th</sup> St BID**

I had the opportunity to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the 125<sup>th</sup> St. Business Improvement District. We will continue to work with Barbara Atkins and her team around the Holiday Lighting ceremony; the Clean Harlem health campaign, and the continued support to small business in the community. Please visit the BID's website, [www.125thstreet.nyc](http://www.125thstreet.nyc).

#### **Borough Consultation**

Representatives from the Board have been attending consultations

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

As you know, Community Board Members are volunteers who may not be familiar with the budget process and how agencies' programs are funded. At the same time, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have Agencies begin the consultation with a presentation of their goals, funding decision process, and highlights of their funding needs.

Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about specific

#### **Maxine Griffin**

Please note the letter from Columbia's President Lee Bollinger in reference to Maxine Griffith.

*I write to share that, following twelve years of exceptional leadership of the University's Office of Government and Community Affairs, Executive Vice President Maxine Griffith is transitioning into a new role at the University. Maxine will serve as a Special Advisor to me, with a focus on Columbia World Projects and its engagement with issues around government, city planning, and urban design. And, she will maintain her position as Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.*

*When Maxine joined Columbia University in 2005, she brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in city planning and community development. At that time, we were just beginning to plan for one of the largest and most ambitious projects in Columbia's history—the development of our new Manhattanville Campus in West Harlem. To achieve this, we needed a wise and politically astute person to help work with all levels of community members and official institutions. Maxine fulfilled this need perfectly, and, in the process, became an indispensable and cherished colleague, to me and others. Over this last year, as the first Manhattanville buildings have opened and the campus has begun to come to life, I have been reminded time and again of Maxine's remarkable contributions to this historic and transformational growth of the University.*

*While she is stepping away from her role as Executive Vice President, I am deeply grateful that Maxine will remain at Columbia as an advisor to me and I look forward to our continued work together. I have begun a search for the next leader of our Office of Government and Community Affairs, who will face the unenviable challenge of following in Maxine's footsteps, and I hope to share news with you about that in the coming months. For now, please join me in thanking Maxine for her invaluable and innumerable contributions to our University community.*

#### **Jewish Theological Society Update**

I visited the JTS in September and met with Marc Gary where they provided a construction update and the use of space.

- They will send us a website in October that we will link on CB9's site that gives updates to construction;
- They will send a contact number to their general contractor to support CB9 residents being considered for jobs on site;
- They offered to speak to religious and cultural organizations about working with developers and how to preserve equity in their buildings;

We will continue to maintain dialogue with JTS as construction continues.

Respectfully Submitted,



Padmore John  
Chair