

CHAIR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 21st, 2023

COVID-19 On The Rise

There are indications that the number of COVID-19 infections is increasing across all five Boroughs of the city. This rise is especially concerning for our elderly population and those with weakened immune systems. To address this issue, CB9 has procured masks and COVID-19 testing kits, which will be available for distribution from the Board office. In addition, CB9 will work with our community partners to inform the public about the surge in Covid-19 cases.

Rat Mitigation Pilot Program

DSNY has implemented a Rat Mitigation Pilot Program in the CB9 District. This program will encompass the blocks of 143rd st – 153rd between Amsterdam and Broadway. Sanitation has increased their pick-up days to 6 days a week and is installing garbage bins at the curbside on these blocks. We will be seeking feedback from home owners, building Superintendents and our neighbors as to the effect of this new initiative

CB 9 Community Survey

Taking the pulse of a community is crucial for identifying its overall needs. To accomplish this task, we are in the process of developing a community survey. The survey will be distributed to local residents as well as area businesses.

Free Legal Housing Advice

As we begin a new Community Board session, we are pleased to welcome back our trusted partner in Housing Legal matters - Manhattan Legal Services (MLS). In these challenging times, where it is increasingly difficult to secure and sustain affordable housing, it's good to know that MLS is still offering free legal services to our local residents. A representative from the MLS office will be present at the CB9 offices on the first Thursday of each month.

"Meeting People Where They Are "

The idea of bringing pertinent information to where our constituents gather is a concept I will be increasingly exploring. We have previously held meetings at the Harlem Boys and Girls Club and at one of the area housing developments. We will be examining other community spaces suitable for holding our CB9 meetings to reach more of the community.

Chair's Report - (Page 2)

CB9 Resource Fairs

After an extremely successful Senior Resource Fair this spring, CB9 will be exploring the presentation of resource fairs for other committees. One idea has been to hold one fair representing several of our committees in the same space.

The Chair's Monthly Activities:

Borough President Mark Levine, along with The 911 Museum presented a film on the tragic events of 911. I had the opportunity of attending this special showing at the 84th Street Cinema on September 6. As I was two blocks from the WTC on that day, the memories are still very fresh in my mind.

On September 12, I was interviewed by CBS News regarding the new "Rat Containerization Program" in CB9. CBS reporter Jessi Mitchell and I walked along West 152 St. where the new garbage containers had recently been installed. During our walk, we spoke with residents who welcomed the new containers at the curbside, as well as those who expressed some concerns.

The concerns ranged from the lack of notification to residents, to accommodations for our seniors/physically challenged homeowners to the loss of parking spaces. Our Uniform Services Committee and I will continue to closely monitor this program and its impact on the selected streets. (West 143rd to 153rd between Broadway & Amsterdam).

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hon. Victor Edwards, Chair