

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights

CANNABIS TASK FORCE

The CB9 Cannabis Task Force was established to ensure our community is informed, involved, and engaged in the emerging new industry. As a community situated in Northern Manhattan directly impacted by years of inequity and the war on drugs, the collateral impact is still visible in our neighborhoods. The CB9 Cannabis Task Force is committed to setting up our community to not just survive but thrive in the new cannabis market, from wellness to economic opportunity.

Quick Updates:

- Over the summer, our task force joined Karl Reynoso, a long-time CB9 resident, to host a block party on 143rd Street between Broadway and RSD from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Locals could play games, eat food, dance to music, and gather information about local services. CB9 had a table to share information in the community and increase our visibility. Other vendors included someone from SUNY Orange Community College to engage with young people and the JUSTÜS Foundation, an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring and facilitating the entry of legacy (pre-legalization) cannabis operators to the legal cannabis market. We also had information from Cannabis NYC to re-educate our community about Cannabis. One local artist created customized artwork for those in attendance. The turnout was wonderful. We look forward to participating in future community events.
- Monique Hardin-Cordero (Co-Chair, Cannabis Task Force) attended the Economic Development and West Harlem Piers Committee meeting scheduled on Tues, 9/5, and shared that the taskforce is interested in partnering with them to move forward the DRAFT LOS to revisit the development of the Marine Transfer Station (MTS) to include the waterfront park with the possibility of establishing a cannabis educational center/community coop grow + aquatic research complex for West Harlem with kayaking. We look forward to working more closely with this committee to move this project forward.
- Monique also attended the Uniform Services & Transportation Committee meeting held Thursday, 09/07/23. Here, Monique shared the task force's desire to work with this committee to review and finalize the rules and regulations to regulate the establishment of legal dispensaries in CB9. As a group, concern was expressed about the prevalent illegal dispensaries and smoke shops dispensing cannabis products in our community, and members asked if we have a relationship with the local sheriff, who is considered one of the entities responsible for "cracking down" on illegal establishments. We hope to connect with the local sheriff, and they can update us on the proper steps to deal with these establishments.

Sincerely,

Miriam Aristy-Farer, Co-Chair
Monique Hardin-Cordero, Co-Chair
CB9, Cannabis Taskforce