



Economic Development/West Harlem Piers Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Hon. Joyce Adewumi & Hon. Michael Gross

Hon. Gregory Brito, Hon. Andrea Brecker, Hon. Clotilde Monguya, Hon. Metin Sarci

DATE: February 3rd, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee members present: Joyce Adewumi (by video), Michael Gross (by video), Clotilde Monguya (by video), Andrea Brecker (by video)

Committee members absent: Gregory Brito

Other public member attendees: Lailah Hall (by video), Waymon Whiting (by video)

Call to Order – 6:40 PM

Adopt Agenda – Accepted

Adopt Minutes – Minutes were adopted.

I. Introductions/Presentations/Announcements

- a. Introduction of Committee members, and Board members.
- b. **WE ACT for Environmental Justice.** Jazz Hooks, the Workforce Development Training Coordinator at WE ACT presented on the work of the organization. WE ACT for Environmental Justice’s mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. Jazz Hooks presented on the organization’s work to recruit residents of Community District 9 for employment in green energy jobs, their organizing for renewable energy policy across New York City, and some of the challenges facing the organization, including loss of federal funding.
- c. **Harlem OneStop.** Yuien Chen provided updates on the work of Harlem OneStop. Harlem One Stop supports small organizations and individual artists who might not have the budget or capacity to publicize their work while informing and reconnecting people to the area’s history and legacy. They also conduct thematic neighborhood tours drawn from the historical surveys, research, and designation reports they have done of the neighborhood. Yuen



Chin spoke about the work to designate neighborhoods in West Harlem as historical districts.

- d. **Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC).** Dan McSweeney presented on the Morningside Heights Community Coalition's Social Enterprise work. MHCC is a neighborhood advocacy group focused on limiting luxury overdevelopment, preserving affordable housing, and maintaining the character and quality of life in Morningside Heights. MHCC received a grant from the West Harlem Development Corporation to develop a social enterprise project designed to raise revenue and promote community development. They are working to develop a community space for a tailoring operation, for which an instructor is available and trainees can be identified. They are also working to identify businesses that could become worker-owned, and have been in contact with Pisticchi at 125 LaSalle Street regarding this. The social enterprise effort can attract additional revenue, including from The Working World, an organization that specializes in developing cooperative businesses.

II. Subcommittee Reports.

- a. **West Harlem Piers.** This committee discussed reestablishing an ad-hoc West Harlem Piers subcommittee within the Economic Development/West Harlem Piers committee. Joyce Adewumi and others discussed the ongoing challenges facing the West Harlem Piers and there was interest from Lailah Hall, Waymon Whiting, Yuein Chin and Ira Gerschenhorn in joining this subcommittee.
- b. **Strategic Planning Taskforce.** This committee discussed nominating Gregory Brito, who was not present, to join the Strategic Planning Taskforce as a representative of the Economic Development/West Harlem Piers Committee. Also discussed the focus of the Strategic Planning Taskforce on ensuring that the West Harlem Development Corporation is continuing to use all of the funds that they are allocated as a result of the Community Benefits Agreement.

III. Old Business.

- a. No old business was reported.

IV. New Business.

- a. **Working with the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Clinic at Columbia Law School.** This committee discussed potentially working with the Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic at Columbia Law School. Michael Gross reached out to Columbia Business School first but did not receive any responses. But this Clinic has agreed to meet with Michael about potentially working together. This committee



discussed what outreach could like to ensure that the residents of the Community District know about such a program. The committee also discussed working with the newly opened Small Business Development Center at City College.

V. Action Items

- a. **West Harlem Piers.** This committee will work on reforming the West Harlem Piers subcommittee and will reach out to the rest of the Community Board to gauge interest.
- b. **Strategic Planning Taskforce.** This committee will nominate someone to represent this committee on the Strategic Planning Taskforce.
- c. **Working with the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Clinic at Columbia Law School.** Michael will meet with Professor Lynnise Pantin at Columbia Law School to discuss what this program could look like. If this does not present a feasible option, this committee will reach out to City College's Small Business Development Center.

VI. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next CB9 Economic Development/West Harlem Piers Meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Michael Gross