



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 9**  
**MANHATTAN**

Morningside Heights  
Manhattanville  
Hamilton Heights  
Sugar Hill

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, January 16th, 2025**  
**6:30 P.M. at The Columbia University Forum**

**I. Call to Order**

- Barry Weinberg called the meeting to attention at 6:38 pm.
- Roll Call Attendance/Sign-in Sheet taken by Barry Weinberg & Eutha Prince. 25 members present, quorum achieved
- The meeting was called to order at 6:53 pm by 1st Vice Chair B. Weinberg

**II. Adopt Agenda**

- Motion to amend the agenda by S. Wilson. Adding resolution for the Letter of Support for the Riverside Church Weekday School. Seconded by T. Kovaleff. Motion passes by all members present.
- Motion to adopt the agenda by S. Mortensen. Seconded by W. Alexander.
- The amended meeting agenda has been adopted by all members present.

**III. Adopt Minutes (from 12/19/2024 meeting)**

- Motion to adopt the minutes by the 1st Vice Chair B. Weinberg. Seconded by the 2nd Vice Chair M. Hardin Cordero.
- The meeting minutes from 12/19/2024 have been adopted by all members present.

**IV. Presentations/Updates:**

1. Manhattan District Attorney's (DANY) Office - Joseline Minaya, Director, Washington Heights Office, DANY;
  - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
    - i. Victims of Stalking
    - ii. <https://manhattanda.org/victim-resources/intimate-partner-and-sexual-violence/>
  - Human Trafficking Awareness Month
    - i. Forced labor
    - ii. Commercial Sex act
    - iii. Victims are afraid to come forward
    - iv. <https://manhattanda.org/victim-resources/human-trafficking/>
  - Contact DA Office - happy to help with a wellness check
  - Be aware of the possible signs.
  - January 25th, 2025 - Forum on Human Trafficking - details will be given to the District Office
2. Department of Sanitation of New York - DSNY Pilot Containerization Program, Deputy Commissioner Joshua Goodman and Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Viguers DSNY;
  - Piloting shared on street containers on 10 blocks of Hamilton Heights

- <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/containerization/m9-bins.page>
  - City-wide Rat Sightings went up 6 percent. The pilot area saw a decrease in rat sightings by 59 percent.
  - 10-30 units must choose their preference of container by 1/31. If they don't DSNY will assume they will use Wheelie Bins
  - Starting on June 1st - a container for trash must be used by residential buildings in District 9.
  - Will get feedback from the community.
  - ~1000 buildings using wheelie bins today. Garbage storage containers (Empire Bin) for large buildings.
  - Europe uses communal bins. We will be using assigned bins because of our density.
  - Collection days stay the same. Any building that opts in will not have to pay for the Empire Bin.
  - DSNY will clean the bins and have graffiti removal about 4 times a year
  - Buildings with units of 31 or more will be contacted because they will be using Empire Bins by default.
  - Wheelie Bins can be ordered online. Cheaper than Home Depot.
  - Special Waste Drop-Off Sites are open 3 days a week.
  - New textile drop-off sites are now open
  - Only trash is being contained right now, not recycling. Empire Bins take up one parking space
  - Composting should go out with Recycling. It is segregated from the trash.
  - Placing the bins near hydrants or using them for daylighting
  - Reference(s):
    - i. <https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/news/dsny-publishes-draft-rules-for-containerization-pilot/>
    - ii. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/containerization.page>
    - iii. <https://www.wastedive.com/news/new-york-city-containerization-automated-waste-mack-tisch-adams/706340/>
    - iv. <https://sitecompli.com/blog/deep-dive-dsny-containerization-pilot-program-final-rules/>
3. New NYS Assemblyman Jordan J.G. Wright 70th Assembly District
- His office is in room 911 in the NYS State Office Building on 125th Street
  - Maurice Cummings is his Chief of Staff
  - He is currently assigned to the aging committee, transportation, libraries, econ development, and wagering committees
  - Contact his office: 212-866-5809
  - <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Jordan-J.G-Wright/office/>
4. Claire Botnick - Chief of Staff for Micah Lasher 69th Assembly Member
- Micah had to leave early to attend another meeting.
  - Inherited Danny O'Donnell's Office - 245 West 104th Street
  - <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Micah-C-Lasher/about/>
  - Please feel free to reach out to the office.

## V. Reports:

1. Chair..... Hon. Victor Edwards
  - The report is included in the distributed meeting packet
  - Thank you to Danny O'Donnell and Inez Dickens for their service
  - Thank you to Mofongo Del Valle, Dinosaur BBQ, and West Side Market for their donations to CB9.
  - Op-Ed Daily News asking from Columbia University to open the gates of Morningside Campus to community residents
  
2. Treasurer..... Hon. Deirdre McIntosh-Brown
  - The report is included in the distributed meeting packet
  - Shows the first six months of FY2024-2025, most of our ongoing expenses are going toward maintenance, communications & office equipment.
  
3. District Manager..... Ms. Eutha Prince
  - The report is included in the distributed meeting packet
  - Mammogram Bus - outside Councilman Abreu's Office on Feb. 18, contact 212-928-6814 for an appointment
  - Prostate Screenings available on February 1st
  - 113th Street Morningside Park Staircase renovation is close to being completed ahead of schedule
  
4. WHDC..... Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson
  - There was a WHDC executive meeting yesterday. The schedule for the year is still being planned. There has not been a General Board meeting yet
  - Harlem School of the Arts (HSA) - Sat 2/15 from 3-4 pm
  - Ted Kovaleff is the chair of the WHDC investment committee
  - Round of applause given to Ted for his contributions to CB9 and WHDC.
  - WHDC is looking to invest in safe institutions. Money is out there to be used and to grow.

**VI. Public Session/Public Hearing:**

1. Public Session – 3 minutes each Speaker
  - Janelle Carter Bowman (George Bruce Library)
    - <https://www.nypl.org/locations/george-bruce>
    - Updates on Programs
      - Career Resources Fair on Wed March 5th for High School Students
      - ShapeUp NYC at 1130 am in the Community Room
      - Mandala Art Instruction on Thursdays at 2 pm
      - Every Friday - Career Counseling Sessions with YA librarian
  - Brothers in Recovery (BIR)
    - Giles Sirce with BIR
    - <https://www.birusa.org/>
    - Think tank to help serve the community.
    - Looking to start an internship program for youth
    - Meet at 115 West Edgecombe Avenue on 140th Street

- Latisha Lee (Morningside Heights Library)
  - <https://www.nypl.org/locations/morningside-heights>
  - Author talk on 1/28
  - Babies and toddlers program at 11 am
  - Partner with ShapeUP NYC for Yoga on Mondays at 10 am
- Walter T. Alexander (CB9 Member)
  - Spearheading RKO Task Force
  - RKO Theater vacant since the 1960s
  - Looking for volunteers
  - Actor's Fund is interested in helping out
  - <https://patch.com/new-york/harlem/harlems-historic-rko-hamilton-theater-could-be-reborn-photos>
- Phil Alfrey (Morningside Heights resident)
  - Thank you for the Op-Ed asking Columbia to open the gates and allow people to use the street on 116th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue
  - <https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/01/15/admission-denied-columbia-must-reopen-its-gates/>
  - Public easement since 1953.
  - 116th Street and Morningside Drive the street lights are out
  - They have been out for about a year.
  - Security booth on 116th Street and Morningside Drive - cameras are not working
  - He was interviewed by the NY Post
  - They filed a class action lawsuit with NYS
- Tessoro Estrella - Every Voice Choir
  - Free event on MLK day at NY Ethical Culture
  - Check out their website: <https://everyvoicechoirs.org/>
- Tina Rueter (Morningside Heights resident)
  - Adding to what Phil said
  - If anyone wants to join the class action lawsuit, they just need to explain how the closure of the walkway has impacted them.
    - Contact [tgolick@yu.edu](mailto:tgolick@yu.edu)
- Laquita Henry (Chair, Health & Environment Committee)
  - Mental Health Month
    - <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month/>
  - Rikers Island - 50% have serious mental illness
  - WHDC helps to fund 12 organizations in our district by providing stable housing, access to nutritious food, access to medical and mental health services
- Gabriela Carela - District Director, Councilman Shawn Abreu's Office
  - Asking Columbia to reopen the gates on Morningside Campus
  - Weekday school closure, vote on Sunday
  - Pre-K applications are now open
  - Appointments for Housing Clinic at Washington Heights Services
  - Informational sessions about Composting
  - Personal Compost Bins for giveaway at Councilman's District Office

- Mammogram Bus at Councilman's District Office on Feb 18th

**VII. Action Item(s):**

1. Letter of Support re: Support for the Riverside Church Weekday School

- Presented by Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee. Some minor edits to the resolution made.
- Riverside Church looking to create a special council to come up with alternative solutions
- Motion to pass via unanimous consent for the letter of support made by W. Alexander. Seconded by D. Hardeman. No objections from board members present. The letter of support passes.

**VIII. Old Business**

- Attendance Reviews
  - i. in person attendance is required by Community Board Members
  - ii. in person quorum is needed to conduct and vote on CB business

**IX. New Business**

- None at this time

**X. Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn made by W. Alexander and seconded by J. Martin Green
- The meeting was adjourned by Chair, V. Edwards at 8:22 PM.

*Please Note: The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20th, 2025*

*Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete (Secretary MCB9)*