



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

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 20th, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

- Roll Call Attendance/Sign-in Sheet taken by Solomon Prophete & Eutha Prince. 28 members present, quorum achieved
- Meeting called to order at 6:55 pm by Chair Edwards.

II. Adopt Agenda

- Motion to adopt the agenda by P. Caldwell. Seconded by P. Watler Johnson.
- Agenda has been adopted by all members present.

III. Adopt Minutes (from 05/16/2024 meeting)

- Motion to adopt the minutes by P. Caldwell. Seconded by P. Watler Johnson.
- Minutes have been adopted by all members present.

IV. Presentation(s)/Update(s)/Discussion(s)

1. State Senator Cordell Cleare

- <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/cordell-clear>
- She discussed State Senate Bill - 2023-S9544
 - i. [Authorizes the empire state development corporation to pause, toll or temporarily halt the Columbia University Education Mixed-Use Development Land Use Improvement and Civic Project Modified General Project Plan](#)
- Calling for Columbia University to give more from CBA for its use of eminent domain
- So far the University has paid less than \$200 million
- University paid \$80 million for the former Fairway location
- Highlighting the last census figures that our district has lost 10% of its black and latino/a population. There has been an increase in white and asian population
- Rent continues to increase, calls for the need of more housing
- There needs to be a social housing initiative - let the state build more housing
- Spoke about the congestion pricing budget fallout
- Potential alternative is increasing payroll tax - New Yorkers would have to pay more money
- Also called for the need of more state judges to handle the backload of cases

2. Introduction of new Community Board Members

- 13 New Board Members
- Hon. Nicauris Camilo, Hon. Gretchen Connelie, Hon. Felipe Castillo, Hon. Justin Dent, Hon. Vanessa Caughman, Hon. Ernesto Graham, Hon. Joshua Christopher, Hon. Julia Nagle, Hon. Daniel Clark, Jr., Hon. Veronica Savage, Hon. Sojourna Collier, Hon. Essence White,
- 6 in attendance - introduced themselves

V. Reports:

1. Chair..... Hon. Victor Edwards
 - Report is included in the distributed meeting packet
 - Introduced District Office Staff
 - Emphasized to all board members that in-person attendance is very important for quorum to vote and conduct board business
 - Recognized the recent work of the Health Committee and Senior Action Committee
 - Spoke about the NYPD Operation Padlock
 - <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/361-24/mayor-adams-initiates-operation-shut-down-unlicensed-smoke-cannabis-shops-across-five>
 - Emphasized the need to clean up the issues on 145th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue
 - Highlighted protests at Columbia and City College campuses
 - Issues with CCNY closing the area between 135th Street and 140th Street and Convent Avenue
2. Treasurer..... Hon. Deirdre McIntosh-Brown
 - Report is included in the distributed meeting packet
3. District Manager..... Ms. Eutha Prince
 - Report is included in the distributed meeting packet
 - Thank you to CCNY, Fortune Society, and Columbia University for helping us host these community meetings
 - Reminder that cooling centers are open during this heat wave
 - Community members can visit the district office to cool down
4. WHDC..... Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson
 - Report is included in the distributed meeting packet
 - WHDC last met on 6/5/2024. Next meeting will be on 7/17/2024.
 - Grantees to be announced by September 2024
 - <https://westharlemdc.org/apply-to-the-2024-cbg/>
 - Aunscion Park (reconstruction of the playground) - ribbon cutting ceremony on 6/29/2024
 - Tuesday 6/25/2024 – Afro-Latin Jazz Festival at Harlem School of the Arts
 - Executive Director, Zead Ramadan being honored by Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance
 - <https://www.nomaanyc.org/>
 - Next Uptown Night Market on Thursday 7/11

- Big thank you to Danny O’Donnell and Inez Dickens for their support

5. UMEZ..... Hon. Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas

- <https://www.umez.org/about-umez>
- Last scheduled meeting was canceled
- Working to increase the number of small business loans
- Looking to increase the funding for the Per Scholas program
 - <https://perscholas.org/>
- Gave grants to over 20 CB9 organizations
- Urban League Training - <https://nul.org/jobs>

6. Manhattan Borough President’s Office - Shawn Brannon

- MBPO’s Initiatives
 - <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/our-priorities/#ourInitiatives>
- Working on increasing the amount of public bathrooms
- Informing New Yorkers and visitors where there are open public bathrooms in Manhattan
- MBP Office is looking for volunteers
 - <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/connect/volunteer-corps/>

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

1. Public Session – 3 minutes each Speaker

- Steve (no last name given)
 - A concerned resident living on 149th Street and Convent Avenue
 - Shared pictures of the Sanitation pilot
 - Pictures show overflow and issues with untimely pickup
- Tina Lumley (member of CB9 Arts & Culture committee)
 - Promoting CB9 Art Crawl starting at George Bruce Library
- Anthony Achille - CCNY Office of External Relations
 - The plan is to reopen by the end of next week to pedestrian traffic
 - Currently the early voting site is only accessible via Amsterdam Avenue

2. Elected Officials – 2 questions each

- Zoya Abbas (Assemblyman Al Taylor’s Office)
 - Helping 2 St. Nicholas Place Fire Victims
 - <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/one-dead-17-hurt-after-hamilton-heights-fire-leaves-residents-hanging-out-windows/5164379/>
 - Wanted to bring to attention the lost of business due to Convent Avenue closures
 - Today is Zoya’s last day with the Assemblyman’s Office
- Gabriela Carela (Councilman Shawn Abreu’s Office)
 - A big thank you to Julissa for helping with 501 West 141 Street
 - <https://council.nyc.gov/district-7/>
- Fernando Lujan (Alvin Bragg - Manhattan DA Office)
 - Bring attention and awareness to Domestic Violence Month
 - Turn in firearms event on Saturday from 10am-4pm

- Call 646-610-5323 with any questions

VII. Action Items:

1. Ratification of Letter of Support re: “Homes Now” Budget to invest \$2.5 Billion over five years into City Capital Budget for Permanent-Affordable Housing
 - Presented by Signe Mortensen (Co-Chair Housing and Landmarks Committee)
 - Comptroller HPD asking for support
 - The Committee and Chair have requested to table this.
2. Ratification of Letter Opposing Budget Cuts re: Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center Rainbow Clubhouse
 - Presented by L. Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Asking board to ratify
3. Reso re: City of Yes “COY” Zoning for Housing Opportunity Text Amendments
 - Carbon Neutrality, Economic Development, Housing Opportunity
 - 1400 pages of text to go through
 - bit.ly/cb9-coy-zho
 - Barry Weinberg (Vice Chair) went through the Reso to help the community understand
 - Unanimous Consent was requested. There were objections.
 - Roll call vote taken by Vice Chair B. Weinberg
 - Resolution passes - 32- Yes; 1 - No ; 1 - Abstain
4. Reso re: Strategic Planning
 - Chair Edwards requested to table this resolution.
5. Reso re: Combatting the Critical Threat of Rechargeable Battery Fires to Protect Our Community
 - Congressman Richie Torres has brought forward a new Bill US HR1797
 - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1612134>
 - Chair Edwards has requested to table this resolution.
6. Reso re: Support and Advocacy for NYC Municipal Retirees, Urging NYC Council to Pass Int. 1099-2023
 - Presented by Laquita Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by B. Weinberg and seconded by P. Caldwell. No members objected. Resolution passes via Unanimous consent
7. Reso re: Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Public Health Through Increased Tree Planting and Education
 - Presented by Laquita Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Friendly Amendment - to verbiage to the resolution to add specific language for female trees
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by V. Edwards and seconded by P. Caldwell. No members objected. Resolution passes via Unanimous consent
8. Reso re: Opposition of City’s Budget Cuts to HIV Programs
 - Presented by Laquita Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by P. Watler Johnson and seconded by B. Weinberg. No members objected. Resolution passes via Unanimous consent
9. Reso re: Housing Insecurity (Stress) and Court System Burdens for Tenants in CB9, NYC
 - Presented by Laquita Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Roll call vote requested and taken by B. Weinberg

- Resolution passes
 - 32 - Yes, 2 - No, 2 - abstain
10. Reso re: Halt of Use of Pesticides Purported to reduce spread of West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Presented by Laquita Henry (Co-Chair Health Committee)
 - Comply with local law 37
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by M. Dunn and seconded by D. McIntosh Brown. No members objected. Resolution passes via Unanimous consent
11. Reso re: Community Land Trust
- Presented by Barry Weinberg (Vice Chair and Member of Housing and Land Use Committee)
 - Roll call vote requested and taken by B. Weinberg
 - Resolution passes
 - 28 - Yes; 2 - No; 4 - Abstain

Liquor License New Application(s) & Retail Permit

12. Reso re: Lee Heritage Media, LLC – 750A St. Nicholas Ave., NYC 10031;
13. Reso re: La Flor De Broadway, 3395 Broadway, NYC 10031;
14. Reso re: 1627-1635 Amsterdam Ave. Restaurant and Bar LLC – 1627 – 1635 Amsterdam Ave., NYC 10031;

- Presented by S. Prophete (Co-chair Uniform Services and Transportation Committee). No objections from NYPD 26 or 30th Precincts. No open violations present for above applicants. Passed UTS committee.
- Motion for unanimous consent was made by B. Weinberg and seconded by M. Dunn. H. Jason, P. Caldwell, and J. Nagle abstained from voting.
- There were no objections to unanimous consent from members present. New Liquor License applications pass without any objections.

Liquor License Renewal(s):

15. Reso re: Hamilton’s VPK, LLC, 3570 Broadway, NYC 10031
- Presented by S. Prophete (Co-chair Uniform Services and Transportation Committee). No objections from NYPD 30th Precincts. No SLA violations present for above applicants. Passed UTS committee.
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by B. Weinberg and seconded by M. Dunn. H. Jason, P. Caldwell, and J. Nagle abstained from voting.
 - There were no objections to unanimous consent from members present. Liquor License Renewals pass without any objections.

VIII. Old Business

- Reso re: MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD NINE UNIFORM SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (USTC) AND

CANNABIS TASK FORCE (CTF) GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF
CANNABIS RELATED APPLICATIONS

- i. Requested to be tabled by Chair Edwards and Cannabis Task Force

IX. **New Business**

- None at this time

X. **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn made by M. Dunn and seconded by P. Watler Johnson
- Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Weinberg at 9:04 PM.

Please Note: The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19th, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete (Secretary MCB9)