



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

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 21st, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

- Roll Call Attendance taken by Solomon Prophete & Eutha Prince.
- Meeting called to attention at 6:44 PM (have not achieved quorum yet).
- Meeting called to order at 8:13 PM by Chair Edwards (quorum achieved).

II. Adopt Agenda

- Motion to adopt the agenda by S. Wilson. Seconded by W. Alexander.
- Agenda has been adopted by members present.

III. Adopt Minutes (from 02/15/2024 meeting)

- Motion to adopt the minutes by W. Alexander. Seconded by S. Wilson.
- Agenda has been adopted by members present.

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

1. Discussion with FDNY on Fire Safety given by: Battalion Chief Dan Schugg and Sandra Sanchez, Director, FDNY Community Affairs;

- <https://www.nyc.gov/site/fdny/codes/reference/lithium-ion-battery-safety.page>
- Lithium Ion Battery Safety
 - i. Do NOT use extension cords or power strips to charge lithium-ion batteries.
 - ii. <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/codes/lithium-ion-batteries-safety.pdf>
- <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/lithium-ion-battery-blamed-for-deadly-hamilton-heights-fire-that-hurt-17/5166281/>

2. Discussion with MTA on M100 Layover - St. Nicholas Avenue/West 124th Street Proposal, given by Alberto Roldan, Asst. Director, Gov & Comm. Affairs MTA;

- Proposed M100 routing changes and associated curb regulation changes on Saint Nicholas Ave between 124th and 125th Streets
- Because of persistent illegal parking in the existing M100 last stop and layover location on the east side of St. Nicholas Avenue between 124 and 125 Streets, the MTA is proposing to relocate the last stop to the existing M3 stop on the west side of the same block, and to relocate the layover immediately across from the current last stop and layover, on the south half of the west side of the block. In order to allow this change, NYC DOT would relocate the existing For Hire Vehicle stand on the west curb to the east curb, replacing the current M100 stop.
- <https://new.mta.info/project/bronx-bus-network-redesign/routes/m100>

3. Update on MTA 137th St. - City College ADA work that's underway, given by Alberto Roldan, Asst. Director, Gov & Comm. Affairs MTA;

- 137th Street-City College station is expanding accessibility to riders with disabilities by adding two elevators and making platforms and stairs ADA-compliant.
- While utility relocations and upgrades at the 137th Street-City College station were scheduled to finish by December 2023, following delays in construction, the MTA announced that the improvements—which include elevators—will instead be completed by March 2025.
- Currently, Con Edison, Verizon, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been working in the area, which has delayed excavation at the site. DEP's watermain and Con Edison and Verizon's cables are also currently preventing construction and causing delays.

4. Update on: DSNY Containerization (Expanded Pilot Program), given by Gbubemi Okotieuro, Assistant Commissioner, Intergovernmental Affairs-DSNY and Jonathan Viguers, Assistant Commissioner, Outreach - Bureau of Public Affairs-DSNY

- Joshua Goodman DSNY, Neil Isenberg DSNY, Deputy Chief Rivas
- Future of Trash - looking at solutions globally
 - i. <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/resources/reports/future-of-trash.pdf>
- New Program - go forward strategy (trash only), starts in Spring 2025
- New containers will be sealed by the Super
- Dedicated containers for buildings (with latching lid)
 - i. single bin - ~\$50 (much cheaper than Home Depot or Lowe's)
- Rat sightings are down 37% per 311 data
- https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/Rat-Sightings/3q43-55fe/about_data
- Side loading truck to load trash from the side
- <https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/see-how-nycs-fancy-new-automated-garbage-truck-works-020224>
- 2 large containers take up approximately 1 parking space
- Project Feedback should be sent to – Ryan Merola (rmerola@dsny.nyc.gov)
- 6 day a week collection will not be necessary going forward
- Make a report to 311, if trash is not picked up
- Lots of different types of building
- Closed baskets/containers
- What is the oversight of the program?
 - i. Sanitation Enforcement Agents/Police
 - ii. Independent Audit

V. Reports:

1. Chair..... Hon. Victor Edwards
 - Report is included in the packet
 - Montefiore Park Forum - 135th to 138th Street
 - Outreach for mental health and homeless services
 - Meeting on 3/27 at City College

- Currently, 9 vacancies on the CB9 board
- Trying to get some old members reappointed
- DOT meeting with Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez on 3/22 in Lenfest Building
- WHDC - Ava Duvernay Movie Viewing
- Health Forum on Sat 3/16 - was great success
 - A big thank you to Laquita Henry for leading the initiative
 - Yusuf Salaam and Shaun Abreu will dedicate more money next year.

2. Treasurer..... Hon. Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

- Report is included in the packet
- Letter of comment submitted to Office of Management and Budget / Mayor's Office

3. District Manager..... Ms. Eutha Prince

- Report is included in the packet
- Early Voting starts on Saturday
- Stress Reduction Workshop on Sat 4/13
- Opioid awareness - 1800-662-HELP
 - Free narcan kit
- 2nd annual Senior Forum Friday 11/10

4. WHDC..... Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson

- Report is included in the packet
- Last WHDC meeting took place on March 13th.
- Chair Edwards was in attendance
- Showing of the movie - Origin
 - Had a packed house
- Community Benefits Grants Recipients will be announced in Spring 2024
 - <https://westharlemdc.org/grants/>

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

- Extended Hybrid Loan Program
 - <https://www.umez.org/business-investment-loans>
- Gave grants to over 20 CB9 organizations
- Urban League Training - <https://nul.org/jobs>

VI. Public Session/Public Hearing:

1. Public Session – 3 minutes each Speaker

- Vanessa
 - Graffiti issues in the neighborhood
 - Tagging buildings and churches
 - Waited up to 3 months for the city to help with the cleanup/removal
 - Areas get cleaned and then get tagged again
 - Asking for help
- Lydia Gerson

- Other Community Boards are passing resolutions to bring awareness to situation in Gaza and stopping our tax dollars from giving Israel weapons of mass destructions
- Walter Alexander
 - Community Partners in Residence
 - Grant from National Science Foundation - improve the street grid
 - Beginning on 125th Street
 - Helping people to notify them of places of interest
- Dan Levitino from Trinity Cemetery
 - Opened in 1843
 - Southside of cemetery within CB9
 - In the middle of a restoration/preservation
 - Would like more community engagement
 - Trying to make it more like park
 - June 13 - open house and tours
 - Every Christmas - reading of Twas the Night Before Christmas
- Signe Mortensen
 - 150th Street Tenant Association - annual plant sale - Sat. 5/11
 - Help to beautify our blocks

2. Elected Officials – 2 questions each

- Zoya Abbas (Al Taylor's Office)
 - New legislation A9337 passed - training programs for lithium ion batteries
 - 898 St. Nicholas Avenue - honoring Women in our community
 - Save the Date - Listening Raise Concerns to Different City/State Agencies on 4/20
- Gabriela Carela (Shaun Abreu's Office)
 - Walking tour in Morningside Heights on 3/24
 - Open Community Forum to follow
 - Mammogram Van on 4/13
 - Appointments limited
- Mirian Hernandez (Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell's Office)
 - Social Sciences Career Fair on 4/4/24 (RSVP Required)
 - Paper Shred Event on Sat 4/6/24
- Tiffany Brown (Mayor's Office)
 - Mayor Adams and Gov. Hochul - Launch task force to remove ghost cars
 - Jobs NYC - event at Grant Houses on Fri 3/29 (Good Friday)
 - Coming to Hamilton Heights on April 8th (Town Hall at Robert Bunche School)

VII. Action Items:

1. Resolution re: Mayoral Preliminary Budget NYC Department of Parks & Recreation \$60 Million Budget Cut

- Motion for unanimous consent was made by W. Alexander and seconded by P. Caldwell. There were no objections to unanimous consent. Resolution passed without any objections.

2. Letter of Support re: Farmer's Market in Montefiore Park Plaza (NYC Grow)
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by W. Alexander and seconded by M. Dunn. There were no objections to unanimous consent. Resolution passed without any objections.
3. Letter of Support re: Harlem Sculpture Gardens
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by J. Martin-Green and seconded by W. Alexander. There were no objections to unanimous consent. Resolution passed without any objections.
4. Resolution re: Healthcare Workers Salute
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by W. Alexander and seconded by P. Caldwell. There were no objections to unanimous consent. Resolution passed without any objections.
5. Letter of Support re: 541 West 143rd Street (HDFC) - Article XI
 - HDFC building struggling to become financially viable
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by J. Martin-Green and seconded by W. Alexander. There were no objections to unanimous consent. Resolution passed without any objections.
6. Resolution re: In support of Assembly Bill A4781
 - Prohibiting Landlords Charging Renters Brokers Fees
 - Ask Brokers to limit their fees
 - Motion for Unanimous consent made. However, H. Jason asked for a vote to be taken.
 - 24 Yes; 1 No - Resolution passes

Liquor License New Application(s) & Retail Permit:

7. Crispin Hell's Kitchen, 1792 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10031
8. Don Fran Cafe LLC, 1811 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10031
9. Next to Vino Fino Ltd., 1250 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10027
10. The Blue Room Restaurant and Lounge, 1813 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10031
11. Sipsteria LLC, 1264 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10027
 - Presented by C. Thompson. No objections from NYPD 26th & 30th Precincts. Passed UTS committee.
 - Motion for unanimous consent was made by W. Alexander and seconded by M. Dunn. Heather Jason, Patricia Caldwell, Annette Robinson abstain.
 - There were no objections to unanimous consent from members present. New applications pass without any objections.

Liquor License Renewal(s):

12. Sushi Vida146 LLC, 3569 Broadway, NYC 10031
13. OH Craft Beer, 1739 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC 10031
14. The Trustees of Columbia University AKA Faculty House, 400 West 117th Street, NYC 10027
15. Crust Inc. AKA Toast, 3457 Broadway, NYC 10027
16. JVB Ventures LLC, 3141 Broadway, NYC 10027
17. Hex and Company, 2911 Broadway, NYC 10025

- Presented by C. Thompson. No objections from NYPD 26th & 30th Precincts. No SLA violations for any of the renewals. Passed UTS committee.
- Motion for unanimous consent was made by W. Alexander and seconded by M. Dunn. Heather Jason, Patricia Caldwell, Annette Robinson abstain.
- There were no objections to unanimous consent from members present. Renewal applications pass without any objections.

Corporate Change:

13. Bono Italian Restaurant, 3660 Broadway, NYC 10031

- Presented by C. Thompson. Owner added a new principal. No vote needs to be taken.

VIII. Old Business

- None at this time.

IX. New Business

- None at this time.

X. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned by Chair Edwards at 9:15 PM.

Please Note: The next General Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18th, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete (Secretary MCB9)