

**Manhattan Community Board 9
General Board Meeting
November 19, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM. TK moves, VE seconds adoption of agenda. TK moves adoption of minutes, multiple seconds.

Chair's Report

COVID rate in some CB9 zip codes is over 3%, 50% increase since end of October. Schools returning to remote learning starting today through Thanksgiving break. 80% of infections occur from indoor gatherings (restaurants, bars, houses of worship, gyms).

Thanks for Health committee for organizing wellness walk to distribute PPE and educate people. DOH testing site at 21 Old Broadway has short lines and low wait times. City facilities have shorter waits than CityMD or other private facilities.

Get a flu shot -- many pharmacies are giving them for free.

Kofi Boateng no longer ED of WHDC. Org going through restructuring. WHDC's predecessor organization started by CB9 to disburse funds granted through Columbia CBA -- part of CB9's legacy.

Thanks to Ilana Mercado for submitting testimony on local law related to fire arising out of film and TV activity.

Board members should review District Needs Statement and budget requests in anticipation of agency responses. Will need to fight hard for our priorities.

In discussion that followed, board members raised concerns about lack of community testing sites and ways to increase public education about COVID spread and safety precautions.

Treasurer's Report, Asst. Treas. Jonathan Thomas

Imprest balance \$500; have had no new expenditures. Email April Tyler with questions. Health committee proposes using CM grant funds for street outreach with PPE.

District Manager's Report, Eutha Prince

Very successful wellness walks to distribute PPE. Crane erection schedule for 100 Claremont. Lendlease seeking MWBE subcontractors for 100 Claremont project.

WHDC, Pat Watler-Johnson

Previous ED. Zead Ramadan, WHDC board member and former CB12 chair serving as interim director. Board chair Tingling and CB9 staying in contact, increase organization's transparency.

Nov. 21 WHDC and 26th precinct is giving away Turkey dinners from 12pm - 2pm, with priority to CB9 residents, Manhattanville and Grant Houses residents. Tickets required.

Pathways to Apprenticeship currently has 23 participants in fall program. Contact West Harlem Skills Training Center, Jose Martinez, manager.

Some board members asked questions about the circumstances of Mr. Boateng's departure, which Ms. Watler-Johnson was not at liberty to fully answer.

UMEZ, Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas

Working with District Manager to outline guidelines for loan applications for small businesses. Different categories: micro and macro loans, corporate loans. Encourage W Harlem businesses to apply.

MBPO, Gale Brewer

Multiple grant opportunities for local organizations distributing PPE. Successful time walking Broadway to distribute PPE and distribute information to encourage testing. Focus on 10031.

Small business owner offered use of his store for local testing. Office can organize pop-up testing -- city or state will provide services if facilities are available. Wonderful event on RKO Hamilton on Youtube. Discussion about ideas to preserve and reuse.

School closing hard on parents. Technology in school has her cause for 20 years. Last year's budget had \$20M for tech in schools, but took a long time to get authorization to spend it. Complications of inventorying, protecting, insuring devices. Manhattan lost early childhood seats.

Currently 21 city and state agencies working in public spaces/streets. Need coordinating effort -- not necessarily for this mayoral admin -- in the form of a public spaces czar. Encourage CBs to come up with creative ideas.

Applications open for CB appointments in 2021. Upcoming: discussion on tenant resource fair with HPD. Concerns about end to eviction moratorium.

Public Session
Signe Mortenson

Very successful recent team-up-to-clean-up event. 120 people at 8 hubs across W and Central Harlem.

Marti Cummings

Uptown Wagons distributes meals provided from restaurant in Flatiron. Also collecting winter clothing to distribute -- events happening from 11pm to 1am.

Monique Harden-Cordero

Harlem Hospital looking to reschedule public meeting to inform public about services. Helping committee design content for meeting, including COVID vaccine and prevention.

CM Levine

Second wave of COVID is here. 10031 among hardest hit ZIP codes -- over 3% in last 7 days. Given out over 10K masks. District office being made available to DOH as testing site. Fears from people who don't want to get tested because they plan to recover at home: positive result unlocks free services from city to enable staying safely quarantined at home. City's hotline, 212-COVID-19, lets you talk to city nurses. Need to consider closing indoor dining. Recognize economic consequences, but spread is very severe.

Council passed package of bills to fight age discrimination.

Comptroller's Office, Nina Saxon

Need help filling out and sharing Work Family survey. Comptroller is forcing city to comply with investigation into COVID preparedness. Press conference asking NYCHA to ensure ventilation and elevators are working ahead of pandemic second wave.

AM Taylor, Erika Rodriguez

Thanks to CB9 Health committee for organizing walk to distribute PPE. Community was grateful. Will be continuing this effort. AM will do additional walks in northern end of district. Started a weekly call with city agencies about how COVID is affecting community, prevent spread, distribute information. Opening a pop-up testing site in district office.

Sen. Benjamin, Lauren Done

Also working on COVID disparities call with health agencies. Turkey giveaway outside State Office Building this weekend.

Sen. Jackson, Porfirio Figueroa

Wellness walk was a big success. Some businesses were happily surprised by the outreach. Held a free flu shot event and distributed PPE, served 90 people. Another one upcoming this week.

On Veterans Day, honored John Higgins for his service.

Session on AM Dinowitz promoting S3320, which requires landlords perform court-ordered repairs within 60 days. Low-income heat assistance available, registration online.

Action Items (Y-N-A-PNEV)

There was debate on parking placards, angled parking, car sharing services, and street sweeping, among other parking-related issues.

- Item 1: Parking restrictions in MCB9. 35-0-3-0
- Item 2: Institutional Rent Regulated Housing. 35-1-0-1
- Item 3: MTP Marine Transfer Station: 37-0-0-0
- Item 4: Harlem Strong letter of support: 37-0-0-0
- Item 5: Monument to Exonerated 5 letter: 37-0-0-0
- Item 6:

New licenses

- Skinny River: 34-1-2-0
- Plowshares: 34-1-2-0
- The Grange: 30-5-2-0
- MrShi: 34-1-2-0
- 488RL: 34-1-2-0

Renewals

- Bar 314: 35-0-2-0
- The Honeywell: 35-0-2-0
- Hamilton Bakery: 35-0-2-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by: Alec Barrett, Secretary