

Manhattan Community Board 9  
3291 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

General Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: New CB9 Location at 3291 Bway, Zoom, Facebook Live

**Attendance:**

Panelists -

Eutha Prince, Barry Weinberg, Carolyn Thompson, Victor Edwards, Alex Hunter, Anthony Achille, Arelis Mejia, Carlton Davis, Dan Cohen, Derrick Johnson, Evelin Collado, Heather Jason, Jonathan Sinagub, Joyce Adewumi, Lydia Gerson, Miriam Aristy-Farer, Mirian Hernandez, Nina Norwood, Patricia Caldwell, Patricia Ramos, Patricia Watler Johnson, Robert Jackson, Signe Mortensen, Theodore Kovaleff, Tina Lumley, Walter Alexander, Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Joyce Adewumi, Annette Robinson, Monica Dula, Jane Arrendell, Minah Whyte, Shaneeka Wilson, Miriam Aristy Farer, Louis Bailey, Ken Miles, Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hugo Torres-Fetsco, Ely Silvestre, Michael Palma, Sean Farrow, Joselinne Minaya (DANY), Laquita Henry, Ilana Mercado, Solomon Prophete

Attendees -

Chris Johnson, Crystal Baez, Franchesco Martinez, Jair Sanchez, Jessica Mates, Jonathan Kirk, Katherine Yoakum, Madison Ayala, Mary Rocco, Patricia Jordan, Renee Strickland, Robert Stern, Stephanie Caban, Suzy Bueno, Tomas Dias Piva Imperato, Thomas Copeland, Abena Smith, Clayton Sanford

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting started at 6:35 PM. Quorum is not achieved at this time. The recording and the live broadcast started. We reached quorum at 6:48 PM. B. Weinberg has called the meeting to order. The Attendance roll was taken by T. Kovaleff.

**II. Adopt Agenda**

The agenda for tonight was submitted prior to the meeting. S.Mortensen moved to adopt the agenda. T. Kovaleff seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

**III. Adopt Minutes**

S. Prophete submitted the minutes from the September 2022 general board meeting prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the minutes. P. Watler Johnson seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

#### IV. Presentations/Updates/Discussions

Kristen Richardson Jordan (Councilmember from NYC District 9)

- Bio - <https://council.nyc.gov/kristin-richardson-jordan/>
- Email - [kjordan@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kjordan@council.nyc.gov)
- Website - <https://kristininharlem.com/>
  - Signup for her office's newsletter
  - Has co-sponsored over 100 pieces of legislation
  - On the housing task force - prime sponsor for the right to housing
  - On the sanitation committee - working on rat mitigation bill
  - On the senior issues committee - working on the senior bill of rights
    - Auto-enroll seniors in rent freeze
  - Calling for police accountability for misconduct, abuse, inaction, and neglect
    - Need more oversight - reform civilian review board
    - Working to address issues with the 32nd Pct. and community affairs impacted by the officer shooting earlier in the year.
  - Summer of hope - family-friendly activities for 60 days
  - Senior issues committee meets the 1st Tuesday of every month (next mtg on 11/1)
  - Active senior center on West 145th and Convent Avenue
  - Sponsoring ACE, the organization helping with cleaning our district
- KRJ did not vote for the recent city budget, she thought it was inappropriate due to cuts in education
  - Budget did not cut/lost any discretionary funding
- She believes that affordable housing is the #1 priority along with community building, sanitation, and education.
- She is focusing on the lack of garbage cans/containers in our district and hoping to work to improve sanitation.

Barbara Askins (President and CEO of 125th Street Business Improvement District)

- Website: <https://harlembid.com/about-us/who-we-are/staff/>
- Contact: **Call us** (212) 662-8999 or **Send email** [bid125thst@aol.com](mailto:bid125thst@aol.com)
- A Business Improvement District (BID) is a self-taxing district established by property owners to enhance the economic vitality of a specific commercial area.
  - All properties that face 125th Street between 5th Avenue and Morningside.
- Interagency communications throughout the city and Manhattan need to improve
- Need to improve E-commerce sustainability throughout BID
- Shared goals and objectives of the BID
- Holiday Lights will take place in mid-November
  - The theme is Unity and Peace

Douglas Blomberg, Adriene Thomas, and Moire Davis (Heritage Health and Housing Inc.)

- Website: <https://www.heritagencyc.org/>
- Is currently a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
  - Federally funded nonprofit health centers or clinics that serve medically underserved areas and populations. Federally qualified health centers provide primary care services regardless of your ability to pay. Services are provided on a sliding scale fee based on your ability to pay.
- Handled more than 20,000 patient visits in the last year.
- They will be moving from 1727 Amsterdam Avenue to 1649 Amsterdam Avenue
- They currently run an SRO facility out of this building and will expand their health services
- SRO will move to 151st Street and Convent Avenue (part of NYC DoHMH)

## V. Reports

Chair: B. Weinberg

- Kelsey Bettis has resigned as Treasurer.
  - A new election for Treasurer will take place during November 17th Board meeting
- Solomon Prophete is the new assistant secretary via acclimation
- Most issues in our community are tied to the City Budget
  - Public hearings start Monday 10/24 - encourage the community and members to attend
- Encourage members of our community to get vaccinated for COVID and FLU.
  - Get new bivalent boosters for protection
- Please review the materials included in the packet sent out by Eutha.

Treasurer: K. Bettis (not in attendance)

- Submitted fund balance/report prior to the meeting - Included in the packet
- He has resigned and will not be returning to CB9

District Manager: E. Prince

- She provided a written report prior to the meeting.
- Thanked board members for support. Would like to give members a tour of the new office space.
- Budget meetings currently taking place.
- Rat Academy Training taking place in the district - virtual link will be shared via email
- There will be 2 positions to fill in the District Office.
  - The Community Associate position has been posted. Please share.
  - Interviews are taking place.
  - Hope to fill vacancies by end of the year.

WHDC: P. Watler-Johnson

- She provided a written report prior to the meeting.
- Resource Center
  - Applications/resumes for Director have been submitted
  - Still plan to open by the end of 2022
  - The Center will be located in the WHDC offices
- Summer Leadership Academy for 5th-8th graders
  - Took place from August 1st - August 19th
  - It was very successful. Administered by Boys&Girls of Harlem
  - What was the number of youths that were hired?
    - Formal report needed/requested - precedent done by ARISE
      - Spoke to Zaid. We need to do better. Everything was done very last minute.
      - Why did CB12 get many more spots?
  - Did not fund Senior Employment Program this year/summer.
    - WHDC is organizing a coalition
- Uptown Night Market - is still a continued success, the last session of the year was today.
- Learning Skills Center plans - will work on getting an update
- Working to get an update on Summer Youth and Senior Employment

UMEZ: Rev. Morgan Thomas

- Workforce Improvement Programs/Initiatives
  - Bridge Hospitality Training Program
- Small Business Investments
  - \$50,000 loans at 3% interest
    - 25 organizations applied
    - 7 were accepted

MBPO: Mark Levine / Minah Whyte / Andrew Chang / Francisco Martinez

- Welcome to all new community board members.
- Migrants
  - Averaging about 300 a day
  - New Resource Navigation Center opened on West 47th Street
  - Treated as political pawns by Texas and Florida
  - Federal Government needs to support NYC
  - Donate items and services to the 125th st. office
    - Need legal and translation assistance
- Collecting Donations
  - Drop off at Northern Manhattan Office
  - The request for donations has specifically been new toiletries and hygiene items such as body washes, toothbrushes, menstrual products, new and packaged clothing, and diapers.
- New Omnicron Boosters are available
- Budget delegates needed

Mirian Hernandez from (Assemblyman O'Donnell's Office)

- She will pass on concerns and issues to Assemblyman O'Donnell
  - Website: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/?ad=069>
- Shredding event on 98th Street and Bway this Saturday
- Donation drive at Trinity Lutheran Church
- Microgrants/loans session on 10/27
- Mammogram Bus Screenings are available
- Petition for 125th Street Elevator

Joselinne Minaya & Ely Silvestre (DANY)

- Linda who ran the Harlem office retired
- DA announced a new Housing and Protection Unit
  - More details to follow

Nina Norwood (Congressman Espaillat's Office)

- Congressional Honor
- Fighting for Gun Legislation in Washington
- Fighting to lower health care and prescription drug costs
- Working on Student Loan relief for borrowers
- Seeking financial assistance to help migrants/refugees
- Nominations for the Military Academy due on 11/18

Stacy Marius (Assemblywoman Inez Dickens Office)

- Website: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Inez-E-Dickens>
- Oasis/HRA Support Sessions Available
- Financial Literacy Sessions
- Learn about J51 Tax Abatements

## **VI. Public Session**

Louis Bailey - We ACT

- Asking Community Board for support to reach out to Speaker Adams to bring Zero Waste Legislation to the NYS Senate
  - <https://www.weact.org/campaigns/waste-justice/>
- OSHA classes are currently given at We ACT.
- Utility Savings and Debt Assistance workshops are available

Annapurna Schreiber - Red Balloon Preschool

- Asking for CB9's help in their petition to save the preschool
- Columbia University refuses to renew their lease

- They are open year-round from 8 AM to 6 PM
- Cater to working families

## **VII. Action Items**

1. Ratification of Letter of Support re: 346 Convent Avenue; whereby the Executive Committee acted on behalf of the Full Board at its regularly scheduled meeting held on: October 13, 2022
  - a. Ratification passed. Monica Dula in favor of Unanimous consent. Victor Edwards seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor.
2. Reso re: J-51 Tax Abatement and Exemption (“the J-51 tax credits”)
  - a. Information was sent out in the packets
  - b. Barry Weinberg gave a brief explanation and history of the J51 tax credits established in the 1950s.
  - c. Resolution passes by the majority - 20 Yes votes, 5 No votes, 3 Abstains (Jason, Caldwell, Gerson)

### New Liquor Licenses:

3. Reso re: Harlem Sushi - Located at 1504 Amsterdam Avenue
4. Reso re: Bessie Place - located at 458 W. 145th Street
  - SLAM data shows no issues. NYPD does not have issues
  - Passes via unanimous consent. Heather Jason abstains

### Renewal of Liquor Licenses:

5. Reso re: Brisa Dominicana Restaurant - located at 1764 Amsterdam Avenue
  - SLAM data shows no issues. NYPD does not have issues
  - Passes via unanimous consent. Heather Jason abstains

### Class Change SLA Application:

6. Reso re: CHI d/b/a Bus Stop Diner - located at 3341 Broadway
  - SLAM data shows no issues. NYPD does not have issues
  - Passes via unanimous consent. Heather Jason abstains

## **VIII. Old Business**

- a. None was brought up at this time.

**IX. New Business**

- a. None was brought up at this time.

**X. Adjourn**

- S. Mortensen moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Henry seconded the motion. All participants were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete