THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMUNITY BOARD 9 MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights • Manhattanville • Hamilton Heights • Sugar Hill

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Chair: Hon. Victor Edwards

I. Call to Order

Chair Hon. Victor Edwards called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

(Note: Attendance was taken by Vice-Chair Green; Chair Edwards reminded members to be mindful of attendance.)

III. Adopt Agenda & Minutes

- **Adopt Agenda:** The agenda for the October 15, 2026 General Board Meeting was presented. *(Note: During Action Items, a Letter to NYSOCM was added to the agenda.)*

- **Adopt Minutes:** The minutes from the September 17, 2026 General Board Meeting were presented for adoption.

IV. Presentation / Discussion / Update

1. Discussion on Upcoming Community Town Hall: "Every Road to Healing Campaign"

Presenters: Sherrell Richardson, Director of Organizing, and Cade Terada, Community Organizer, Common Justice

- Common Justice is a non-profit organization based in Brooklyn with a strong presence in Harlem; Cade Terada serves on the Civic Engagement Team.

- The organization runs a 12–18 month program working with survivors of violence, helping them file police reports and receive compensation under the Survivor's First Act (Victim Compensation).

- Focused on addressing root causes of harm, conflict resolution, mediating conflicts, and educating the community on public safety alternatives.

- Partnering with local community boards (including CB10) and the Office of Community Safety (Dr. Chambers) to convene a neighborhood listening session/town hall to gather community feedback and promote public safety awareness. Note that every community board has unique needs (in Brooklyn, this initiative has taken the form of a Bill of Rights).

2. Brief Introduction & Update from the State Liquor Authority (SLA)

Presenter: Chair Lily Fan, NYS State Liquor Authority

- Chair Fan previously served on Manhattan Community Board 4.

- Highlighted ongoing improvements at the SLA, including faster response times and collaboration with law enforcement.

- Clarified the 30-day notice process, noting that temporary permits may be issued prior to receiving Community Board letters.

- Addressed enforcement regarding outdoor dining: residents and board members should notify Philip Arnold and submit complaints directly through the SLA website.

- Note that transfer applications may go out without a 500-foot hearing; however, submitting a letter of objection from the Community Board triggers a formal review and compliance check.

V. Reports

1. Chair's Report – Hon. Victor Edwards

- Written report distributed in the meeting packet.

- Attended the opening of the new elevators at the 137th Street–City College (1) subway station with the MTA Chairman.

- Appointed to the committee tasked with reopening the gates at Columbia University.

- **Waterfront & Transit:** Working to secure ferry service at West Harlem Piers, supporting the Hudson River Sailing Community, and noted the *Harlem Rocket* tour/excursion boat. Also monitoring the Second Avenue Subway project and advocating to keep boring drills in place for the Hudson Tunnel project.

- **NYCHA:** Discussed Section 9 grants versus the PACT/Section 8 conversion program (specifically Manhattanville Houses under Section 8) and ongoing issues regarding tenant succession rights.

- **Board Governance:** Reminded members to be mindful of attendance and complete mandatory/available training. Highlighted upcoming Charter Revisions that could impact Community Boards. Inquired about filling current board vacancies and suggested asking the Manhattan Borough President to speak on the selection process.

2. Treasurer's Report – Hon. Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

- Written report distributed in the meeting packet.

- Discussed funding with Council Members Shaun Abreu and Yusef Salaam, including whether funds can be used to purchase microphones and speakers for the Board Office.

- Clarified that holiday lights fall under discretionary funding rather than operating expenses, and noted that any expenditure over $35,000 is classified as a capital expense.

- Currently preparing the District Needs Statement; a Public Hearing will be held to gather community input (the originally scheduled date will need to be changed).

3. District Manager's Report – Eutha Prince

- **Manhattan Delegation Invitation:** Charter Ballot Proposals forum on Wednesday, October 21 (covering Public Space/Outdoor Dining and Building/Permitting); RSVP required to attend.

- **Agency Updates:** DSNY has proposed a phased commercial/residential waste program; NYCHRA updated SNAP eligibility requirements effective October 1, 2026; DOT has begun the 116th Street Safety Project.

- **Community Programs & Events:**

    - Common Justice cohort participants completing the program will receive a $500 stipend.

    - *FDNY SMART*: Community members can tour local participating fire stations.

    - **Saturday, October 17 at 9:30 A.M.:** Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness event in Central Park (between 62nd and 66th Streets).

- **Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 A.M.:** Breast Cancer Walk at Central Park (72nd Street entrance).

4. West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) Report – Barry Weinberg (reporting for Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson)

- Grantee awards have been posted: 104 grantees awarded a total of $1.57 million in grants.
- Disbursement from the affordability fund was approved.
- CB9 committees will receive requests from grantees for sign-off; email confirmation should suffice.
- Noted that a primary obstacle for local non-profits is maintaining service delivery across a full 12-month period.
- Highlighted a long-term fiscal concern: Community Benefit Payments from Columbia University have stopped, meaning WHDC funds could potentially run out in 8–9 years if no new funding stream is generated.

5. 125th Street BID Report

- *Planning for Holiday Lights in November 2026*
- *(No separate report recorded in notes; referenced under MBPO updates.)*

6. Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC) Report – Hon. Michael Gross

- **Thursday, October 29 from 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.:** 6th rally to demand the reopening of Columbia University's campus gates, marking Year 3 of the closures.
- Launched a community petition calling on Columbia University to make its vacant apartments available to local community members.

7. Manhattan Borough President's Office (MBPO) Report – Nyles Robinson

- Attended Borough Board earlier in the day, where the MTA Chair recognized Chair Victor Edwards. Introduced a new format for MBPO talking points to highlight key updates.
- **Services & Events:** The Immigrant Welcome Center is open and offering constituent services, legal referrals, and social services. MBPO also attended the 125th Street BID

meeting and held Community Awards recognizing justice-affected individuals.

- **District Initiatives:** Highlighted e-bike safety, the Second Avenue Task Force (creating a unified force across Harlem), and work with the Harlem Rotary Club (Common Ground).

- Noted that Council Member Shaun Abreu will testify in support of the Harlem Piers, and that Manhattanville Houses is switching management companies (133rd Street between Amsterdam and Broadway).

- Board members inquired as to when the Manhattan Borough President will visit CB9.

8. Elected Officials' Reports

- **Office of the Mayor – Ovie Lattimore:**

    - Shared updates on Licensed Childcare Programs and a $10,000 grant opportunity for artists.

    - Highlighted the *Opera for All* program in partnership with the Metropolitan Opera, offering a ticket lottery.

    - Stated that the Mayor supports reopening the gates at Columbia University.

- **Office of Council Member Shaun Abreu – Gabriela Carela (gcarela@council.nyc.gov):**

    - The new participatory/discretionary budgeting cycle has begun; community members are encouraged to share their project ideas.

    - **Tuesday, October 20:** Hearing on ferry service at West Harlem Piers.

    - **Wednesday, October 21:** Department of Buildings (DOB) representative will be available in the Council Member's office.

    - **Saturday, October 31:** Community recycling event.

VI. Public Session / Public Hearing

1. **Jalissa Jimenez & Father (Owners, Mofongo Del Valle):** Shared plans to acquire the former Billiards site on 139th Street to open a restaurant offering brunch and frozen yogurt.

2. **Kit McManus (Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science):** Presented a project utilizing drone flights with LiDAR to create a Digital Surface Model of Morningside Park to help NYC Parks better manage stormwater runoff.

3. **Anna Shirley (Rotary Club of Harlem):** Reported that the October 3 Food & Music event raised $4,295 for scholarships; currently seeking additional donations and scholarship applicants. Also advocated for greater availability of pickleball courts, suggesting the use of existing handball courts.

4. **Gail Hilton (Homeowner, 175 Claremont):** Expressed that she is not opposed to legal cannabis dispensaries, but believes they should not be sited near daycares or mental health facilities. Also noted Open Streets occurring every Thursday.

5. **Janelle Carter Bowman (NYPL George Bruce Branch):** Announced upcoming library programming: caregiver early learning skills every Tuesday; a theater performance on Saturday, October 17 at 3:00 P.M.; and a teen graffiti art workshop on Monday, October 26 from 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

6. **Representative, Community Craftworks:** Shared that the organization incorporated in June and received 501(c)(3) status in July. They have worked with Eagle Academy teaching digital design and fabrication, industry-grade certifications, and mentorship. Requested a letter of support and funding from the Board.

7. **Alexander Abraham (CB9 Member):** Spoke on keeping local tax dollars in New York City, raising concerns over Medicaid cuts and their impact on children when parents lose eligibility, and advocating for universal healthcare. Suggested increasing property taxes or corporate taxes to fund affordable housing and public infrastructure.

8. **Ron Canada (Community Member):** Spoke regarding LaSalle Street and Broadway, stating that while legalized marijuana is acceptable, dispensaries should not be located within residential neighborhoods.

9. **Community Member (via Zoom):** Reported gathering a 370-signature petition against the proposed licensed dispensary on LaSalle Street, noting that local business owners are also opposed.

10. **Lydia Gerson (CB9 Member):** Raised concerns regarding DSNY's commercial waste pickup proposal and the need for stronger oversight/regulation of local construction projects.

11. **Walter Alexander (CB9 Member):** Announced a screening of *Ghostbusters* at the United Palace on Saturday, October 17 at 6:30 P.M. Raised ongoing service complaints regarding the 125th Street Post Office Station, noting staff refusal to provide names and a lack of public accountability. Also noted outreach efforts to residents living on the east

side of Morningside Park (who fall within CB10).

12. **Rev. Dr. Derek Johnson (Former CB9 Member, Pastor of Black Liberation Church):** Discussed a holistic spiritual care initiative (holisticspiritualcare.com) supporting community members carrying trauma and grief after immediate crises; meetings are held every second Wednesday at Riverside Church.

13. **Cameron Clarke (CB9 Member, CUNY School of Public Health):** Noted that legislation allowing tenants to purchase their units has advanced, with an upcoming hearing on October 22. Encouraged members to use the website's advocacy page to message City Council members and fill out postcards in support of the NY Health Act for universal healthcare.

14. **Kristina Lopez (CB9 Member):** Spoke on fighting for tenant succession rights (referencing HCR Fact Sheet #30), sharing her family's history in the neighborhood since the 1970s and highlighting how the housing crisis disproportionately impacts women of color.

15. **David Ratner (CB9 Member):** Announced an upcoming WBAI 99.5 FM community event on Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 P.M.

VII. Action Items

1. Ratification of Letter of Comment re: Risk Takerz, LLC, at 121 La Salle St., NYC 10027

- **Background:** The Executive Board previously voted to approve the letter (12–3) on Thursday, October 8, 2026.
- **Action:** A roll call vote was taken to ratify the Executive Board's action.
- **Vote Tally:** 15 Yes | 12 No | 8 Abstain.
- **Outcome: Motion Failed.** Ratification did not pass the General Board. A letter to the New York State Office of Cannabis Management (NYSOCM) was subsequently added to the agenda.

2. Resolution re: Passage of the NYC Small Business Rent Stabilization Act

- **Outcome: Tabled** to next month’s meeting due to time constraints.

3. Renewal Liquor License Applications (Items 3–11):

- **Item 3:** Reso re: SAPS – 2888 Broadway (corner of W. 112th Street)

- **Item 4:** Reso re: LaRista Italian Kitchen and Bar – 142 Hamilton Place (bet. W. 143rd & 144th Streets)

- **Item 5:** Reso re: Green Tree Chinese Restaurant, Inc. / 123Nikko – 1280 Amsterdam Ave. @ 123rd St.

- **Item 6:** Reso re: Winnie Said – 1624 Amsterdam Ave. @ 140th St.

- **Item 7:** Reso re: The Honey Well – 3604 Broadway (bet. W. 148th & 149th St.)

- **Item 8:** Reso re: Maison Harlem, LLC – 341 St. Nicholas Ave. @ 127th St.

- **Item 9:** Reso re: Ecuatoriana Restaurant Corp. – 1685 Amsterdam Ave. (bet. W. 143rd & 144th St.)

- **Item 10:** Reso re: Bar 314 / A Modo Nostro, LLC – 3143 Broadway (bet. LaSalle & Tiemann Pl.)

- **Item 11:** Reso re: The Inn by Fumo – 3508 Broadway (bet. W. 143rd & 144th St.)

- **Action:** Motion made by Walter Alexander, seconded by Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, to approve Action Items 3 through 11 via unanimous consent.

- **Vote:** 3 abstentions noted; 0 objections.

- **Outcome: Passed** via unanimous consent.

(Note: No separate actions were recorded for Items 12–15, Old Business, or New Business prior to adjournment due to time constraints.)

VIII. Adjournment

- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M. by Chair Hon. Victor Edwards.

- **Next General Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 6:30 P.M., at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum at Columbia University, 605 W. 125th Street, NYC 10027.