



Manhattan Community Board 9 General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Location: **The Forum at Columbia University**

Presiding: Hon. Victor Edwards, Chair

I. Call to Order & Adoption of Agenda

- Meeting Called to Order: 6:47pm by Chair Edwards
- Attendance: Roll Call conducted by Vice Chair Monique Hardin-Cordero
- Agenda Adopted with amendments to include additional Reso (Sammy's Law). Motion moved by Deirdre McIntosh-Brown and Seconded by Monique Hardin-Cordero
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the June 2026 General Board Meeting was moved by M. Hardin-Cordero and seconded by J. Martin-Green. The minutes were adopted.

II. Presentations/Updates/Discussion

- **FDNY – Noah Mueller (Representing 2,000 Manhattan Firefighters):**
 - Raised operational concerns regarding a proposed Citi Bike docking station diagonally across from the firehouse at W. 139th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.
 - Highlighted that this engine/ladder company responds to over 8,000 runs annually; chronic double parking at the intersection significantly impedes emergency response and requires targeted enforcement.
- **NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) – Richard Day:**
 - Commercial Waste Zone (CWZ) Rollout: Upper Manhattan is designated as Phase 6.
 - Customer enrollment/sign-up opens October 1, 2026; businesses must execute waste carter contracts by November 30, 2026. Compliant storefronts will receive official green stickers.
 - Full containerization: All refuse must be placed in rigid containers with secured lids (no loose bags on curbs). Non-profits and city agencies may qualify for municipal DSNY collection.
 - DSNY is conducting educational walk-throughs and merchant site training.
- **New members Re-introduction**

III. Reports from CB9, Elected Officials & Offices

Chair's Report: Included in packet

Treasurer's Report: Included in packet

District Manager Report: Included in packet

WHDC – presented by Pat Watler Johnson & Barry Weinberg

- Youth initiatives: High school financial literacy programs, backpack distribution drives, and 120 NY Liberty game tickets provided to local youth non-profits.
- Summer programming: WHDC/WHOAA summer BBQ at Riverbank State Park and the 4th Annual Summer Jazz Festival.
- Addressed recent media coverage (*NY Post*): Clarified that personnel matters cannot be discussed due to confidentiality; reported the Marcus Garvey loan recovery has been resolved, community benefit grants are being disbursed, and the fund holds \$12 million.
- Community input was offered by Andrea Brecker regarding public funding access.
- Community Benefit Grants approved in September
- WHDC hiring grant writer

NYS Assemblyman Al Taylor

- Announced that repair and rehabilitation work on the Riverside Viaduct is scheduled to resume on Friday, September 18.
- Mourned the tragic loss of his Legislative Director, Ousmane Diallo, who passed away over the summer due to an accidental shooting.
- Reminded constituents of open office hours held on the last Friday of every month.
- *Staff Representative Isabel Abreu noted:* Intern projects focusing on sponsored bills, community accountability at the District Office (2541 7th Avenue, 212-234-1430), senior rent arrears assistance, and two upcoming free legal service workshops (RSVP required). One-on-one sessions resume in October.

NYS Assemblymember Jordan Wright

- Honored the memory and public service of Ousmane Diallo.
- Announced upcoming community events: Turkey Giveaways in November and Toy Giveaways in December.
- Contact office: 212-866-5809.

Council Member Shaun Abreu

- Expressed condolences on the passing of Ousmane Diallo.
- District office updates: Relocated to 1677 Amsterdam Avenue (2,700 sq. ft. facility).
- Legislative & Committee updates: Chairing the Transportation Committee, reviewing up to 20 bills.
- Transit & Infrastructure: Introduced legislation to bring NYC Ferry service to West Harlem Pier; noted construction restarting on the Riverside Viaduct.
- Community announcements: Upgrades coming to district playgrounds; Mobile Mammography Van scheduled for October 2.
- Addressed community board appointment processes submitted to the Manhattan Borough President's Office.
- *Staff Representative Gabriela Carela shared:* Contact info (gcarela@council.nyc.gov / 212-928-1894) and highlighted the Mammogram screening (Oct 2) and Emergency Preparedness workshop (Oct 8).

Manhattan Borough President's Office Brad Holyman – presented by Niles Robinson:

- Commemorated the 25th anniversary of 9/11 - MBPO played large role in Rescue & Recovery
- Addressed support for legislative efforts regarding Medical Aid in Dying ("dying with grace" for terminally ill patients).
- Welcomed new Community Board 9 appointees; attended the Eagle Academy opening.
- Reminder: Annual MBPO Board Member Appreciation Reception on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 5:00–7:00 PM at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (RSVP required).
- Contact: 917-482-0413 | manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

- *Board Discussion:* Board member D. Ratner questioned the non-reappointment of seasoned members which disrupted the Housing and Land Use/Zoning Committees and called for transparency. M. Robinson stated the selection framework is being reassessed to streamline and clarify the appointment process.

Council Member Yusef Salaam: presented by Franzette Collymore

- Emphasized city resource distribution, support and fairness for small businesses, and safeguarding Pre-K programs.
- Announced a community Document Shredding Event scheduled for Monday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- D. McIntosh-Brown noted the critical need for continued after-school funding.
- Free confidential legal help for immigrants

Mayor's Office of Community Affairs / Engagement – Representative O. Lattimore:

- Reviewing Vision Zero initiatives with DOT to curb traffic fatalities.
- Discussed legal actions filed against the federal government on September 14 regarding benefit preservation.
- Ongoing tenant association outreach addressing landlord-tenant conditions in East Harlem and Washington Heights.
- Supported the community rally to reopen Columbia University gates.

IV. Public Session Highlights:

- **Anna Shirley (Harlem Rotary Club):** Highlighted partnerships with Friends of Morningside Park and Harlem Pickleball Association; promoted high school scholarship programs and the "Smash Scholars" pickleball fundraiser at Jackie Robinson Park (rotaryclubofharlem.org).
- **Marquis Bell (CB9 Member):** Announced the *Common Ground Festival* in Morningside Park on Saturday, September 19, from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- **Janelle Carter Bowman (NYPL – George Bruce Branch):** Outlined College Pathways (Thursdays, 4:00–5:00 PM) and an author storytime program in partnership with the Manhattan School of Music on Friday, October 16 at 11:00 AM (georgebruce@nypl.org).
- **IBREA Foundation:** Announced free "Harlem Brain" holistic movement and wellness workshops on Saturdays at 10:00 AM in the park.
- **Andrea Young (Sweet Vegan Chocolates):** Showcased local allergen-free, plant-based confectioneries based at W. 121st St. and Amsterdam Ave., offering a \$3,500 holiday harvest basket raffle in November.
- **Barry Weinberg (Public Member):** Advocated for CB9 to formulate an updated official resolution/position on low-density contextual residential zoning (R1–R5 zones across the city), citing precedent from the March 2023 resolution.
- **Shaneeka Wilson (CB9 Member):** Recognized National Suicide Prevention Month, urging mental health awareness, empathy for isolated seniors, and utilization of the **988** Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

V. Action Items:

- **Ratification of Letter of Support (LOS):** The Columbia University Primary Care Research Fellowship Program funding application under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
 - *Committee:* Health Committee

- *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent moved by S. Wilson, seconded by S. Prophete. No objections.
- **Disposition: PASSED (Unanimous Consent)**
- **Ratification of Letter of Support (LOS):** Broadway Housing Communities (BHC) Application for the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), SFS Bid Event EVT0000008 (with amendment to cite the current Commissioner).
 - *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent moved by G. Connellie, seconded by J. Martin-Green. No objections.
 - **Disposition: PASSED (Unanimous Consent)**
- **Ratification of Letter of Support (LOS):** SLA Application for Hamarts Hospitality LLC d/b/a Rough Draft – 126 Hamilton Place (bet. W. 142nd & W. 143rd Streets), NYC 10031.
 - *Committee:* Uniformed Services & Transportation (UST)
 - *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent moved by M. Hardin-Cordero, seconded by J. Martin-Green. No objections.
 - *Abstentions:* H. Jason, P. Caldwell, G. Connellie.
 - **Disposition: PASSED**
- **Ratification of Letter of Support (LOS):** SLA Application for JOJACHT LLC d/b/a Lola LaMarina – 703 W. 133rd Street, NYC 10027.
 - *Committee:* Uniformed Services & Transportation (UST)
 - *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent moved by M. Hardin-Cordero, seconded by J. Martin-Green. No objections.
 - *Abstentions:* H. Jason, P. Caldwell, G. Connellie.
 - **Disposition: PASSED**
- **Landmarks Committee Resolution:**
 - *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent was objected to by J. Colmenares. A Roll Call Vote was conducted.
 - *Vote Tally:* **27 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstentions.**
 - **Disposition: PASSED**
- **Housing Committee Resolution:**
 - *Action:* Motion of Unanimous Consent moved by C. Clarke, seconded by M. Hardin-Cordero. No abstentions or objections.
 - **Disposition: PASSED (Unanimous Consent)**
- **Agenda Items 7–10:**
 - **Disposition: TABLED** until the next General Board Meeting.
- **Floor Resolution: Sammy’s Law Speed Limit Reductions:**
 - *Resolution:* Requesting NYC DOT to designate slow-speed corridors within MCB9 boundaries capped at 20 MPH.
 - *Action:* Roll Call Vote conducted.
 - *Vote Tally:* **19 in favor, 7 opposed, 8 abstentions.**
 - **Disposition: PASSED**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

- Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.
- Location: The Forum at Columbia University

*submitted by Shaneeka Wilson & Solomon Prophete