

Community Board 9 – Manhattan Strategic Planning Committee

January 26, 2021

Ely Silvestre – Manhattan D.A. Office

Derrick Haynes – TCMF

Lorean Valentin - HHC

Pat W. Johnson – CB 9

Anthony Carrion – CB 9

Maxine Best – CB 9

Victor Edwards – Committee Chair

Derrick Johnson – CB9

Mathew Gamero – Columbia University student

The Strategic Planning meeting of January 26, 2021 was called to attention by Chair V. Edwards at 6:45 p.m. The Chair welcomed all Board members and guest attending the meeting. This was followed by introduction of attendees.

Health and Hospital Test and Trace – Lorean Valentin

1. Increase in positive infection rate among the 12 yr. old to 17 yr. old resident's.

. Contact with family members that might be Essential Workers

. Multiple generational households

. Lack of PPE or wearing PPE / Increase awareness

, further distribution of PPE

2. Testing

Most recently HHC had a mobile testing bus stationed outside of 3333 Broadway and conducted numerous test on area residents. The Chair explained that Council Member Mark Levine and Convent Ave. Baptist church had held Covid testing days as well.

3. Vaccinations

Several committee participants expressed concern about the lack of testing site within the district.

Ms. Valentin acknowledged that was a major concern and that meetings were being held to rectify this situation.

Columbia - Barnard Student Tuition Strike – YDSA

Mathew Gamero a Columbia student presented the reasons behind the student tuition strike. Mr. Gamero explained that YDSA had a list of demands that have presented to the Administration. Some the demands being made by the students (to date 4000 students have signed the petition)

- Lowering of tuition due no in person classes during the pandemic
- Divestment from fossil fuel and private prison investments
- Halt to the campus expansion in Manhattanville causing displacement of residents
- Holding Columbia accountable to West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement

The Columbia - Barnard students are seeking a letter of support from the community board, which will be considered and voted upon.

Gun Buy Back Program – Ely Silvestre Manhattan D. A. Office

Ms. Silvestre informed the committee that the Gun Buy Back Program was moving forward and the next step would be the selection of an appropriate site. At this point St. John the divine and Convent Ave. Baptist church were being considered as possible sites.

Derrick Johnson of CB9 proposed having a discussion with area young people around why they feel the need to carry weapons. The Chair agreed that this would be a good conversation to organize.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Ms. Silvestre explained that February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and that several programs would held in the borough around this issue.

West Harlem Community Re-Entry Restoration Project - WHCRRP

Derrick Haynes from the TCMF provide an update on the WHCRRP

- 25 participants had completed their 40 hr. OSHA training this week and were provided with monetary stipends
- Participants were being offered job placement opportunity
- 3 residents were provided with temporary housing as they had just been released from incarceration.