



STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chris Johnson, called the regular meeting of the CBM Strategic Planning Task Force to Order at 6:31 p.m. EST, on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom conferencing. .

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was adopted by the co-chairs.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT: AND IN-PERSON

(In-Person) Co-Chair Hon. Dejon Delphino, Co-Chair Hon. Christopher Johnson

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

(In-person) Hon. Maritta Dunn, Hon. Victor Edwards and Hon. Michael Gross

(Virtual) Hon Walter T. Alexander, Hon Monique Hardin-Cordero and Hon Patricia Watler-Johnson

GUESTS PRESENT

(Virtual) Arielsela Holbrook-Smith, Harlem Health Initiative (In-Person) Hakeel Ellison, CB9

MEETING SUMMARY:

Meeting Summary: The Strategic Planning Task Force held its first meeting to discuss the Community Benefits Agreement signed by Columbia University, signed in 2009 and fulfillment of the related commitments. The task force is looking at the various CBA allocations and distribution of the funds by West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) including student scholarships, workforce development and job readiness, resources for seniors, housing development and outreach to community residents, community based organizations (CBOs) and institutions located in the district. The meeting ended with discussions around accountability measures, including the creation of a scorecard system to track progress and effective use of the CBA funds, along with plans for upcoming meetings and creating a working group of stakeholders including elected officials. As a matter of next steps, the working group will be reviewing the filed program implementation reports, developing a scorecard for measuring performance and accountability, requesting job descriptions and SOPs from WHDC.

MEETING NOTES:

The co-chairs and attendees introduced themselves at the start of the meeting. Victor E. provided a brief history of his involvement with the CBA and Strategic Planning Task Force, which started in 2014 when Rev. Morgan-Thomas, then chair, asked him and another board member to form the Strategic Planning Task force and oversee the community benefits agreement, which he did for five years. The task force focused on identifying beneficiaries of the funds and increasing awareness of the funding opportunities across the district. He also discussed speaking with CBOs and the Employment Information Center at Columbia University during the height of construction at the Manhattanville Campus regarding the low employment of district residents, limited job opportunities and lack of awareness.

Chris J. thanked Victor E. for the brief history and the reference materials he provided to the task force including the Community Benefits Agreement, notes and links to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) and Implementation Plan Report (IPR). He also noted Senator Cleare and Assemblymember Taylor also share Victor's views regarding the CBA and satisfaction with fulfillment of the CBA commitments. He also noted both elected officials would be joining the Strategic Planning Task Force's working group that is being established.

Victor E. talked about student scholarships as an in-kind contribution and the need to better understand if the beneficiaries of the scholarships are in fact district residents. Additionally, prep-programs and tutoring for students in junior high and high schools were also discussed.. Victor referred to the Double Discovery Program and Chris J. referenced the student development programs at Brotherhood Sister Sol.

Marritta D. described her involvement with the West Harlem Local Development Corporation (WHLDC) negotiating the CBA and the need and importance of accountability and maintaining transparency.

Pam W-J, asked if the community board needs additional information from WHDC and if possible to identify what additional information the community board would like to receive. Victor E. identified greater transparency and increased frequency of reports and updates would be very beneficial and a start..

Monique H-C, asked if the role of WHDC is to operate in the best interest of CB9 or to extend the CBA funding. She also suggested Ziad present to CB9 more frequently to entrust accountability. Monique H-C, also posed the question if Barry W. is able to sit on the WHDC board as a CB9 member or community resident.

Maritta D. emphasized the relationship between CB9 and WHDC and the need to require accountability. Dejon D. asked if WHDC could provide CB9 with SOPs that would enable CB9 greater insight as to the roles, responsibilities and tasks of the WHDC staff members. Chris J. referred back to the concept of a scorecard CB9 would receive on a monthly basis providing greater visibility and disclosure. .

Walter T. A. noted the next Senior Action Committee (SAC) meeting takes place November 18th and the lower attendance at the meetings following COVID. He welcomed the task force attending a SAC meeting to discuss the CBA and opportunities relating to senior programming.

Monique H-C, raised the need for an initiative enabling businesses in the district to meet and asked if there was a representative at Columbia University designated to organize it. Chris J. explained a provision in the CBA does exist for establishing a business resource or incubator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dejon Delpino and Chris Johnson