



Newsletter

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Barry Weinberg, Chair's Message

The New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is in charge of the city's budget. Every year on July 1st, the City Charter requires it to plan and hold budget consultations with all City agencies. On October 25, 2021, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 (MCB9) held a public hearing on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget and District Needs Statement. Members of MCB9 and the surrounding community were invited to attend and participate in the process. Each MCB9 committee prioritized their needs and budget requests, and the District overview and most pressing issues were addressed. How our city governments spends our tax dollars in our neighborhoods is one of the most fundamental tasks we take up as a community board and has some of the most direct impacts on the lives in our communities. We will also be working closely with our City and State agencies and authorities to advocate for infrastructure improvements in our district to be funded by President Biden's recently-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Food and Drug Administration approved a number of changes to COVID vaccine protocols concerning boosters on October 20th. Booster doses of COVID vaccines have been shown to raise antibody levels, with preliminary results indicating a reduction in susceptibility to symptomatic infection. Mayor de Blasio has made vaccination mandatory for all indoor activities, city workers, and anyone working in the healthcare field as the city continues to fight COVID-19. Everyone over the age of 12 must present identification as well as proof of having received at least one dose of COVID-19. Vaccination rates have increased throughout the city, but Manhattan Community Board No. 9 zip codes 10027 and 10031 have remained low. I strongly encourage everyone over the age of 5 in our neighborhood to get their vaccine actions and booster shots against COVID so that we can avoid a devastating winter surge in COVID infections, hospitalizations, and deaths like the one that took so many of our neighbors last winter.

I strongly encourage all residents to become involved in and informed about social and political events taking place in this vibrant neighborhood and throughout the city. I would also like to congratulate our incoming Mayor, Eric Adams, on his election. We look forward to working with him and other elected officials. All MCB9 meetings are open to the public and are still being held remotely via Zoom Webinar. Please visit our website at <https://www.cb9m.org/cal> events for all public monthly meetings and zoom information. Please spread the word about this project and invite young people to the meetings

Update on the RKO Hamilton Theater

Hamilton Theater (Broadway/146 Street) redevelopment is still being discussed between Manhattan Community Board No. 9 (MCB9) and potential developers. Residents were asked to choose between two possible redevelopment plans by Omni New York and Bris Builders, a Brooklyn-based company, in a public survey. Brisa Builders' proposal was overwhelmingly supported. Brisa and Omni are working together on the redevelopment. The community intends to develop the site for a variety of purposes, including a performing arts center and affordable housing.

The theater's current owners, Ashkenazy Acquisition Corp., have agreed to sell it as well as an adjacent vacant lot to the developers, and MCB9 hopes to expand its footprint to include the ornate "lobby building on Broadway's corner." They plan to sell the landmark building for around \$20 million, with an additional \$20 million needed to restore the auditorium. Potential partners for MCB9 as it prepares to seek funding include local organizations such as the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC), as well as local, state, and federal governments. MCB9 is seeking donations and hopes that the federal infrastructure bill that recently passed will be able to provide funding to support the redevelopment to prevent the loss of another iconic Harlem cultural center.

"Small Acts, when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world."

- Howard Zinn

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New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Blueprint for Change

The New York City Housing Authority's blueprint for change is set to expire on December 28th, and it is critical that NYCHA residents and the general public in Manhattan Community Board No. 9 (MCB9) provide feedback on the plan. The Blueprint proposes handing over NYCHA to a private preservation trust led by the mayor's appointees, which will be able to borrow money against the properties to make repairs. Borrowing against public housing is illegal, which is why the buildings must first be transferred to a private trust. As with any debt, there is a risk that the new Preservation Trust will be unable to repay it, and New York will lose its public housing.

Public housing is an essential component of any housing strategy that can meet the needs of a twenty-first-century New York. Congressional Republicans' nearly 30-year deliberate disinvestment and austerity campaign, which began in the 1990s, has deprived NYCHA of previously available federal funds for repairs and maintenance. The long, slow decline of the public housing stock that resulted was specifically designed to result in privatization of this housing.

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 will collaborate with NYCHA residents and others to ensure that NYCHA and federal officials are held accountable, halting the march toward privatization and potentially eroding tenant rights. Furthermore, MCB9 is concerned about the transfer of air rights from Manhattanville Houses to the former site of the supermarket and laundromat at 1440 Amsterdam Avenue, which could result in a 286-story development.

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 will work with the Manhattanville Houses Residents Association to help them navigate this proposal. The feedback page can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/blueprint-for-change.page>.

Harlem Lights 2021

The 125th BID, Manhattan Community Boards No. 9, 10, and the Mount Morris Park Improvement Association made the Harlem Holiday lights 2021 event possible. On November 16, 2021, the festivities began at West 125th Street east of Broadway, then proceeded east on 125th Street and turned south along Adam Clayton Boulevard down on 110th Street, looped back up on Malcolm X Boulevard, winded around Marcus Garvey Park, and proceeded west on 125th Street to Morningside Avenue. Ryan Health and The Cliffs both provided giveaways. Other events along the route included drummers, dancers, and the lighting of a tree at Marcus Garvey Park.

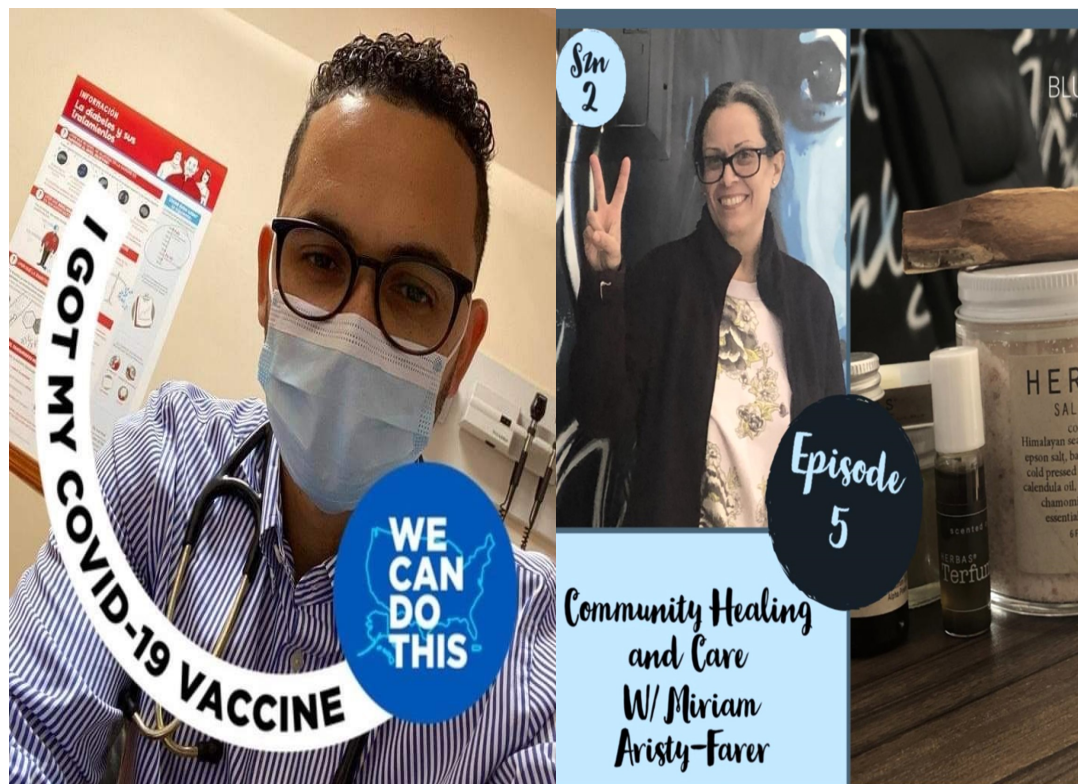


Nick Cannon Served as Grand Marshal at Harlem Holiday Lights

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer among men in New York City. It frequently grows slowly at first, with no symptoms. Each year, approximately 680 men die from prostate cancer in New York City, and approximately 5,300 men are newly diagnosed. Men of all races and ethnicities are affected by prostate cancer. In 2016, the death rate among Black men in New York City was 36.5 per 100,000 men, more than double that of White men (18.3) and Latino men (18.3). (16.8). Asian/Pacific Islander men (5.5) had the lowest prostate cancer death rate. It is natural for a man's prostate to grow larger as he ages. This may cause some health issues with urinary and sexual function.

If you are a Black man, you may be more at risk for prostate cancer, and the risk of dying from prostate cancer is more than twice as high as for White, Latino, or Asian men, have a family history of prostate cancer, or are 55 or older. Cancer screening can help prevent it or detect it early, when it is easier to treat. For more information, go to <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/prostate-cancer.page>.



Edwin Torres MS, RN, CHNP, FNP-C/ Miriam Aristy-Farar

Edwin Torres and Miriam Aristy-Farar are members of Manhattan Community Board No. 9, and both serve as Co-Chairs of the Health and Environment Committee, which meets the first Monday of every month. Edwin and Miriam were key players in the Covid-19 Pandemic. Due to New York City's high death rate, they organized, distributed PPE, and provided information about COVID-19 PCR and Rapid Testing locations. They informed the community about the different Covid-19 vaccine options and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Edwin is a community health nurse practitioner with a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-C) degree. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Binghamton University, where his research focuses on the social determinants of health and their impact on the diabetes outreach program at Montefiore Medical Center. He also works at the Fleischer Institute for Diabetes and Metabolism at Montefiore Einstein in the Bronx and was one of the first providers to work at a monoclonal antibody clinic.

In addition, he served on a number of COVID-19-related panels. Edwin is a founding member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' (AANP) Diversity Committee and Health Policy Committee, and he mentors a large number of students interested in nursing and allied health fields. For his efforts, he received the Edward Weisband Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service.

Miriam Aristy-Farar is a mother, designer, and medical marijuana patient. Born in Washington Heights and raised in Queens, her family relocated to the Dominican Republic when she was 17 years old. She studied at The Parsons School of Design, Altos de Chavon campus, for three years before becoming a seasoned art director in the beauty industry until the year 2009.

She founded the Fristys LLC to do community service while consulting. Her community gardening with local schools sparked her true passion for plant medicines and healing, inspiring her to trademark and build a brand, Herbas® a CBD body care, in 2019. She also serves on the board of the Riverstone Senior Center in Washington Heights.

Announcements:

- ◆ On November 29, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., the District 5 Brilliant NYC Community will hold a virtual discussion. It is necessary to register. Please go to <https://learnndoe.org/brilliantnyc/d5/>.
- ◆ From October 7, 2021 to January 3, 2022, the Morris-Jumel Mansion will host a new exhibition, "Portraits of My Community," by artist Felipe Galindo "Feggo," a Washington Heights resident. Please visit <https://www.nomaanyc.org/events/surroundings-a-community/> for more information.
- ◆ On Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance will present the Artist Talk Series. Visit <https://www.nomaanyc.org/events/thursdays-with-nomaa-thursdays-with-nomaa-takashi-kae/> for more information.
- ◆ Columbia University Medical Center Stroke & CVD Prevention Community Health Worker Training offered and interested parties should contact Harmon Moats, Senior Program Manager at (212) 305-8674 or email to hlm9@columbia.edu
- ◆ New York City COVID Citywide Information Portal—Testing site. Please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>

Did You Know?

Landlords & Tenants:

HEAT - Heat must be supplied from October 1 through March 31 to tenants of multiple dwellings. If the outdoor temperature falls below 55—degrees between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., each apartment must be heated to a temperature of at least 68-degrees. If the outdoor temperature falls below 40-degrees between the hour of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. each apartment must be heated to a temperature of at least 55-degrees.

Hot Water—Landlords must provide all tenants of multiple dwellings with both hot and cold water [YEAR ROUND]. Hot water must register at or above a constant temperature of 120F at the tap. If a tap or shower is equipped with an anti-scald valve that prevents the hot water temperature from exceeding 120F, the minimum hot water temperature for that tub or shower is 110F

Con Edison Smell Gas. Act Fast

Smell - Natural gas smell like rotten eggs

Gas – If gas is in the air, a spark could cause an explosion, Do not light a match, smoke, flip a switch, ring a doorbell, or touch appliance or electronics, including phones.

Run – If you suspect a gas leak, get everyone out immediately

Call - When you're safe, call 911 or Con Edison (800) -752-6633 or National Grid (718) 643-4050

Note: Do not assume someone else has already called. You can report leaks anonymously

For more information visit www.coned.com/GasSafety

Contact Us

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Note:

Our Virtual General Board Meeting, meets on the third Thursday every month. For the full monthly calendar of our scheduled meetings, please visit our website at: www.cb9m.org

To Join Our Mailing List

Email your contact information to: info@cb9m.org