



# Newsletter

Circulation 1; Vol 5

October/November 2018

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE, MR. PADMORE JOHN

It has been an interesting and challenging year in our community. As most of you are aware, the proposed Argus Inc. Methadone Clinic project at Saint Nicholas Avenue was rejected by the NYC Department of Health after a tough fight from the Sugar Hill Concerned Neighbors Group, Elected Officials, and community residents. Your voices were heard loud and clear. In the last few months Community Board No. 9's Housing, Land Use and Zoning Committee hosted a series of NYCHA Housing Forums and the Health and Environment Committee presented "Lead—It's Still A Poison in our Community" Town Hall meeting due to numerous incidents of lead poisoning and the investigations led by the federal and city government. The Town Hall meeting was to raise awareness, provide preventative and treatment information. On October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 a discussion with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was held to address the investigation of the second community cluster of Legionnaire's Disease in Hamilton Heights. CB9 will hold a public hearing on Fiscal Year 2020 Statement of Community District Needs and The Prioritization of Capital and Expense Budget Request (s) on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 at Broadway Housing Communities, 583 Riverside Drive @ 135th Street, at 6:30 p.m. For more information you can call the District Office at (212) 864-6200 or email to: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org). Your participation and feedback are vital. Let your voice be heard! Please visit us at [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org)

*"If you're always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be." -*

*Maya Angelou*

## Lead Poisoning in Harlem

Due to a high number of children affected by lead poisoning in Harlem, especially in New York City Housing Authority developments, Manhattan Community Board 9 decided to present a "Lead – It's Still A Poison in our Community Town Hall meeting on Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church to address the issue, raise awareness, provide prevention and treatment information. Joann Mercedes, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Jill Samuels, Program Administrator both from the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and Matthew Cachere, Esq, staff attorney at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation were amongst the panelist and spoke on the increase in lead poisoning in communities of color. The panelist conveyed that the following is contributory to lead poisoning: peeling or chipping paint in buildings, children's toys and water from old pipes.

They further stated that very high levels of lead in children can cause severe neurologic problems such as a coma, convulsion and death. Whereby, in most cases, children exposed to lead, develop delayed development of the brain, learning difficulties, and behavioral problems. The health expert panelist urged it should be standard that blood testing for lead be conducted during a medical physical examination. Preventative and Educational Information Sessions should be held to raise awareness in the communities, provide tenants and owners with information on how to prevent and address lead hazards, including legal rights and responsibilities and all other available resources.

The New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer also held a Public Hearing on NYC's Lead Problem on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Harlem to allow the community personally affected by the problem to voice their concerns and be heard as part of an ongoing Comptroller's investigation. The investigation was to look at the City's procedures for addressing lead poisoning hazards and to protect the health of all children. For more information on prevention and treatment visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/lead-poisoning-prevention.page>

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## CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee

The Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee currently working to address a number of issues in the community. Since the Hamilton Theater Redevelopment Community Envisioning Workshop in January the community has created four development proposals. The billion dollar real estate acquisition corporation that owns the theater, Ashkenazy, also owns the adjacent empty parcel along West 147th Street. The four development proposals attempt to maximize development on this adjacent parcel in exchange of relinquishing the theater, which can be then be used as an multi-disciplinary community arts space. In November the committee will feature a presentation on these four development proposals.

Over the summer the committee organized several meetings to discuss the concerns raised by community stakeholders about the condition of the Morningside Park baseball fields, the venue of the Harlem Eat Up Festival for the past five years. Given the infeasibility of relocating or rescheduling the event (held annually in May) the committee has made a letter of support contingent on a dedicated sponsor for the maintenance and upkeep of the fields. Harlem Eat Up has not yet found such a sponsor, but currently working on it.

Ms. Jenny Benitez, Jenny's Garden, Riverside Valley Community Garden was damaged from the Amtrak Spraying of Herbicide and nearly the entire western portion of the garden is cordoned off with yellow caution tape. The affected area includes many of the plantings beds, a number of trees and the composting station. Because of this poisoning Jenny's Garden was unable to donate food at a local pantry as it had intended. Elected Officials, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and City Council Member Mark Levine have sent a letter to Amtrak asking for financial compensation. NYC Parks in partnership with the Riverside Park Conservancy promised to replace the soil in the affected area.

In partnership with West Harlem Environmental Action Inc. (WEACT), a local Harlem-based environmental group, the committee will help garden stewards Nora and Nina with creating a permanent group of volunteers to maintain the gardens in our community. The project ideas for renovating two gardens along Edgecombe Avenue have been submitted as part of Bill Perkins Participatory Budgeting process. The Committee Chairs will participate as budget delegates to guide the project through to the ballot in the Spring. The City of New York is looking to acquire a parcel of land in the garden "The Frank White Memorial Garden", currently used by stewards, a coalition of neighborhood resident and the Brotherhood Sister Sol Organization, as a way of preserving green, open in the community. As part of the community board review process for ULURP, a public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 30th, 2018 at Castle Gardens, 625 West 140th Street [between Broadway & Riverside Drive] from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information contact the district office at (212) 864-6200 or email to: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org)

## Senior Housing Crisis and Maintenance

The housing crisis has been one of the most important issues facing the elderly in our district. Community Board No. 9 has received plenty complaints about abuse and intimidation of senior citizens from unscrupulous landlords in the community. The complaints range from unlawful increase of rents, no maintenance and repair services, no heat and hot water in the winter.


Most seniors had to take their landlord to housing court for repairs but they are facing a challenge because of the constant change in building ownership. This constant change of ownership is preventing seniors and the courts to effectively penalize owners/landlords.

The Senior Issues Committee decided to address these housing issues on a monthly basis as individual segments such as: ***Repair and Maintenance; Rent Increases, Lease and Renewal Agreements, and Affordable Senior Housing.***

The Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month unless noted otherwise. For more information or to access the monthly calendar of meetings, visit [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org) or call Hleziphi Zita at (212) 864-6200.



# NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



## NYC Council Participatory Budgeting

Council Members Mark Levine and Bill Perkins held participatory budgeting in our district. The participatory budgeting is to engage the community in the governing process and giving residents the ability to decide what improvements they want to see in their neighborhood. The council members present information on the budget and residents brainstorm project ideas and select budget delegates.

The community decides on how to spend the one million dollars on community improvements to parks, schools, libraries, streets and more. Through a public vote, the residents then decide which proposals to fund. The process started in August through early October 2018 and this year eligible voters only needed to be eleven years old and live within the district.

Mark Levine and Bill Perkins held several community meetings in various locations. This year, community residents can vote for as many as five favorite proposal and council members guarantee funding for the projects that received the most votes, until participatory budgeting funding runs out.



## Eutha Prince Survivor & Advocate for Breast Cancer Awareness

As a community activist, Eutha likes a project. She is now embracing her role as a [breast cancer](#) survivor and using her new-found strength to continue her work as District Manager at Manhattan Community Board No. 9, in West Harlem, New York.

Every year, Eutha celebrates summer with a vacation in August and starts the vacation with a mammogram, which she calls “a gift to herself.” In 2012 After a follow-up and ultrasound biopsy Eutha learned she had stage II invasive ductal and lobular carcinoma (breast cancer) and underwent innovative therapies at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Doctors recommended immunotherapy, using a drug known as a checkpoint inhibitor, as part of her treatment before surgery. Eutha decided to participate in the research and immunotherapy injection, ipilimumab as part of a clinical trial. She felt her decision to participate in a clinical trial will be to help herself and others in the future.

Eutha needed a surgery to remove her tumor. But her doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering recommended that before she headed into the operation room, she should undergo a course of [immunotherapy](#). This exciting class of cancer treatment mobilizes the power of a patient’s own immune system and harnesses it to fight the cancer. There are several types of immunotherapy, including medications known as checkpoint inhibitors that work by “switching on” immune cells so they’re ready to attack cancer cells.

Throughout her medical ordeal and treatments, Eutha’s family was by her side the entire time. Her two daughters and two grandsons would bring her lunch, make her laugh and remind her that there was light at the end of the tunnel. Eutha’s advice to other women is “**give yourself a gift of life**” schedule your annual mammogram, stop smoking, eat healthy, exercise, and avoid exposure to radiation and environmental pollution.

So much has changed since Eutha first got that diagnosis of breast cancer: She is back to work as the District Manager of CB9M. She is relishing every moment of life, feeling like she has a second chance to do everything she has always wanted to do. “I went from a scary place in my life to feeling blessed, and feeling like this was meant to be,” she says. I wouldn’t trade this life for anything in the world.”

Eutha has become an advocate for breast cancer awareness and participate yearly in “Making Strides Against Cancer Walk” and working with her support group “*Sistah’s Supporting Sistah’s*.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The New York City Department of Social Services presents a Pay Off NYC Child Support Debt initiate starting October 1st through October 31st, 2018. To participate call (929) 252-5200 or Walk In Center located at 151 West Broadway, 4th Floor [between Worth and Thomas Street] Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The New York City Department For The Aging will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 22nd, 2018 at Learnard Covello Senior Center located at 312 East 109th Street from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The New York City Manhattan Community Board No. 9 will hold a public hearing on FY2020 and District Needs on Monday, October 22nd, 2018, District Office located at located at 18 Old Broadway [between West 125th and West 126th Streets] from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- The Washington Heights & Inwood Coalition Against Interpersonal and Domestic Violence will hold it's 3rd Annual Community March Against Domestic Violence on October 23rd, 2018 from United Palace (175th Street & Broadway) at 5:30 p.m. and Vigil for Solidarity at 167th Street & Broadway at 6:00 p.m.
- The Silicon Harlem will hold the Next-GenTech Conference on October 26th, 2018, at the National Black Theater located at 2031 5th Avenue @ 125th Street from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please register at [www.siliconharlem.net](http://www.siliconharlem.net)
- The Community Education Council for District 5 presents A Town Hall Event with Chancellor Richard A. Carranza on Monday, October 29th, 2018 at P.S. 154 located at 250 West 127th Street from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The NYC Department of Education will hold the Specialized High School Admission Information Session on Monday, October 29th, 2018 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street [between Amsterdam & Broadway] at 5:30 p.m. For more information call (212) 864-6200
- On Tuesday, October 30th, 2018 the Manhattan Community Board No. 9 will hold a public hearing on the Frank White Memorial Garden located at West 143rd Street [between Hamilton Place and Broadway] from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Columbia University Office of Government and Community Affairs, Connecting Youth Initiative providing assistance to ages between 16-24 years, out of school and of work residing in the Harlem community. All interested persons should contact the Coordinator, Henry Danner at (212) 854-4143 or email to: [hd2401@columbia.edu](mailto:hd2401@columbia.edu)
- Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Northern Manhattan Office presents the Homeowners and Tenants Enrollment Events on November 13th and December 11th, 2018 at 431 West 125th Street [between Amsterdam and Manhattan Avenues] from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To RSVP, please call (212) 531-1609

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Street Storage:** When parking is not otherwise restricted, no person shall park any vehicle in any area, including a residential area, in excess of seven (7) consecutive days.

**Call 811 before you dig:** Ever wonder what the different color markings on the ground mean? Wonder no more and keep information below for easy reference

**White** - Proposed Excavation

**Pink** - Temporary Survey Markings

**Red** - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit & Lighting Cables

**Yellow** - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum & Gaseous Material

**Orange** - Communications, Alarm, Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit

**Blue** - Potable Water

**Purple** - Reclaimed Water, Mitigation & Slurry Lines, Radioactive Material

**Green** - Sewers & Drain Lines

## CONTACT US:

Manhattan Community Board 9  
16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: (212) 864-6200  
Fax: (212) 662-7396  
Email: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org)  
Website: [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org)

## NOTE:

Our General Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of every month at Castle Gardens located at 625 West 140th Street (**unless otherwise noted**) [between Broadway and Riverside Drive] For the full monthly calendar of our scheduled meetings, please visit our website at: [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org)

## TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Please send an email of your contact information to: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org) or [hzita@cb9m.org](mailto:hzita@cb9m.org)

