



## **Chair's Report August 2024**

### **State Senate Bill to halt Columbia University's Expansion**

Each Friday for the past several months' State Senator Cordell Cleare has been holding meetings regarding her State Senate Bill (S9544). This bill is aimed at halting Columbia University's expansion into West Harlem and its related consequences. 1st Vice Chair, Barry Weinberg and I have been attending these meetings with the State Senator on a regular basis. Our position has been to build on the current amenities of the Community Benefits Agreement as opposed to dismantling the entire General Project Plan (GPP). Barry and I have provided the Senator's group of demands to Columbia that would benefit our community as whole including additional student educational opportunities, inclusion of affordable housing units within Columbia's new residential buildings and employment opportunities for area residents to name a few.

### **St. Nicholas Ave - Dangerous Community Corridor**

On July 31, I along with residents of 695 St. Nicholas Ave. had the opportunity to meet with NYPD's Brain Adams and Richard Guevara from the Manhattan office for Chief of Patrol. This meeting was based around the dangerous situation that exists along St. Nicholas Ave (145<sup>th</sup> – 141<sup>st</sup> St). Vehicles including NYPD official vans and cars, NYPD officer's personal vehicles and area residents routinely double park on both sides of the streets and all 3 MTA bus stops. This has caused an extremely dangerous situation, which recently resulted in a cyclist being struck by a car. CB9 has requested that the 30Pct summons cars that are double parked, NYPD Transit Division 3 properly park their official vehicles in the street parking reserved for them. In addition, we requested that a Traffic Agent be assigned to this corridor to assist with enforcing the parking regulations.

### **CCNY Permanent Closing of Convent Ave (140<sup>th</sup> – 135<sup>th</sup>)**

CB9 was recently informed of plans by CCNY to permanently close Convent Ave. between 140<sup>th</sup> to 135<sup>th</sup> Streets. Upon hearing this possible closing, I requested a meeting with the CCNY's Provost and College President. The lost approximately 5 blocks of parking would have a serious impact on area residents as well as businesses along Amsterdam Ave. In addition, area residents have started a petition pushing back against the College's plan for street closure as well.

## **Houses RAD/PAC Program**

On July 24, a meeting regarding the transferring of Manhattanville Houses into the RD/PAC program was held in the development's Community Center. While I was able to attend the initial part of the meeting, former CB9 members Tiffany Khan and Anita Cheng were able to remain for the entire meeting. Their notes forwarded to CB9 reflected the meeting addressed the following issues:

- \*New lease signings
- \*Apartment Lead abatement
- \* Temporary resident relocation during apartment construction
- \* Availability of Legal Aid representatives during the transition process

Community Board 9 will continue to monitor this transition process to ensure that our neighbors in Manhattanville are properly represented and aware of all the new policies.

## **Community Board # 9 Committee Assignments**

Each year about this time new Community Board Members are assigned to committees. The assignments are based around the member's background/skillsets, individual member's request, as well as the needs of each committee. This assignment process involves the Executive Committee as well as input from our office staff. While every member may not receive their initial choices, we know that all members will give their best to their committee assignments.



Victor Edwards  
Chair of Manhattan Community Board 9