

CHAIR'S REPORT DECEMBER, 2017

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the staff and board of CB9, I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season and all the best for 2018. In 2017, the board has accomplished a lot, supporting residents of HDFCs, in a variety of ways from supporting a halt of HDFCs foreclosure as well as conducting town halls as way of information; we have raised awareness to lead in CB9 homes, and will work with city agencies to ensure the problem is addressed; we have worked with WHDC to ensure that grant awarded groups have a more significant presence at community board meetings. There are many other issues that will be taken up in 2018 including the proposed new building for TCCS and the growth of a business incubator in West Harlem in collaboration with City College and Convent Baptist Church.

Victims of Fire at 561 & 565 Broadway

On Friday Nov. 17th, a large fire destroyed 2 buildings that were located on the corner of 144th and Broadway. The fire resulted in the collapse of 2 floors in 565 Broadway which caused the entire building of 565 Broadway to be evacuated. 561 was temporarily evacuated. Residents from 561 Broadway were displaced to Brooklyn, and has recently started to come back in to the community. However, these families were seriously put at a major disadvantage especially so close to the holiday season. There were 48 families that were affected by the incident, 120 individuals, 9 of which were children. To support these families, the Red Cross initially provided temporary housing, but many basic needs were not adequately met. To address this, a coalition of elected officials, community based organizations, businesses and CB9 came together to provide help. At first, we identified supplies that the families may need immediately. A call went out to the community to send in donated items, with the Board office, BP's Office, 3333 Broadway and Councilman Levine's office acting as drop off points. Over a 3-week span, we had an incredible response! The community fully stepped up and overwhelmed all of the drop off points with items. Convent Avenue Baptist Church acted as a collection point, and opened a brownstone to accommodate all the items. They also hosted a final dinner and giveaway of the items on Dec. 9th. Convent Avenue Baptist Church deserve a resounding round of applause for the support that they provided, including submitting a large number of volunteers to sort through the donated items. Office Castro from 30th and members of the 26th precinct also were very helpful as they arranged transportation of items from 1 point to the other. There was also support from the Consulate General's office of Dominican Republic. Integral to all of this was also the support of individual community members

TCCS

TCCS has been awarded a new building for their school. That's the good news. The bad news is that the building is located some distance away from the initial first site. This raises obvious challenges to parents as well as the staff of TCCS. Below is the letter that was sent out by Principal Verdiner. We will remain engaged with all stakeholders to be supportive of the students as this new building becomes implemented for the 2018-2019 school term.

Hello TCCS Families,

I am happy to announce that TCCS has acquired a second site to house our growing school!

I am committed to share information quickly to our community so please understand that not all questions and specifics are known, however I will remain in constant communication with you as things become clearer.

Here is what we know:

The DOE has signed a lease on the former St. Aloysius School, located at 223 W 132nd Street (between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglass Boulevards). The building is well suited to our needs, and TCCS will be the only occupant.

Ideally, we wanted a building that could house our entire student body but this truly is the next best option. We will remain intact as a learning community that can benefit from both sites. After careful consideration of the sites and the resources available at each location, I have determined that the lower grades will be ideally served at the new location. Features such as bathrooms inside classrooms will be beneficial to our lower grades, while a full service Science Lab and Theater will be beneficial to our upper grades. We will be phasing in, to accommodate the renovations that the School Construction Authority (SCA) will be making on our behalf. For the 2018-19 school year, we are planning to locate Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 at the new building. Additional grades will be added the following year.

I know that we are all attached to our current building, despite its quirks and shortcomings. And I know that change is hard. However, this is a wonderful opportunity for TCCS to create an intimate, nurturing early childhood center in a space that is being outfitted to our specifications.

I'm sure you will have many questions about the details, and I will be happy to address them over the coming weeks and months. Rest assured that operational decisions about schedules, busing, location of staff, specials, after school activities etc. will be thoughtfully worked out to meet the needs of families and staff. In the meantime, know that we will remain one school, with a single vision, and a caring, inclusive community.

I am very pleased with the outcome of our search for space, given the challenges we have faced in recent years. I look forward to leading us, with your assistance and guidance, to realize our school's potential.

I want to thank you for the support and advocacy you have relentlessly exhibited in the name of our students.

Start UP NY:

We are supporting CCNY and Calvin Baptist Church in the growth of an incubator location that would allow for a business a growth in the tech industry and internships for youths within the area. Convent Avenue Baptist, has identified 354 and 356 Convent Avenue as space where this incubator program can be housed. It City College is participatory in Start-UP NY to create tax-free zones on eligible university campuses in New York State for new and expanding businesses

- There will be 3 student interns per semester, (Fall, Spring and Summer), with all efforts being made to recruit students who are residents of CB9. Submission of CCNY campus plan (is it possible to send this to the board?)
- No monetary compensation to business or students, but tax benefits to company and employees that participate
- Partnered with Convent Baptist Church (space accommodation) and Chexology (program development) to serve as incubator development
- The outreach area to businesses encompasses Community Districts 9,10,11 and 12
- There will be 3 student interns per semester, (Fall, Spring and Summer), with all efforts being made to ensure that students that come from the CB9, will be provided at least 1 seat per semester
- Timeline:
 - Go before landmark by Jan 9th, resolution
 - Permits and licenses from DOB Jan-April
 - Construction begins April
 - Program start Jan 2019, with students expected at this time.
- Ongoing discussion with board and other principals to continue to support and enhance community engagement
- Ongoing discussion with CCNY around other needs that can be fulfilled by CCNY faculty and students
- Introduction to other potential business incubators and partners are welcomed

Increasing MWBE Allotments:

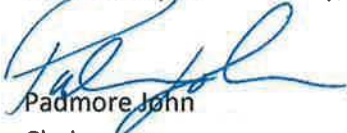
We will be supporting the effort to get Governor Andrew Cuomo to Sign Bill S. 6513-B: Increasing Micro-purchases for MWBE's to \$150,000 from \$20,000. This bill would increase the micro-purchases from \$20,000 to \$150,000 on contracts with minority and women-owned businesses without forcing those businesses to first go through a time-consuming formal competitive bidding process. The passing of this bill will encourage more local firms to become certified and apply for contracting opportunities.

Application for Community Board:

The BP's office has released the latest application for new board members and re-application for current board members. I encourage all community residents to apply, especially the youth (16 and older) and retired members of the community. Please be aware that serving on the board requires a significant time commitment, and anyone applying should ensure they have the capacity to be fully engaged with

the issues the board and respective committees will be facing. Anything other than being fully committed to your role on the board will be a disservice to the board, the community and yourself. Please think carefully, discuss with family and other dependents to ensure that you will be able to full committed to the board.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Padmore John
Chair