



MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 9 - CHAIR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2024

An Evening Honoring Excellence

On December 5, PA'LANTE HARLEM honored four women for their outstanding work in our community. It should be no doubt or surprise that our District Manager, Eutha Prince, was honored at this event. It was a great evening; however, there are no words, flowers, or certificates that honor the work Eutha does for the Board or our community. We are truly grateful to have her on our CB9 team.

Columbia University's Expansion - State Senator Cordell Cleare Bill 2023-S9544

1st Vice-Chair Barry Weinberg and I continue to meet with State Senator Cordell Cleare regarding her State Bill **2023-S9544**. This Bill aims to pause or temporarily halt Columbia's expansion into West Harlem, by pausing the agreement signed with the community in 2008. Our position has been to save and expand on one part of the agreement, the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). Expanding on CBA would greatly assist those most affected in the path of the campus expansion. As new proposals are discussed, we will continue to maintain a seat at the table.

Emma Bowen Temporary Relocation

MCB9 Health & Environment Co-Chair LaQuita Henry and I were escorted on a tour of the temporary location that will house the Emma Bowen Health Center. The new location at 508 W.135th St. will house the Bowen Center until 1727 Amsterdam Ave. is redeveloped as a Support Housing site that will also include the Emma Bowen Health Center.

City Council Member Yusef Salaam

In mid-November, I had a one-on-one meeting with Councilmember Salaam. We reviewed some of the issues impacting Community Board #9:

- Affordable Housing
- Education
- Public Safety
- Mental Health

I made a suggestion that Councilmember and I meet quarterly, to which he agreed. The Councilmember also agreed to visit our General Board meetings occasionally to provide community members with updates.

Trinity Church Meeting

On November 11, MCB9's Housing, Land Use, and Zoning Co-Chair Liz Waytkus and I, along with other community stakeholders, met with members of the NYC Episcopal Archdiocese regarding the future of Trinity Church. The church, located on Convent Ave. at 141st St., has been closed for several years. The discussions revolve around utilizing the church as is for some type of community programming or selling the property to a developer. The archdiocese is weighing out several options for the property and I asked that we be kept apprised of their next steps.

Harlem Holiday Lights Parade

MCB9 participated in the Annual Harlem Holiday Lights parade as a yearly tradition. This year, the MCB9 float was filled with residents from Manhattanville and Grant Houses, State Senator Cordell Cleare, Assemblyman Al Taylor, former Assemblyman Keith Wright, Assemblyman-Elect Jordan Wright, Mayoral Representative Tiffany Brown. MCB9 was represented by Eutha Prince, Barry Weinberg, Monique Hardin-Cordero, Maritta Dunn, Chris Johnson, Miriam Aristy-Farer, and me. We all had a great time on the MCB9 float, as it made its way through the various Harlem neighborhoods along the parade route.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor Edwards".

**Hon. Victor Edwards
Chair-MCB9**