



# Manhattan Community Board 9

## Chair Report February Executive Meeting

### **Community Board Appointments**

*After listening to feedback from Chairs and interview participants, The BP's thought it would be advantageous to separate interviews by Community Board. This means that all of the potential and current CB 9 members will be meeting just among themselves. The concept is for a one hour panel discussion focused on issues impacting CB 9 and featuring all of you! We thought about the areas that you all cover and wanted to create a strong mix of the Chair, a newer board member, along with a committee chair, the district manager, the Councilmember's office and the CB 9 liaison. We will be looking to hold this session on Friday, March 10th from 6-8PM, here at 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South-Large Conference Room.*

### **Co-location of TCCS and PS36**

*In light of the continued issue around the co-location of TCCS and PS36m, the Youth, Education and Libraries (YEL) Committee has attended and added its voice to growing concerns about the pace of achieving a solution and what exactly that best solution may be. There remains quite a distance between where the School Construction Authority is in its assessment of the situation and what needs to be done. YEL has raised these current points: (1) DOE attend to the most urgent needs for improvements in the M036 building before the 2017-2018 school year. (2) SCA devise a long-term plan under which all grades served by TCCS, from pre-K to 8th, will be housed in the same building. (3) The long-term plan for TCCS take effect sooner than the 2020-2021 school year. (4) DOE work with both schools to ensure that PS036 students will have access to the same extracurricular activities that will be available to TCCS students. These are just the right thing to do for our students and the community.*

### **Support for The School at Columbia (TSC) Parents**

*It has come to my attention that many of the needs of social support that are due to many parents at TSC has not been forthcoming. This specifically arose as a parent from the school reached out to me in need of assistance because of bullying her daughter was facing. Having not received any help from the school, she was forced to go out on her own to achieve this assistance for her daughter and herself. I have since had the opportunity to speak to the Head of School and raise this to his awareness. TSC is now currently undergoing an investigation into what support should have been provided that was not. We are scheduled to have a follow-up in a few months once the investigation is completed. We have also identified other parents who have gone through similar situations. We will be convening a meeting of these parents with YEL and look to devise a solution to these issues.*

**CB9 Newsletter**

*I would like to give a big thanks and appreciation to Hleziphi Zita and our DM Eutha for the hard work and planning that went into the development of our first newsletter. This is another opportunity to work with the board and community members to raise issues to greater visibility as well as tell the stories of many of the residents that we call neighbors. We ask that you submit ideas that you would like to see in the newsletter as well as organizations in the community that might be well served in putting some of their hard and great work that they are completing on behalf of CB9.*



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#### **Community Board Appointments**

*Letters have NOT gone out. The BP's office has not yet send out appointment letters to new or potential returning members. The BP's staff is currently working on finalizing the appoinments, which were expected to go out last Friday.*

#### **Co-location of TCCS and PS36**

*The Manhattan Borough President's Office is hosting two information sessions with the New York City Regional Economic Development Council (REDC). The Governor announced that \$750 million will be awarded through the 10 New York State Councils this year - this is the same amount awarded last year and the NYC Council received over \$80 million in awards.*

*This is a great opportunity to ask questions to the state as well as speak with past award recipients, so I'm asking you all to spread the word. I have attached the flyer and below is the information to register for each session:*

*Downtown Info Session: Tuesday, April 25 @ 8:30am at the Manhattan Borough President's Office:*

*<https://redcinfodowntown.eventbrite.com><https://redcinfodowntown.eventbrite.com>*

*Uptown Info Session: Monday, May 22 @ 8:30am at the Harlem State Office Building:*

*<https://redcinfouptown.eventbrite.com><https://redcinfouptown.eventbrite.com>*

*OVER \$750 MILLION is avail- able statewide this year to provide funding to businesses and other organizations for direct assistance, community development projects, waterfront revitalization, and workforce development. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, the New York City Regional Economic Development Council, the Empire State Development Corporation, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and NYC Innovation Collectives are joining to host two information sessions on the funding process where people can learn more about how to apply.*

*Visit [regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/new-york-city](http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/new-york-city) for more information*

#### **Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities Report for Fiscal Year 2018**

*The BPs office released it priority report for 2018, its available on their website. Below is an excerpt specifically speaking to the role and support needed for Community Boards.*

Community Boards are not just a place where local residents file complaints about noise, street repaving, and sidewalk cafes; they serve as key partners in helping the City to better understand local agency needs, review applications for neighborhood development, and provide important information to their constituencies on behalf of elected officials, non-profits, and small businesses. Alongside a handful of professional staff members, Community Boards are run by dedicated volunteers who are invested in their neighborhoods and in our City. Our commitment must match theirs. In the Borough President's response to the FY17 Executive Budget, we expressed the large—and increasing—needs of local Community Boards.

In this budget, Manhattan's 12 Community Boards have been allocated around \$4.075 million to account for PS and OTPS costs (including rent). That means that, on average, these crucial government offices will operate on a budget of about \$340,000—with one Community Board being allocated just about \$240,000. This funding level does not represent the necessary commitment on behalf of the City to foster successful, engaged Community Boards. We know and understand the importance of community board recommendations. These funds do not represent what is needed for significant technology and software upgrades as well as continuing maintenance, such as the license fees for GIS. These fees allow the Community Boards to map and visualize critical concerns and to take advantage of the wealth of data available from the city agencies. The FY18 funding levels are not sufficient to allow for the flexibility and bandwidth for coordinated outreach on significant land use proposals – whether it's advanced mailings, copies of the applications, larger hearing rooms, or translation services. The Community Boards are the first line in defense against poor land use planning but without a substantive budget we are not giving the boards the tools to succeed.

As elected officials, and increasingly civically engaged communities, have increased their expectations of Community Boards—including live streaming of open meetings through legislation sponsored by Borough President Brewer, providing translation services, and addressing requests for ASL interpretation—we have not increased our financial commitments to keep up with the additional demand. As we move in the direction of greater transparency of our local affairs through online content and added technology, we must ensure that the technical assistance, physical software, and added staff capacity is available to every single Community Board as needed.

We are recommending an increase to the budgets of each of the 12 Manhattan Community Boards to \$400,000 cover those costs (not including rent). That means that each Community

Board would receive roughly \$167,000 additional dollars for a borough-wide total of about \$2,004,000. While 2 million dollars may represent a drop in the bucket in a budget totaling over 84 billion dollars, it represents a transformative investment into our local communities.

## **Summer 2017 High School Internships at Columbia University**

*Columbia University Facilities and Operations provides a wide range of services to the University community including planning, design, construction management and operations.*

*This summer we are offering paid internships for high school students living in the local community looking to gain real work experience before graduation. Previous work experience is a plus, but not required. The paid internships begin on July 10, 2017 and end on August 18, 2017. Applicants must be 16 years old at the time of the start of the internship and will need working papers. Interns will be paid New York State minimum wage. Positions ranging from Project Management and Capital Finance to Communication and Outreach Support.*

*Visit CB9 website for further information.*

## **DEP North River Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Reported out by Humberto Galarza

As per our conversation today, DEP completed the State DEC Consent Order 1 year formaldehyde monitoring requirement from 9/25/2015 through 9/26/2016. This is the reason we have stopped providing you [CB9] with the formaldehyde sampling results.

We have submitted all the data to DEC.

The formaldehyde sampling results have been well below the DEC standards. These recorded levels do not pose an immediate health risk to Residents or park visitors.

DEC and DEP have had discussions after the one year monitoring requirement. It was proposed DEP would do some additional sampling, but briefly, not consistent as we did in the consent order. Again the results have been the same.

In addition here are some brief North River updates.

DEP has allocated 230 million dollars for the North River Cogeneration & Electrification project, which replaces the North River engines with a clean burning system which will significantly cut formaldehyde emissions.

DEP has already begun making preparations internally for this project. Construction will begin later this year.

DEP has previously replaced the H2S air monitoring equipment. The equipment is functioning properly, no current issues or violations.

In addition, with a new contract, at the beginning of this year, DEP also replaced the opacity air monitoring equipment as well. Eight opacity monitors in total. The equipment is up and running, normal operation and currently no issues or violations.

The H2S & Opacity air monitoring 2016 fourth quarter reports are posted on our DEP website for public viewing.

We also recently conducted the stacks test. Lastly DEP has not recently received an air complaint.