

Chair's Report

February 15, 2024

Columbia University Meeting – President

In mid-January 1st Vice –Chair, Barry Weinberg and I met with Columbia University's President, Minouche Shafik. Accompanying President Shafik at the meeting were Phoebe Arnold, Loftin Flowers, and Shailagh Murray. After introductions, we spoke about the following topics: West Harlem CBA, improving campus access to the community, construction of an H.S. within the campus, housing for local residents within Columbia apartment buildings, and providing campus tours for local schools. President Shafik was very engaging with us during the meeting and promised to meet regularly.

Borough President's Monthly Boro Board Meeting - The City of Yes

January's B. P's Boro Bd. meeting addressed the *City of YES* - Economic Opportunity program. This initiative involves changes to zoning under Dept. City Planning to encourage economic growth within the city. These changes would involve manufacturing districts, home businesses, and entertainment areas to name a few areas. Since CB9 had not voted before this meeting I couldn't testify on behalf of the Board at this meeting.

CB9 Monthly Board Meeting - January 18

The January CB9 General Board meeting was dedicated in large part to *The City of Yes* (Economic Opportunity). The Dept. of City Planning provided an overview of proposed zoning changes to spur economic growth. Bd Members voted on the presented proposals after the completed presentation.

Board Member Attendance Review

In early February seven members of CB9 were requested to attend a meeting regarding their "attendance issues". Before the meeting, two Board Members contacted the Chair to resign, due to conflicts with their work schedules. One of the remaining 5 Bd. members did appear at the meeting to explain their attendance issues. The remaining members will receive certified letters to appear before the Exc. Bd. and explain their attendance issues. As I have mentioned on several occasions, most people who apply and join the Board have great intentions but often don't realize the time commitment required.