



CHAIR'S REPORT JANUARY 2024

NYS Opening Meeting Law

On December 21, a hearing was held on the NYS Open Meeting Law (OML) at our Borough President's offices. As current guidelines will be expiring in the coming month, feedback has been requested from users of the OML. I testified at this hearing on my behalf since our Board (CB9) had yet to vote on the OML's current guidelines. I stated that Board members who attend virtually should be counted as part of the required number of members for a voting quorum. As our city's workforce has moved to a more remote work environment, the OML should follow as well.

End of Year Celebration

The CB9 December General Board meeting was held on December 21, at the Columbia Forum. This meeting was focused on celebrating the exemplary/outstanding work of our Board members and great CB9 staff. CB9 received food from 4 neighborhood restaurants and stores for this event: Westside Market, Dinosaur BBQ, La Esquina del Salmon, and Oasis Jimma Juice Bar. The food was delicious while providing Board members/CB9 staff an opportunity to relax and socialize with each other.

Cannabis Task Dispensary Interviews

The 2nd round of interviews for potential cannabis dispensaries in CB9 was held on December 28. The interviews are a robust discussion with potential dispensary owners on how they will integrate this type of business into the community. Topics including store security, crowd control, and hours of operation are reviewed. To date, the Task Force has interviewed 4 individuals for dispensaries within CB9.

Floridita Restaurant – Community Art Space (proposed)

The Arts and Culture Co-Chair, Daria Hardeman, and I visited the former Floridita restaurant site to examine it as a possible temporary Community art space. The space would house the newly formed West Harlem Arts Alliance (WHAA) and would be open to the community for various art exhibitions, performances, and recitals. The West Harlem CBA requires that Columbia University provide the community with 5000 sq. ft. of arts/performance within the new campus. If agreed upon by all parties this space (Floridita) would be an interim location until the next section of the CU campus is constructed, where a permanent art space would be housed.



CB9 Chair's Monthly Activities

St Mary's Church – 200th Anniversary

On December 24, I had the pleasure of attending the 200th Anniversary of St. Mary's church on 126th St. adjacent to the former CB9 offices on Old Broadway. St. Mary has been active in the CB9 community on several fronts for the betterment of the community.

3333 Broadway Christmas Tree Lighting

At the invitation of the 3333 Broadway Tenant Association, I had the opportunity to attend their annual tree-lighting celebration. It was great to see the young people performing and mingling with the seniors of this complex.

Black Liberation Church

During December I was fortunate to visit the church of our former CB9 member, Derrick Johnson. The Black Liberation Church which holds services within the Riverside Church complex was celebrating its first anniversary. Although no longer on our Board (CB9) Derrick continues to serve our CB9 community.