

Chair Report March 16th, 2017

Good evening, and welcome to the March March meeting of Community Board 9's general meeting. We are currently in the midst of extreme freezing weather, with another expected storm within the next couple of days. During this time, I ask that you take the time out to stop in on a senior citizen that you know of to ensure that they are not adversely affected by the weather. Please report any incidences of No Heat via 311, while this may not immediately solve the issue a track record of making the complaint is important in getting to a resolution.

Social Media Initiative

CB 9 is spearheading an initiative to increase communication with the general public by enhancing its social media presence on different platforms. The initiative, in line with our new website (www.cb9m.org), serves to improve communication between the board and the community. By increasing access to the board office as well as raising awareness to issues that affect the community, we hope the new social media push will allow for greater interaction between the board and community residents. This initiative is led by Board Member Hon. Jonathon Thomas and will be done in conjunction with the Youth and Libraries committee as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem.

Create NYC

The Board Office and I encourage you to attend the website www.createnyc.org. With funding from the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, the Hester Street Collaborative is leading CreateNYC to create a long term roadmap for promoting greater equity, access, diversity and vibrancy, and expanding opportunities for ALL New Yorkers to access and participate in the city's rich cultural life. This is vitally important as a recent report by the University of Pennsylvania shows that Arts and Culture improve health, safety and well-being in New York City's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. This is vital as recent reports show that economic standing, race, and ethnicity are the strongest influences on social wellbeing. However, if we control for these factors statistically, we find that the presence of cultural resources in a neighborhood has a significant positive impact on a neighborhood's health, the outcomes of its schools, and its crime rate. According to our analysis, among neighborhoods in the lowest 40 percent of the income distribution, (compared to those with few cultural assets) those with many cultural assets enjoy:

- 14 percent reduction in indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect,
- 5 percent reduction in obesity,
- 18 percent increase in kids scoring in the top stratum on English Language Arts and Math exams, and
- 18 percent reduction in the serious crime rate.

This report can be accessed at <https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/new-research-shows-arts-culture-improve-health-safety-well/>

By responding to the survey you can advocate that resources for the arts be dedicated to CB9 organizations.

Newsletter

The CB9 Newsletter is being finalized for release shortly. As indicated previously the Newsletter will serve to highlight activities that the Board is addressing, as well as provide greater insight into community happenings. We are also encouraging local organizations reach out to the board office to be featured in a spotlight section that serves to give further information about the organization. We believe this is an opportunity for the community board to be able to speak to the positive work that is being done by these community based organizations.

LGBTQ Taskforce

The LGBTQ Taskforce will be resuming meetings, with meetings occurring on the 3rd Monday of the month. It is important to realize the role that this taskforce is assuming in the current political climate. CB9 represents a diverse and multi-ethnic group of people and its important that everyone within the community feel welcomed but also that resources that are made available to everyone, is also accessible to this community. One of the agenda items that serves to be addressed is the allocation of funds that serve the LGBTQ community, and that this community has input in the allocation of resources. We encourage all board and community members to attend the meetings if you are available.