

Manhattan Community Board 9

Chair's Report March - 2024

Rat Containerization Program - February 15

At the February MCB9 General Board meeting two DSNY Assistant Commissioners provided updates on the Rat Containerization pilot program and its expansion throughout the District.

Several area residents, along with MCB9 Board members expressed their dissatisfaction with the program. The lack of transparency and inclusion was highlighted, as it had been in prior meetings. Members of the audience requested that the DSNY Commissioner attend the next General Board meeting on March 21, to provide a clearer understanding and hear resident concerns. A request for DSNY Commissioner Tisch to attend our General Board meeting was forwarded to 1st Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright.

On March 12, a follow-up meeting was held with DSNY, Commissioner Tisch was present along with the other DSNY team members. I expressed the Board's and community's discontent with the lack of feedback and transparency thus far. The Commissioner informed us that a new program with side-loading trucks would be introduced in the Spring of 2025 and also committed to better communication with the community.

Montefiore Park Town Hall Meeting- February 27

Councilmember Shaun Abreu hosted a Town Hall meeting regarding activities related to Montefiore Park. The emphasis of this meeting was to address the conditions in, around, and across the street from the park (Broadway/138th -136th). A variety of representatives from City agencies were in attendance to listen to resident concerns. These issues range from homelessness, drug dealing/consumption, sale of stolen items to mental health issues.

- The 30th PCT committed to increased patrols of the area.
- DHS will be investigating to determine what services would be appropriate.
- Several other agency representatives committed to assisting where needed after a full evaluation.

A follow-up meeting will be held on March 27 by the Montefiore Park group.

BRC/P.S. 153 Parent Association meeting - March 6

On Wednesday, March 6, the Parent Association of P.S.153 held a community forum regarding 1727 Amsterdam Ave. This forum addressed the construction of a new supportive housing building directly across from the school. I noted for the attendees that CB9 had previously and still opposed the construction of the new building for several

reasons, including the lack of engagement by BRC with community stakeholders, the lack of "real" affordable housing, and the displacement of several health-related facilities from the building. In addition, a large number of apartments that will be available to the public through a lottery will be for families with incomes at 60% of AMI (\$84,000), which is

out of reach for many of our community families. BRC committed to improving its community outreach and will be in touch with CB9 for the next steps.

Columbia University In-Kind Benefits - March 8

As a part of the Community Benefits Agreement, Columbia University offers a variety of In-Kind Benefits. One of these In-Kind resources is the use of various facilities on the campus.

To facilitate, reserve, and track the use of the various Columbia facilities by the community, a meeting was held with Columbia representatives, WHDC, and me. A reservation form was developed by Columbia and WHDC, which was reviewed at this meeting. It was agreed that with minor changes to approve the form and move forward with the process for reserving campus facilities. This process will enable a better use of campus by the community.

2025 Budget Commentary Letter

The 2025 Budget commentary letter was prepared by CB 9's 1st Vice Chair Barry Weinberg. In addition to Vice-Chair Weinberg's excellent preparation, several Committee Co-Chairs made additional comments on behalf of their assigned areas. Co-Chair of YEL, Deidre McIntosh-Brown received feedback from D.O.E regarding a request for a new school facility. We eagerly await any news to provide additional educational opportunities within our District.

West Harlem Development Corporation – Marc 13

On March 13, I had the opportunity to attend the West Harlem Development Corp. monthly board meeting. This meeting provided me a chance to introduce myself as the new Chair of MCB9 and to meet the entire WHDC Board of the organization. I was able expressed the community's thanks for some of the great programing provided by WHDC including Broadway plays for our seniors and most recently the opportunity for Seniors and young people to see the new Ava DuVernay film "Origin"

Chair's Monthly Activities

Yusef Salaam Inauguration - February 28

On February 28, I along with several CB9 Board Members had the opportunity to attend the inauguration of Councilmember Yusef Salaam. It was a great beginning for the Council member, with speakers that included D.A. A. Bragg, Rev. Al Sharpton, and C. Virginia Fields to name a few. Council Member Salaam stressed. educational opportunities, affordable housing, and a united community during his speech.

Mark Levine - State of the Borough

On March 3, Borough President Mark Levine held his State of the Borough address at Hunter College. B.P Levine focused on several issues that included a lack of affordable housing, an increase in overall crime as well as issues surrounding homelessness.

UNLESS YOU ARE A NATIVE AMERICAN OR BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY IN CHAINS, WE ALL ARE IMMIGRANTS

AND WE ALL HAD TO START SOMEWHERE

Submitted by,

Victor Edwards
Chair
03/21/24