



Manhattan Community Board – 9 Chair’s Report - October 2023

Community Board Member Attendance

In Person, attendance at committee and our General Board meetings is still lacking to a great extent. There must be an **IN PERSON quorum** to vote on Board business at the General Board as well as Committee meetings. Many of us became used to the convenience of attending meetings from our homes during the pandemic. At the present time, the Manhattan Community Board rules require an In Person quorum to vote on any Board business. The only exceptions for not attending In Person are for extenuating circumstances which require approval 48 hrs. prior to the meeting from the Chair or 2nd Vice for General Board meetings and from one of the Committee Co-Chairs for committee meetings.

2025 Budget / District Needs

One of the most important times of the year is upon us, Budget and District needs submissions. This is our opportunity to express the community's concerns that impact our everyday lives. I have sat in on some of our committee's meetings and observed the thoughtfulness that is going into these submissions. Every committee needs to make this their main priority until completed in full.

Cannabis Dispensary Applications

Applications for cannabis dispensaries are now being received by all CB's, including CB9. Our Cannabis Task Force has drafted a comprehensive application process, considering factors that impact our community. The review of these applications will be administered by our Uniform Services Transportation Committee and our Cannabis Task Force.

1727 Amsterdam Ave.

The multiservice health building at 1727 Amsterdam Ave. remains a major concern for CB9. In addition to the resolution CB9 passed at our September 21 General Board, I have arranged a meeting with First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright to discuss the matter.

In discussions with Heritage Health this month, I was informed that they have concerns with the length of time they may be allowed to remain in 1727 Amsterdam Ave until their new space is completed. Heritage Health also informed us that the Dentist formerly housed at 1727 Amsterdam Ave would be joining them at their new location.



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In speaking with the Emma Bowen Center representative last week, I assured the representative that if CB9's assistance was needed during their temporary relocation or during their move back to 1727 Amsterdam Ave. CB9 would assist them. I also expressed concern that they would be provided with the same amount of space for programming as they are currently utilizing. I will attempt to confirm this with the Developer BRC.

Columbia Manhattanville Family Day – October 21

At the October 9, Columbia Manhattanville Family Day planning meeting, it was decided that a separate event would be required to encompass the full plans for the Health/Environment resource fair. A separate date will be explored with Columbia and the Health/Environment committee.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIR

Columbia University President's Inauguration

On October 4, I had the pleasure of attending the inauguration of Minouche Shafik as President of Columbia University. President Shafik is the first woman and first person of color to be named President of Columbia University. The ceremony was held in front of the Low Library and attended by several hundred invited guests.

Team Up to Clean Up

Team Up to Clean took place on October 8 this year and once again was a huge success. Although the event had to be pushed back a day due to rain, that didn't dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of the participants. I met up with our own Signe Mortensen at 10:00 a.m. and then set off to clean the Broadway Malls. By all accounts, there was a great turnout of people wanting to beautify their neighborhood.

Morningside Heights Community Breakfast

On October 10, I attended a breakfast hosted by Columbia University for several Morningside community organizations. This event was an opportunity to meet several Morningside organizations that I had not previously met. The Resident Association Presidents of Grant Houses and Morningside Gardens also attend thus providing me an opportunity to speak directly with them. It also provided another chance for me to speak with President Shafik of Columbia University.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Edwards
Chair