



Serving Sugar Hill, Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights

Chair's Report **October 2024**

New Board Member Orientation

CB9 orientation for new members was held on September 23 at the CB9 office. This session was organized and hosted by 1st Vice-Chair, Barry Weinberg and 2nd Vice-Chair, Monique Hardin-Cordero. This meeting is used to familiarize new members with the Board By-Laws, Attendance Requirements, and Board protocols as well as obtain feedback.

Rezoning - 701 W. 135th St.

In late September, several CB9 Board Members including myself, provided testimony against the rezoning of 701 W. 135. The rezoning would allow for the construction of a residential building at the location. While we all acknowledge the need for housing, the risk at this location (Amtrak train / major natural gas pipeline inlet) outweighs the benefits. A City Council vote has yet to take place on this issue.

CCNY President

On September 30, I had the opportunity to meet with CCNY President Boudreau. Our meeting was based around a possible request by CCNY to close of Convent Ave. (135th - 140th) for a student Plaza. While a formal request has not been submitted to DOT yet, we discussed the impact this closure would have on the surrounding community. This meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss some cooperative efforts between CB9 and CCNY.

Morningside Park Waterfall

After six years of silence the Morningside Park Waterfall was reactivated on October 4. I joined local Elected's and Columbia representatives in a ceremony and celebration noting this event. The Waterfall has been a fascinating feature of the park that is enjoyed by the community's young and old alike.

Commemorating the 1968 Protest Against in Morningside Park

Recently I was able to approach both Columbia University and NYC Parks Dept. regarding installation of a plaque commemorating the 1968 protest in Morningside Park. The protest by students and community members was a push-back to Columbia's planned athletic building at Morningside Park site. We will be pushing forward with this effort in conjunction with our Electeds to make this vision a reality.



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FY26 District Needs Statement & Prioritization of the Capital & Expense Budget Requests

It's once again that time for the Board to submit our FY26 District Needs Statement and the Prioritization of our Capital and Expense Budget Requests. The Narratives (which the DM has emailed) are the Board's Statement regarding the essential needs of the community and are vital when addressing the District's Needs as well as the Prioritization of our Capital & Expense Budget Requests; which have also been emailed. We can't stress enough how important it is for each committee to provide their submissions, if not already done so prior to our Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. (see attached Flyer).

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Victor Edwards', is written in black ink.

Victor Edwards

Chair

10/17/24