



CHAIR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2025

1727 Amsterdam Ave - Public Hearing

The lecture hall at CCNY was filled to capacity (100 participants) and another 60 attendees online for the Public Hearing regarding the disposition of the 1727 Amsterdam Ave. Representatives from the city's Health & Hospitals, Dept. of City Planning, Housing Preservation & Development, along with the developer, BRC, provided presentations to the gathered audience. Issues raised by participants included: over saturation of similar facilities in the area, the need for more affordable housing units in the proposed building, the proximity of the building to local schools, libraries, and day care centers, were raised along with those in favor of the plan and the need to treat and house our neighbors.

New CB9 Co-Chairs

It is a pleasure to welcome two new Co-Chairs to their positions on the Board. Marquis Bell will be joining Veronica Savage on the Landmarks, Preservation and Parks (LPP) Committee and member Dejon Delpino will be joining Chris Johnson on the Strategic Planning Task Force. We wish them both well in their new roles and thank Heather Jason for her leadership on LPP over the past several years.

State Senator Bill Perkins Street Co-Naming

On Saturday October 4, I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony for the street co-naming of former State Senator Bill Perkins. As most of you know this Harlemit was a pillar of our community. The turnout of dignitaries was overwhelming and included Congressman Espaillat, Mayor Adams, District Attorney Bragg, Assembly Members Wright and Taylor, Council Members Brewer and Salaam. We trust that his work in the community will continue to inspire others along the same path.

Morningside Heights Community Coalition Columbia University Demonstration

Earlier this month I attended and spoke at the "Open the Gates" rally at Columbia University. The rally organized by the Morningside Heights Community Coalition calls for Columbia University to reopen the gates that provide access to traverse the 116th corridor. CB9 members Lydia Gerson and Michael Gross were also in attendance at the rally. Michael delivered remarks from a student perspective urging that the gates be reopened to the community. While the University has made concessions and allowed some district resident's access to the 116th pathway, we join MHCC in demanding that more access to the 116th corridor be provided to the community.