



THE CITY OF NEW YORK **COMMUNITY BOARD 9** MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

CHAIR'S REPORT September 2026

Welcome / Welcome Back

As this new session of Community Board 9 begins, I am excited to welcome back our dedicated members and welcome our nine newest Board Members. A special welcome to our three High School students joining us this year and our new Senior Action Co-Chair, Theresa Coles-Ragin.

New Member Orientation

On September 3rd, we held a new member orientation at the Community Board 9 office. Vice-Chairs Monique Hardin-Cordero and John-Martin Green joined me, for this on-boarding meeting. Our meeting included a review of CB9 Bylaws, CB9 Community Partners, Board Members' responsibilities, the importance of in-person attendance, and a suggestion for members to review Robert's Rules of Order.

Columbia University Rally to Open the Gates

Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC) invited CB9 to join their Rally to Open Main Gates at Columbia University. As Chair of the Board, I was asked to speak to those assembled at the rally, along with CB9 Board Member and MHCC member Michael Gross. CB9 joins our community partners in working toward restoring open access to the Columbia campus. This "public corridor" remains a vital passageway, especially to our seniors, physically challenged individuals, and business neighbors.

Riverside Drive Viaduct Construction

The Riverside Viaduct construction has been delayed since 2024, when the contractor Judalu walked off the job in a dispute with NYC. This work stoppage has affected residents along Riverside Drive, particularly between 152nd and 158th streets. The courts recently ruled in favor of NYC and we received notice this week that work will begin at the site.

Social Media and Office Visibility

CB9 Board Member Kristina Maria Lopez, has graciously volunteered to help improve CB9's overall visibility. This includes our social media presence, newsletter (along with Monique Hardin-Cordero), as well as improving our office window postings. We also welcome Board Member's input to improve our visibility to the community.

Columbia University's Breakfast Event

To introduce the new Columbia University President (Jennifer Mnookin) to the community, a breakfast was held at the Columbia University Forum. Several Board members and I were fortunate enough to be invited to attend this memorable event. We look forward to connecting with President Mnookin and her staff in the coming months.

1727 Amsterdam Ave Town Hall Meeting

In early August, a meeting was held at the Our Lady of the Lords School gymnasium regarding the redevelopment of 1727 Amsterdam Ave. The West Harlem Community Preservation Organization (WHCPO) organized and hosted the meeting. Several speakers, including myself and former CB9 Chair Barry Weinberg, spoke about the impact this redevelopment will have on the immediate community. The new plan will eliminate the Heritage Health Center, the ophthalmologist, and the dentist who has served this community for many years. The Emma Bowen Health Center will be returning to the new building but only at half the facility space they currently utilize. A lawsuit has been initiated to revise this plan and to include more community health services.

RKO Theatre Site Redevelopment

The potential developer for the RKO Theater site (146th St. Broadway) met with several Board members to discuss plans to redevelop the site. The plan calls for an eleven-story building consisting of 99 apartments along with a "Community Art Space". Rents would be set at 80% of AMI, with 21 permanently affordable units. Several variances must be granted before this project can move forward. CB9 expressed our desire for apartment rents to be more reflective of incomes of CB9 residents.

National Night Out Against Crime

The annual "National Night Out Against Crime" was held this year on August 4th. As is tradition, several CB9 Board members attended both the 30pct and 26pct events. The 30 Pct event was hosted by CB9's own Joyce Adewumi, where our District Manager, Eutha Prince, and I were both honored with certificates of appreciation.

***AS ALWAYS THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING AND DILIGENT OFFICE STAFF FOR THEIR HARD WORK**

Respectfully Submitted,



Victor Edwards
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 9