

THE MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS/WEST HARLEM SANITATION COALITION, INC.

100 La Salle Street #19F, New York, NY 10027 (212) 666-6157

General Grant Residents' Association
Morningside Gardens Community Relations
Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Riverview Towers Community Relations Comm.
600 Block Association of West 147th Street
Spencer Apartments
Volunteers for Tiemann Place
West Harlem Coalition
Westside Heights Citizens League
West 122nd-123rd Street Block Association
West 147th Street Block Association

Joan Levine & Sarah Martin, Co-Chair
Martha Cain, Secretary
Marie Ledoux, Assistant Secretary
& Rep. To OVN
Gloria Allen, Treasurer
Joan Morford, Representative at large
Linda Prince, Representative at large
Cynthia Doty, Community Organizer

Good Evening:

My name is Joan S. Levine and I am Co-Chair with Mrs. Sarah Martin of the Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, Inc. Mrs. Martin is President of the Grant Houses Residents Association, a public housing development containing 1940 units. I am the former chair of the Community Relations Committee at Morningside Gardens, a co-op containing almost 1000 apartments adjacent to Grant Houses. Both developments were part of the same redevelopment project completed in 1957.

Almost 20 years ago the groups from the two complexes formed the Coalition in order to work on quality of life issues in our neighborhood together. We decided correctly that "in unity there was strength". Since that time we have been a force in the community. A few of our accomplishments are: working to make the elevated section of the #1 train more attractive and less noisy, getting empty lots cleaned up, working across property lines to reduce rat infestations. Most importantly, we have given hands-on recycling workshops all over the district. The most Herculean pilot project that we undertook was bringing recycling to Grant Houses, the only public housing development now that recycles above the City average. (Please see the NY Times of July 4, 2009 for a major article about this enormous undertaking.)

All of these accomplishments would NOT have been possible if both developments had not been in the same Councilmanic, Assembly and State Senatorial districts. Because of this we can thank former Councilman Michels, current Councilman Jackson, former Assembly Member Sullivan, current Assembly Member O'Donnell and Senator Perkins for their help with our work throughout the years.

The projected redistricting lines for the new District 7 keep us together once more. It is imperative that the final draft does the same.

Thank you.



Joan S. Levine
October 4, 2012