



# Community Board No. 10 - Manhattan

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## Community Board 10 General Board Meeting Minutes May 5, 2010

Rules and order of meeting were announced by Franc Perry, Chairperson, Community Board 10 called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Perry made a brief announcement and stated that on behalf of the Community Board 10 he welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the attendees for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting. He also introduced the newest Board Member the Honorable Tanisha Smith.

Crystal McKay, Sergeant-at-Arms, reviewed appropriate behavior and protocol for community board meetings.

- I. **Community First**-Henrietta Lyle, Vice Chair opened the Community First segment of the meeting she then called upon:

**Ernestine Temple Bell from Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell's Office** wanted to convey his well wishes for Mother's Day and apologized for not being able to attend this meeting due to his work on the State budget in Albany. Ms. Bell distributed Assemblyman Farrell's monthly report and also announced that his office offers various services for the community including notary services. Their office is located in the Esplanade Gardens and Ms. Bell can be reached at (212) 234-1430. Lastly, in regards to the Mother Clara Bus Depot update, Mr. Calloway will be making an announcement with updates later in the meeting.

**Jacob Morris of the Harlem Historical Society** addressed the Board regarding four resolutions they will be voting on related to the history of Harlem. Mr. Morris wanted to thank the Parks/Recreation/Transportation Committee and its members in particular Mr. Melvin Christian and Ms. Deborah Gilliard. He also thanked Chairman Perry and every member of the Board as well as the members of the community. The Board will be voting on street naming for Judge Bruce Wright, Madam C.J. A'Lelia Walker, Jack Johnson and the Respect for our Historic Heritage Appropriate Symbolic Street Signage Placement Resolution. Mr. Morris stated that it is here where we demand that these individuals are honored properly. History is local but this history belongs to all of Harlem, New York City, the United States and the world.

**Maurice Cummings from Assemblyman Keith Wright's office** announced that Assemblyman Wright is still in Albany working on the State budget and trying to get it processed as quickly as possible. The Assemblyman is concerned about the youth and their ability to find jobs this summer. With the crisis within the State of New York right now it will be difficult for them to find something constructive to do this summer. Assemblyman Wright is starting an initiative with business owners asking for their assistance and looking for comprehensive youth programs and/or opportunities. He is asking that you contact his office at (212) 866-5809 for more information. An event for the Mother's Day celebration will be held on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. in front of the Family Pharmacy located on 125<sup>th</sup> Street between St. Nicholas and Morningside Ave. This pharmacy is owned by Dr. Patel who is very involved in the community and has worked with State Committee Chair Teresa Freeman and with senior programs in

Harlem. Venues, give-a-ways and free consultations will be available that include: Visiting Nurse Services of New York, Mental Health Association of New York, Grown New York City National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Breast Exam Center of Harlem, Access New York, Harlem Hospital, 311 Information, City Harvest, American Heart Association and Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E. Lastly on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> CB 10 Board member Angela Hollis CEO of Hollis Group hosted the introduction to the 2010 "Listening Tour." Assemblyman Wright visited her residence and met with constituents and listened to their concerns and/or issues they wanted to personally discuss with him. He would like to attend a few more during the summer. If you would like to host an event you will need a minimum of 15 people. For more information, please contact Ms. McCannon at (212) 866-5809.

**Earl Whitted from Harlem Dowling Westside Center** introduced himself to the Board and guests. Mr. Whitted is an educator technician for the Harlem Dowling Westside Center for Children and Family Services and is here speaking on behalf of the Specialized Services Department. This program is funded by the New York State Department of Health, the AIDS Institute and the Multi-Services Agency Initiative. Their mission is to bring HIV/AIDS prevention education and outreach to the community through lectures, presentations, and community level events. The first event for the spring "Family Nutrition Day" will be held on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. They will be giving out fresh fruits and vegetables to members of the community. They will also conduct workshops related to nutrition. The location for this event is being coordinated with Harlem Children's Zone and it is yet to be determined. The second event will take place on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and it is called the Second Annual Youth Empowerment Health Fair at P.S. 175 on 135<sup>th</sup> Street. They will be providing free screenings and HIV testing along with some music. Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Jackie Robinson Park on 145<sup>th</sup> Street. They will be hosting a National HIV Testing Day event providing free HIV testing and workshops designed to raise health awareness. The Harlem Dowling Westside Center is a long term community based non-for-profit organization established in 1836. They provide services for children and families which include: adoption, foster care, supportive housing and many other services including an emergency food pantry open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information visit the website at [www.harlemdowling.org](http://www.harlemdowling.org) or by calling (212) 749-3656.

**Carmen de La Rosa from the office of Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell** announced that Assemblyman O'Donnell is in Albany working on the State budget and that a copy of his monthly newsletter will be available in the back of the room. Assemblyman O'Donnell's office is collecting gently used books for children and young adults. These books will be donated to Project Cicero. The Cicero Project helps public schools in the city establish and organize their libraries. Their office is located at 245 W. 104<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and West End Avenue. Lastly, on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Red Oak Apartments located at 135 West 106 Street Assemblyman O'Donnell is hosting an event for rent control tenants and there will be a panel of experts that will educate tenants on rent increases, fuel adjustment costs and other related issues.

**Robert Alleyne Membership and Healthy Lifestyle Director of the Harlem YMCA** announced that they are currently enrolling members for their summer programs. The summer membership fee for adults is \$200.00 which is good through Labor Day. For families with children under the age of 17 the membership fee is \$275.00. Enrollment has begun and the last day to enroll in the program is June 30<sup>th</sup>. The membership does include exercise classes such as yoga, pilates, stretch, cardio kick and other activities. There is an open house scheduled for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for summer camp. Financial assistance is available. Flyers with more information will be located in the back of the room or please call (212) 912-2100.

**Chairman Perry of Community Board 10** made a brief announcement and wanted to publicly acknowledge the tremendous leadership skills and tireless efforts over the past year in getting Central Harlem ready for the 2010. Chairman Perry and the Board thanked Ms. Perez for all of her hard work and dedication to Central Harlem.

**Carmen Perez of the U.S. Census Bureau** announced that for the first time in history they reported over 53% participation in the 2010 Census and the Polo Grounds reported 67%. This is great news for Central Harlem. Until July 1<sup>st</sup> there will be U.S. Census employees going door-to-door around the neighborhood filling out forms for those who have not yet responded. So if you lost your form or never received one, the Census taker can fill one out for you. If they knock on your door, they are required to identify themselves and they should also be carrying a badge. They are only there to ask the 10 questions and no other business should be conducted. Ms. Perez thanked the CB 10 Board and all guests in attendance for their efforts and assistance in getting Central Harlem counted.

**Paula Rice Manager of the African American Outreach of the Alzheimer's Association** announced that she services all five boroughs and is she is very passionate about her work. Her mother suffered from Alzheimer's and for 10 years she took care of her. Now she wants to help educate the community and save some lives. African Americans are at a disproportionate risk for developing Alzheimer's disease primarily because of the higher rate of diabetes that leads to strokes and strokes lead to dementia. Ms. Rice is asking the Board and the community to assist her in getting the word out and for residents to get the treatment necessary to prevent this disease from affecting us and our families. For more information please visit [www.alznyc.org](http://www.alznyc.org) , by email at [price@alznyc.org](mailto:price@alznyc.org) or by calling 646.744.2900.

**Charles Calloway of WE ACT** announced that a couple of the taskforce members attended a meeting in Washington, D.C. as a part of the transportation equity group governed by about 300 members throughout the United States that work with communities regarding transportation. The group was awarded and recognized for doing wonderful in Harlem. On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting scheduled at City College at 160 Convent Place this meeting is to discuss the area where Marine Transport was located and they are trying to come up with some ideas on changing it over. Possibly a community center and they want to make sure that everyone in the community has some input including Community Boards 9 and 10. The next Task Force meeting will take place on May 27<sup>th</sup> and a follow up Town Hall meeting is in the process of being scheduled. More info to follow.

**Monique Hedmann Assistant Director of the Neurology Department at Harlem Hospital and Coordinator of the Walking it out Program** announced that this program is for seniors 50 years of age and older. There are three aspects to the program, which are: walking clubs five days a week out of senior centers throughout Harlem, dance workshops offered at Harlem Hospital in collaboration with the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation and free Tai Chi workshops at Harlem's historic parks. Seniors participating in the walking program get a free t-shirt. Ms. Hedmann also mentioned that the walking clubs are being directly affected by the unsafe streets, sidewalks and crosswalks and they have been tripping over curbs and sidewalks. They recently addressed these issues and the intersection of 135<sup>th</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue was audited and noted that the crosswalk time was inadequate. For more information please see flyer in the back of the room. You can also email her at [monique.hedmann@nychhc.org](mailto:monique.hedmann@nychhc.org)

**Jolinda Ruth Cogen** announced that as of last Thursday, she is now the President of the FBI New York Citizens Academy Alumni Association and she will be bringing information to future community board meetings. On April 29<sup>th</sup> the West 130<sup>th</sup> Street

Homeowners Association in conjunction with the Harlem Business Alliance and Regina Smith held a forum on gangs with Assistant Chief Phillip Banks. Chief Banks brought along all of his commanding officer from the 32<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Precincts along with two community precinct presidents Ms. Cogen and Mr. Lehman. Chief Banks shared some of his expertise and a copy of this information was given to CB 10 to distribute by email. During this meeting it was learned that there are 32 youth gangs and 8 girl youth gangs. Chief Banks addressed the gravity of this situation and asked that the community “step up” to identify gang activity with our children. He gave some tips for parents to look for to identify as to whether they may be in a gang. Identify the problem look for graffiti in notebooks, school bags, walls in their rooms, the internet, Facebook, My Space, You Tube, cell phones. Formulate a plan, take action and get involved. The next 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will take place at the Salvation Army temple located at 540 Lenox Avenue from 7:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. on May 20<sup>th</sup> and the last one before the summer will be held on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information please contact Ms. Cogen at [jocogen@gmail.com](mailto:jocogen@gmail.com)

**State Senator Bill Perkins** announced that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 250 Broadway for the first time in the State of New York there were some public hearings held related to charter schools. It was an opportunity to get some information on how the industry is moving along in terms of how our charter schools are functioning. For the last couple of Sunday's there were articles in the New York Times related to how students were doing academically and how they are doing in terms managing the funds. It is one of the most significant debates taking place in our city, state and the nation with respect to what is going to happen to our children's public education. An extraordinary event took place at the Riverside Church hosting the ministries coalition with a memorial service in tribute to the earthquake victims in Haiti. This event was very well attended with messages from dignitaries, elected officials and presidents around the world. This included messages from Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council and it was televised by Channel 7 ABC. Secondly, Senator Perkins will be holding a press conference tomorrow with his colleagues related to the introduction of new legislation called the “groping law.” This bill is of particular concern by women that have met with the Senator complaining about groping on the subways and busses. The bill will make groping an “E” felony and raising the penalty for this type of behavior. This legislation will also require the reporting of these types of incidences and the law would apply state-wide. The press conference to introduce this bill will be held tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. on the steps of City Hall. Finally, the state budget has not been passed. They are hopeful that it will be completed soon but they cannot predict when it will pass. They are looking at options to offset the budget cuts i.e. higher taxes for Wall Street, bonuses, Sugar Tax etc. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Senator Perkins office at (212) 222-7315.

**Community Board 10 Chair Mr. Perry** wanted to take a moment to recognize CB 10 member Patti Jacobs and announced that she was just admitted to Penn State's PhD program.

**David Weaver Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee** announced that from now through June 9<sup>th</sup> nightly performances of a play called “*Through the Night*” is being held at the Riverside Church Theater. For the 7:00 p.m. performance tomorrow evening you can attend as a guest of Community Board 10 Arts and Culture Committee. If you are interested in attending, you must call 212-926-2550 to reserve your tickets. Mr. Weaver also wanted to remind that board of a resolution that was coming up for vote at the end of the public session.

**Marie Littlejohn President of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. Malls** announced that Ms. Nelson had announced “It's my Park Day” earlier in the session and that on May 15<sup>th</sup> they will be planting bulbs from 110<sup>th</sup>-152 Streets. The event will take place on May

15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 pm. Please see flyer in the back of the room. For assignments please contact Ms. Littlejohn at 212-427-3644.

**Delcinia Glover President of the Lenox Avenue Terrace Tenants Association** stated that during the Fall of 2009 she attended a CB 10 Board meeting and announced that the Lenox Avenue Terrace property were planning on adding six new hi-rise buildings on the existing land and there have been some updates since that last announcement. Ms. Glover along with elected officials met with the president and representatives of Olbrich Management regarding the issue of the land development. Olbrich Management took into consideration all the concerns the community had as well as the elected officials and they announced that they are going back to the drawing board and develop a new plan. When Ms. Glover asked Mr. Simon as to whether this new plan still included the six new hi-rise buildings, he was noncommittal. The Lenox Terrace Tenants Association remains adamantly opposed to the six new buildings. Any future proposals cannot be done without rezoning and it has to be approved by the City Council. Councilwoman Inez Dickens has assured the association that she will not approve the project. The tenant's association has put forth a long list of items that must take place in order for them to support any redevelopment. They are as follows: any additional units must have a 60/40 market ratio vs. moderate income based. 40 % of those units would be based on the median income set forth by Community Board 10 and not the entire city. Jobs generated by new businesses a percentage of them must be set aside for Community Board 10 job seekers. Lastly, Ms. Glover wanted to thank the safer streets and sidewalk organizers for their work in setting up the traffic light on 135<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Steven Mitchell Chairman of the Salem House Tenants Association** announced that he is in support of the Safer Streets Program for many reasons. Many of the dark non-operational street lights are up and running. However, there are other issues going on in regards to the sidewalk conditions on Adam Clayton Powell as well as the side streets specifically 132<sup>nd</sup> Street between Lenox and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This street is a land mine with broken and uneven sidewalks and it makes it impossible to walk. Mr. Mitchell has a 94 year old that lives on this street and she has to walk in the middle of the street in order to avoid the sidewalks and he hopes that this situation is remedied soon.

**Gwen Cash Community Organizer with Community Pride** announced that they have been working with Safer Streets for the past couple of years as well as with CB 10 to implement a safer streets resolution that have resulted in safer crosswalks, adding speed bumps in front of the schools. They are currently working on another resolution for Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. is the most dangerous streets in Harlem and close to 700 people have been hit in the past decade there. There are some simple ways to make it safer by improving the medians, curbs, sidewalks and making it more accessible to persons with disabilities. The group has been working with the transportation committee to pass a resolution. Ms. Cash asked CB 10 members to support this resolution that will be up for voting next month.

**Dr. Dawn Jones Founder of Mass Avenue Dental Associates** announced that they are having an open house on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am-3:00 pm with food and free dental screenings. Also in attendance will be the contributors of the new book "Souls of my Young Sisters" and they are offering a chance to win a hotel stay at the Bay Gardens Beach Resort and Spa in St. Lucia. For more information please call (212) 860-1660.

**Aissatdy Bey-Grecia representative from McKissack Trucking Company** it is the oldest African American trucking firm in the United States. They are currently working on a project in Harlem Hospital and were asked to work with recruiting employees for construction jobs. Out of the 2074 applicants 80 of them have been hired. Their goal is 40% minority and 20% of that local with local applicants. Because of the success they

have been asked to come to the State office building to work on the construction project that is underway. It is in the beginning stages and they will be attending future CB 10 meeting with updates on the hiring process.

**Pamela Bates CB 10 Board Member and Chairman of Reverend Al Sharpton's Disability Committee of the National Action Network** announced that on behalf of one of the cabinet members Lady Peachena who is the Chairman of the Education Committee for the National Action Network are having a special fundraiser at the Schomburg Center for Black Culture located at 515 Malcolm X Blvd. This committee works with minority children and children with disabilities they will be using the funds raised to provide scholarships to the underserved and especially those children with disabilities. Great Divas of Gospel will be performing and honoring many great gospel singers of the past. The event will take place on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$22.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. There will also be a VIP reception after the event and those tickets are \$35.00 per person. For more information please call (917) 916-7375.

**Public Session:**

- A. **Roll Call**-at 7:30 pm 38 Present 1 Absent 6 Excused
- B. **Motion to Adopt Minutes** - Minutes from Community Board 10 General Board meeting held on April 7, 2010 was unanimously adopted.
- C. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**- Agenda for the Community Board 10 meeting of May 5, 2010 was unanimously adopted with changes and deletions.
- D. **Chairman Report from Chairman Franc Perry**- Announced that he addressed a paragraph in his report related to the City budget. As proposed by City Hall, they are seeking to cut community boards budgets to approximately \$144,000.00 per year. Community Boards have not received an increase in 20 years and yet they are expected to do more outreach, provide more services, and constituent work with a minimal budget. As stated in last months meeting we have been forced to ask for donations of paper and other office supplies. All of the community boards of the five (5) boroughs have been regularly meeting and these meetings have been organized by Borough President Scott Stringer in preparation for the protest on the steps of City Hall on May 19<sup>th</sup> to show the Mayor's office how important community boards are to New York City and that any cuts to the budget would quickly harm the ability to perform the services for Central Harlem and the City of New York. Information will be going out regarding the protest on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Last month new members were asked to visit the various committees to see which committee they would have liked to be a part of and it has come to my attention that one committee was desperately affected by the loss of members in the past reappointment process and they have not been able to achieve quorum because members have left or have not been reappointed. In consultation with the Executive Committee all of the new members will be placed on the Transportation/Parks/Recreation committee. New members will get to choose their second committee. New members are asked to contact the board office with their additional committee choice. The district manager search is moving ahead. Due to the current state of the economy they have received many high caliber and quality candidates with lots of experience. The pool quality is great and finalist will be meeting with the executive committee from there three (3) candidates will then move on and make a presentation in front of the full board at next months meeting so that the board can vote. All of the committees have been doing incredible work but there is one committee he would like to single out. Last year Community Board 10 was the first community board to receive a grant from the Capstone Group. This was a group of graduate students from the Wagner School of Public Service and they worked with the Housing Committee on HFDC/TIL Housing. The board found that they were getting complaints from building owners on how they were being managed and they were afraid of losing eligibility of this program. The students worked diligently and now there is a comprehensive HFDC/TIL manual for owners to learn on how to preserve their buildings.

The next step according to Chair Mr. Melvin Christian along with Christopher Noel, Danni Tyson, and Beatrice Sibblies will be doing outreach work with those buildings.

- E. Presentation: State Office Building "African Square: presented by Willie Walker, Manager ACP Jr. State Office Building and Tom Lunke, Director of Urban Planning Harlem Community Development Corporation presented the board and guests with an update on the State Office building plaza project. Mr. Walker stated that three years ago they received \$9 million to reconstruct the plaza. At that time, Mr. Lunke and Mr. Walker discussed on the plans and partnered with the Urban Technology Department at Columbia University to draw up the plans. The team drew up the plans and named it "African Square." This project will last about 2 years and it will include an underground parking garage that will hold 120 cars. They have been working with elected officials and have requested additional funds for this project. They are working on making it a priority with the Governor's office and hope to have the additional funds needed. This project will be constructed in three phases and phase 1 should be completed by July 2010. They will still have a Farmer's Market and other summer activities but they will be held on the east side of the plaza. On display by H&M there is a mock display of the project for those that would like to see how it will look once the project is completed. On another note Mr. Lunke wanted to announce that on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Harlem River Park the children from the Frederick Douglas Academy will be providing tours starting at 11:00 a.m. and discuss they ecology work they have been doing at the park. Please see the flyers in the back of the room.

## II. Business Session-

A- Roll Call at 7:51 pm 40 Present 5 Absent 6 Excused

### B- Voting Items-

#### 1. **Executive Committee:**

Manhattan Borough Board Resolution calling on the New York City Charter Revision Commission to Forgo Placing Proposals on the 2010 Ballot

37 Yes 8 No 1 Abstain Result: Unanimous

#### 2. **Arts & Culture:**

Manhattan Community Board 10 Resolution requesting lawmakers to consider implementing a real estate tax credit to benefit small to mid-sized non profit theaters and performing arts organizations.

39 Yes 0 No 11 No Vote 0 Abstain Result: Unanimous

#### 3. **Economic Development:**

1. Great Performance: New Application Liquor License

39 Yes 1 No 0 Abstain 9 No Vote Result: Unanimous

2. Harlem Bar-B-Q: Renewal Liquor License

35 Yes 3 No 3 Abstain 9 No Vote Result: Unanimous

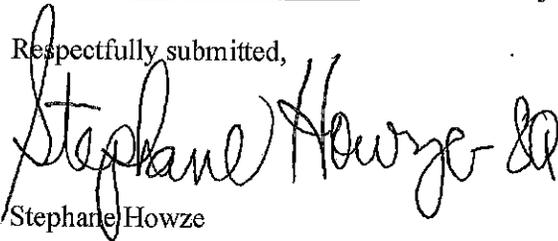
4. **Transportation Committee:**

1. Judge Bruce Wright Place Street Co-Naming Resolution  
39 Yes 1 No 0 Abstain Result: Unanimous
2. Madam C.J. A'Lelia Walker  
39 Yes 1 No 0 Abstain Result: Unanimous
3. Jack Johnson Plaza  
40 Yes 1 No 0 Abstain Result: Unanimous
4. The Respect for Our Historic Heritage Appropriate  
Symbolic Street Signage Placement Resolution  
41 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 9 No Votes Result: Unanimous

5. **Nominations for Elections**

**III. ADJOURNMENT**- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie Howze

Secretary, Community Board 10