

**CHAIR'S REPORT**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 8, 2010**

Community Board Membership

- New Appointees (6)
  - Alyson Gordon-Browner
  - Hildalyn Colon
  - Kyle Doyle
  - LaQuita Henry
  - Sherri Oustalet
  - Joseph Rogers
  
- Letters of appreciation for service to CB9 to be sent to Carmen Perez and Tamara Gayer
  
- Leave of Absence
  - Tiffany Alston – Has requested extension of leave through June 30, 2010

Election of Officers (refer to excerpt from By-laws)

Elections to be held at June General Board

- April General Board - Elections Committee to be selected
- May General Board - Elections Committee announces candidates
- Prior to June General Board – Candidates Night
- June General Board - Members vote

By-Laws Task Force (Established to reconsider and propose clarifications to By-laws, particularly around matters discussed over last few months. Consideration to be given to inclusion of non-Board member expert on Task Force.)

- Will Simpkins – Chair
- Members to date - Rudolfo Estrada, Linda Walton

West Harlem Rezoning

- DCP has come up with recommendations for rezoning
  - Most recent presentation focused on M-district and West 145<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Land Use and Zoning Committee to provide feedback to DCP on most recent recommendations
- DCP presentation requested for Full Board at May General Board

**COMMUNITY BOARD #9**

**APRIL 2012 EXPIRATION**

<b><u>BOROUGH PRESIDENT</u></b>	<b><u>ROBERT JACKSON</u></b>
1. Savona B. Bailey-McClain	1. Vernon Ballard
2. <b>Kyle Doyle</b>	2. Brandon Brice
3. <b>LaQuita Henry</b>	3. Dr. Vicky Gholson
4. <b>Sherri Anne Oustalet</b>	4. Cora Gilmore
5. Winston Majette	5. Tisha Jackson
6. Nicole Monegro	6. <b>Alyson Gordon-Browner</b>
7. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas	7. <b>Hildalyn Colon</b>
8. Martha Norrick	8. Carolyn Thompson
9. Yvonne Stennett	9. Gladys Tinsley
10. Fatima Torres	10. Marshita Washington-Meyers
11. Ernestine Welch	
12. Diane Wilson	<b><u>INEZ DICKENS</u></b>
	11. Marisol Alcantara
	12. <b>Joseph Rogers</b>
	13. Brad Taylor

**APRIL 2011 EXPIRATION**

Liaison – Anthonine Pierre

<b><u>BOROUGH PRESIDENT</u></b>	<b><u>ROBERT JACKSON</u></b>
1. Callie Branche	1. Jane Arrendell
2. Debra Byrd	2. Miriam Aristy-Farer
3. Javier Carcamo	3. Larry English
4. Charles Cooper	4. Elvis Hernandez
5. Danielle Chase	5. <b>Keith Mitchell</b>
6. Rudolfo Estrada	6. Barbara Marshall
7. Simon Thoresen	7. Carole Singleton
8. Anthony Fletcher	8. Walter South
9. Christa Giesecke	9. Linda Walton
10. Patricia Jones	
11. Theodore Kovaleff	
12. Patrica Lewis	<b><u>INEZ DICKENS</u></b>
13. William Simpkins	
	10. Tiffany Alston
	11. Reynaldo Snyder
	12. Monique White

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Alyson Gordon-Browner**

Treasurer, 1580 Amsterdam Avenue Housing Development Fund Corporation

Neighborhood Director, Neighborhood Services of Bedford Stuyvesant

### **Hildalyn Colon**

Union Organizer, NY/NJ Regional Joint Board Workers United, SEI

### **Kyle Doyle**

Teacher, Columbia University

### **LaQuita Henry**

Manager, Heritage Village Commercial Revitalization Initiative

Heritage Health & Housing Inc.

### **Sherri Oustalet**

Executive Director, Cathedral Community Cares

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

### **Joseph Rogers**

Educational and Community Organizing Consultant

---

## MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

### 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

#### DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The designation of Community Board No. 9 (CB9M) in 1967 brought together three neighborhoods that are commonly known as Morningside Heights, Manhattanville and Hamilton Heights. The district is defined in part by Manhattan's gridded street system and in part by Upper Manhattan's natural topography. West 110<sup>th</sup> and West 155<sup>th</sup> Streets mark its southern and northern boundaries, while the Hudson River forms the western boundary and the park system comprised of Morningside Park, St. Nicholas Park, and Jackie Robinson Park generally makes up the eastern boundary.

Each neighborhood is a distinct community:

- Morningside Heights in the southern portion of the district is home to several major academic and religious institutions, including Columbia University, Barnard College, and the nation's largest cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This area also is home to Grant's Tomb. This area has strong commercial corridors along Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue and has a strong housing stock, including the General Grant Public Housing Development and the limited equity cooperative Morningside Gardens.
- Manhattanville, the oldest town in the district, contains the district's last remaining manufacturing zone, world-renowned viaducts, two of New York City Housing Authority's most successful post-war developments, and a commercial strip along 125<sup>th</sup> Street. Manhattanville is also the location targeted for Columbia University's new campus.
- Hamilton Heights, the northernmost section of the district, is primarily a residential area that contains the Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill Historic Districts, Alexander Hamilton's summer estate, Hamilton Grange, as well as the City College campus and Riverbank State Park.

In addition to the abovementioned, a portion of the waterfront north of 125<sup>th</sup> Street is unfortunately home to several environmentally burdensome facilities: a Marine Waste Transfer Station (now closed), Metropolitan Transit Authority bus depots, and the North River Pollution Control Plant.

Community District 9 remains an increasingly attractive destination for persons of all backgrounds and aspirations. The district's population represents approximately 7% of Manhattan's population and just under 10% of Manhattan's population growth between 1999 and 2000. However, the median household income in CD9 is only 63% of the median income of Manhattan and unemployment is almost double the Manhattan rate.

Community residents are committed to encouraging economic development while meeting the need for affordable housing, good jobs, and preserving the ethnically and economically diverse character which has characterized this district for decades.

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

Patricia Jones, Chair

Carolyn Thompson, First Vice Chair

Yvonne Stennett, Second Vice Chair

Theodore Kovaleff, Secretary,

Jane Arrendell, Assistant Secretary

Anthony Fletcher, Treasurer

Diane Wilson, Assistant Treasurer

Marisol Alcantara

Miriam Aristy-Farer

Callie Branche

Debra Byrd

Danielle Chase

Larry English, Esq.

Tamara Gayer

Christa Giesecke

Elvis Hernandez

Patricia Lewis

Barbara Marshall

Keith Mitchell

Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas

Carmen Perez

Carole Singleton

Walter South

Tiffany Alston

Vernon Ballard

Brandon Brice

Javier Carcamo

Charles Cooper

Rodolfo Estrada, Esq.

Vicky Gholson

Cora Gilmore

Tisha Jackson, Esq.

Winston Majette

Savona Bailey McClain

Nicole Monegro

Martha Norrick

William Simpkins

Reynaldo Snyder

Brad Taylor

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS, continued**

Simon Thoresen

Gladys Tinsley

Fatima Torres

Linda Walton

Marshita Washington-Meyers

Ernestine Welch

Monique White

*During 2009, Community Board No. 9 mourned the loss of two of its veterans, Former Chair Jordi Reyes Montblanc and Carolyn Kent, initiator of our Landmarks and Preservation Committee.*

**DISTRICT STAFF**

Eutha Prince, District Manager

Hleziphi Zita, Community Liaison

Ray McLaughlin, Community Liaison

**DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT AND BUDGET PRIORITIES**

## 2009 BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS FOR 2010

Community Board No. 9 has had a very busy and productive year. Notwithstanding the massive undertakings of the past few years – City Council adoption of CB9M's 197a Plan and the completion of the ULURP associated with Columbia University's expansion – the Community Board has continued to operate at a vigorous pace.

A major step in the implementation of the District's 197a Plan has been the initiation of an unprecedented 90 block rezoning of West Harlem within the framework of the Manhattan Borough President's Special District Proposal. The objectives of this rezoning are to preserve the physical character of the district through contextual zoning with density and height limits, while at the same time enabling the development of affordable housing and the creation of economic drivers and job-creating activities. In this regard, a survey was developed in order to get a broad spectrum of community input; over 300 residents responded to the on-line survey. Partnering with the Department of City Planning and the Borough President's Office, the Board looks to the continuation and growth of the community engagement process and the completion of this rezoning effort in 2010.

During the year, CB9M celebrated the opening of the West Harlem Piers Park and entered into a partnership with We ACT for Environmental Justice to finalize a community framework for the re-use of the Marine Transfer site just north of this prize winning park and co-sponsored the first Community Forum to achieve this end.

At the same time, CB9M has achieved the following:

- Formation of a Finance and Budget Committee with the development of a CB9M Accounting Protocol Manual expected to be completed in 2010.
- Graduation of the first class of the District 9 Community Emergency Response Team. CB9M initiated coordination with the Office of Emergency Management and recruitment of this team.
- Co-sponsorship of the West Harlem Career Expo with Columbia University and the West Harlem Local Development Corporation. In addition to resume drop-offs and screening interviews for positions at Columbia University, the Expo included the following workshops: Jobs @ Columbia, Access to Trade Unions, and Workforce Readiness. Over 125 community residents attended with several moving forward to job interviews.

- Partnership with Community Boards 10, 11, and 12 to sponsor the Upper Manhattan Economic Summit. The theme of the Summit was “Economic Stimulus Package – What’s in it for Upper Manhattan” and was attended by well over 250 individuals.
- Co-sponsorship with Teachers College of three “community conversations” to elicit community desires and priorities and to solidify support among community stakeholders for the planned TC Community School, a neighborhood public school intended to demonstrate how affiliation with a higher education institution can lead to effective implementation of comprehensive educational services in an urban, community public school, and how to transfer some of the best features of charter schools to the mainstream public school environment. Across the three sessions, over 150 parents and residents participated.
- Participation in and substantial community outreach for the well attended first West Harlem Community Forum sponsored by the Manhattan Borough President.

In addition to integrating a new District Manager, CB9M conducted its first “retreat” with over 85% of Board members in attendance. This facilitated retreat was a catalyst for the definition and documentation of “team norms” and operating procedures for the body. During the upcoming year CB9M will plan its second retreat and also introduce a more robust, interactive website.

Lastly, CB9M will facilitate regular community meetings with Columbia University as this institution moves forward with its expansion plans and consider the establishment of an Institutional Expansion Task Force.

## **2009 COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GOALS FOR 2010**

Committees of CB9M are important drivers of many activities of the Board and continue to work successfully across Committee lines to be responsive to community needs. Some of the major accomplishments and goals of our Committee network follow.

### Arts and Culture Committee

This Committee, co-chaired by Linda Walton and Diane Wilson, has been able to attract many of the arts organizations and artists of the District. Information exchanges have been established at the regularly scheduled meetings where artists and cultural organizations throughout Harlem share important information with this network regarding upcoming exhibits, performances, and arts in education programming. Creative community guests have included HarlemStage, the Apollo Theater, Harlem School of the Arts, Maysles Institute, Centro Dominicano, Chashama, the Uptown Playwrights Workshop and the Children's Art Carnival. This Committee has also convened artist-focused meetings, showcasing the talents of West Harlem artists, including Cuban-born jazz musician Yosvany Terry, actress and theater producer Debra Ann Byrd, filmmaker Magali Damas, and visual artist-in-residence at Chashama. This Committee's leadership lead CB9M to be among the first of the Manhattan Community Boards to partner with Community Board 4 and support efforts to provide a real estate tax credit to benefit small, non-profit performing arts organizations and theaters.

In the coming year, the goals of this Committee include sponsoring cultural activities in partnership with the network of artists and cultural organizations in Harlem and Upper Manhattan, other community boards and elected officials and to provide support for artistic expression to flourish in our District. Importantly, the Committee plans to develop a database of artists in the District.

### Health, Environmental and Human Services Committee

This Committee, chaired by Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, has had several areas of focus, including advocacy for sick leave for all New Yorkers (facilitating the passing of a CB9M resolution in support of Intro 1059) and the re-opening of the Children's Clinic at Old Broadway and 126<sup>th</sup> Street.

During the coming year, goals of this Committee include increasing the enrollment of members in the District 9 CERT to thirty new members through community forums and other means of community outreach. In addition, the Committee plans to host a Health Fair with a community partner, St. John's Baptist Church; the Committee will also pursue a Colgate partnership to advocate for the "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program. The Committee is also planning to

work with the Green Market on West 145<sup>th</sup> Street to increase the number of vendors as well as the availability of fresh produce year round in local neighborhood markets.

#### Housing, Land Use and Zoning Committee

This Committee, co-chaired by Christa Giesecke and Yvonne Stennett, has spearheaded the CB9M's West Harlem rezoning efforts, developing an on-line survey to facilitate community input and conducting numerous meetings with the Department of City Planning. Community outreach has been successful as demonstrated by the significant increase in the Committee's regularly scheduled monthly meetings. At the same time, the Committee reviewed and denied the ULURP application for West 129<sup>th</sup> Street Realty.

During the coming year, the priority of this Committee will be the broadening of community outreach and the completion of the West Harlem rezoning, along with collaboration with NYCEDC on recommendations for the use of the NYC/Citarella site. In addition, it is the goal of the Committee to facilitate a community conversation around the preservation of affordable housing as many of the affordable housing developments in the District operate under the purview of programs that have expiring time limitations.

#### Landmarks and Preservation Committee

This Committee, chaired by Walter South, continued its advocacy for the protection of buildings of cultural and historic character identified in the 197a Plan from demolition and development that might have a negative impact on their character. In addition, the Committee advocated for matching fund grants by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for restoration of a local synagogue and further advocated successfully in support of local property owners' proposed alterations to buildings in the Historic District.

In the coming year, the goals of this Committee are to continue its advocacy and achieve landmark status of priority sites, including 41 Convent Avenue and the Old Broadway Synagogue, collaborate with the Department of City Planning in conjunction with the West Harlem rezoning effort to achieve the protection of noteworthy buildings above 135<sup>th</sup> Street and referenced in the 197a Plan, and to successfully advocate for a Morningside Heights Historic District.

#### Parks and Recreation Committee

During the year this Committee, chaired by Brad Taylor,:

- Increased the dialog with and the level of participation in monthly meetings by Parks management and user groups at the City, State and Federal level
- Identified opportunities to expand parks and recapture space within the District

- Advocated for NYCDPR's planned reconstruction of the Broadway Malls from 145<sup>th</sup> to 153<sup>rd</sup> Streets, the return of several NYCDEP land parcels used for salt piles to parkland, allocation of funds for the repair and reopening of the stairs at St. Clair Street from Riverside Park to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue for community access for the West Harlem Piers Park, the implementation of the expanded crime tracking as set forth in Local Law 114 for NYC parks and successfully for the development of mini soccer fields in an underutilized portion of Riverside Park as well as temporary art exhibits in local parks and the Montefiore Park Plaza project, the only Manhattan proposal accepted by NYCDOT for the park plaza project and funding.

During the coming year, the goals of this Committee include enhancing parks and recreational opportunities for District residents through sustained advocacy and monitoring of conditions in our parks, identifying and promoting new opportunities to plan and develop green spaces, recreational facilities and park related activities in the community, and establishing a forum for community residents to raise issues and make suggestions directly to park agencies and for park officials from City, State and Federal agencies to exchange ideas and collaborate on projects that will benefit the community.

#### Seniors Issues Committee

One of the most active Committees, chaired by Ernestine Welch, the Seniors Issues Committee has substantially increased the number of public members this past year. Through the consistent attendance by representatives from the Department of Aging and the Social Security Administration at regularly scheduled monthly meetings, the Committee has been able to facilitate the accurate and timely flow of information, such as clarification of Senior Center Pilot Project Program to improve senior services in the community as well as the status of important legislation affecting the welfare of the elderly. The Committee also developed a cooperative spirit with representatives from Access-A-Ride resulting in the resolution of some individual and group complaints such as timely trips for medical and other appointments. In addition, the Committee remains a strong advocate for the passage of legislation for Free Senior Fares.

During the coming year, the goals of this Committee are continued coordination with NYCHA and the Grant Houses Tenants Association for the planning and development of a Senior Memorial Garden in cooperation with the George Bruce Library, monitoring and facilitation of senior housing complaints, such as home attendants, home care, eviction, harassment and physical abuse issues. The Committee will also actively advocate for Post Office improvements and improvements in the quality of service provided by local drug store chains and grocery stores.

### Uniform Services and Transportation Committee

This Committee, co-chaired by Ted Kovaleff and Carolyn Thompson, continued a close relationship with both the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Precincts pinpointing areas of attention and action. During the West Harlem rapist crisis, this Committee played a key role, in concert with the District Service Cabinet, in providing accurate and timely information to the community and assisting in the facilitation of community forums on safety. Addressing the community's need for more on-street parking, the Committee met regularly with NYCDOT and identified and successfully advocated for new parking spaces in a previously "No Parking/No Standing" zone on Edgecombe Avenue and also 131<sup>st</sup> Street between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Broadway.

During the coming year, the goals of this Committee include participation with Manhattan Community Boards in the standardization of procedures relative to the State Liquor Authority licensing approval process, continued focus on the delivery service provide by the MTA, and protecting community interests as the Columbia University expansion project in Manhattanville proceeds. In addition, the Committee will enhance its community outreach efforts to publicize the NYPD's training sessions for community residents interested in this program.

### Waterfront and Economic Development Committee

This Committee, chaired by Savona Bailey McClain, was a prime factor leading to the successful completion and opening of the West Harlem Piers Park. They also arranged for the Waterpod, which docked at the West Harlem Piers, to conduct a cooking demonstration with the head chef from a local restaurant and also recruited local residents for the Waterpod feature on WABC's Good Morning America. This Committee has been able to influence and successfully advocate for the NYCEDC West 125<sup>th</sup> Streetscape and Intermodal Improvements Project, in addition to advocating for consistency of lamppost design on 125<sup>th</sup> Street east of our District. The Committee has also been instrumental in the visioning of the re-use of the Marine Transfer Station and the establishment of parameters for the partnership with We ACT. Importantly, this Committee has provided a framework for the existing manufacturing zone, referred to as the New Amsterdam Special Mixed Use District in the 197a Plan, under consideration in the West Harlem rezoning effort.

During the coming year, the goals of this Committee include continued advocacy for the re-use of the Marine Transfer Station, development of a strategy for the desired outcome for the New Amsterdam Special Mixed Use District, and ensure that through continued coordination with the CB9M Committee network and CB9 Office and NYCDOT and NYCEDC, an Automatic Public Toilet is accessible to the West Harlem Piers Park. Further this Committee will plan for the videotaping of committee meetings and uploads on You Tube in order to garner broader Board and community involvement.

## Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

During the past year, this reinvigorated Committee, co-chaired by Vernon Ballard and Winston Majette, continued to advocate for the expansion of Youth Summer Jobs programs for our District and took a leadership role in the advocacy for the proposals of the Parent Commission to create a governance system distinguished by an educational partnership between the Mayor, NYC public school parents and educators who together would endeavor and strive toward a consensus in an effort to improve our NYC public schools. In addition, they have worked diligently and successfully to build stronger relationships with CB9M's schools and school district administrators in Community School Districts 3, 5, and 6, and have interceded to assist the Hamilton Heights School and P.S. 153 evaluate and respond to the Department of Education's proposal to co-locate the schools together within P.S. 153's facilities. Importantly, this Committee began working with Transform America to establish a CB9M Youth Council, which will, among other things, foster improved relations with community-based organizations to explore programming for community youth.

During the coming year, the goals of this Committee include the formal establishment of a Community Board 9 Youth Council to invite community youth to work within the framework of CB9M and its committees, the hosting of a Youth Town Hall to invite a youth-directed community discussion about how to evaluate and service the needs of young people in our community, and the establishment of a web-enabled Community Youth Resource Guide. Importantly, this Committee will also provide mechanisms for community dialog and engagement around classroom space issues and will continue its involvement with the community outreach and accurate and timely information flow regarding the TC Community School.

## DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET SUMMARY

The District Service Cabinet worked closely with multiple City Agencies to resolve the following issues affecting Manhattan Community District No. 9:

### Excessive Noise Complaints regarding restaurants on 12th Avenue (Restaurant Row)

Community Board No. 9 responded to numerous complaints from residents regarding noise coming from restaurants on 12th Avenue (between 135th through and including 139th Streets) through coordination with numerous agencies. A special meeting was also convened with both restaurant owners and the agencies and the following actions were taken:

- 1). DEP - deployed inspectors to measure the noise decibels inside and outside of these restaurants and its findings were that the establishments were within regulation, however an unenclosed Patio was allowing the noise to travel to neighboring housing developments as far as 5-6 blocks away and as far up as the 16th floor in some instances
- 2). NYPD - was informed by SLA that the establishment could and would be fined if violations persisted and eventually their liquor license could be revoked or renewal could be denied
- 3). D.A.'s Office stated they would work with Tenants in gathering complaints to be documented and taken into consideration when establishment is up for Liquor License Renewal and work closely with NYPD and other agencies to ensure violation issuance

After this meeting the establishment agreed to lower the music volume and adhere to hours of operation agreed upon by the Board; it was also agreed that this establishment would work with DEP to make sure their music was within the allowed noise decibels set forth by DEP.

### Hamilton Heights Rapist Crises

Community District No. 9 was terrorized with a Rapist during the Summer of 2009, and the DSC worked together with neighborhood Block and Tenant Associations, the D.A.'s Office, the Manhattan Borough President's Office, as well as Community Based Organizations to educate and keep community informed of the dangers involved and protective measures that should be taken. The Rapist was swiftly apprehended due to the coordinated efforts as outlined below:

- Manhattan Borough President's Office, issued composite sketches of the alleged Rapist and also handed out safety tips and sponsored meetings within the District;
- D.A.'s Office worked to get the highest penalty allowed for each criminal charge, and also offered a reward;

- The 30<sup>th</sup> Precinct participated in numerous Community Meetings to keep neighborhood educated and also combed the entire district posting with composite sketches of the Rapist in apartment buildings, subways, stores, and light posts, and increased police presence throughout the district until the perpetrator was apprehended;
- Community- Based Organizations, including DONAR, held forums and Community Meetings and Press Conferences on a regular basis to keep the community educated and updated on the ongoing investigations;
- CB9M and block associations worked with NYCDOT, Parks Department, and the NYPD to identify streets that required better lighting and tree pruning within the District to improve visibility and safety.