

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
CHAIR'S REPORT
December 10, 2009**

Community Board Appointments

- Reappointment Applications
 - Due December 31, 2009

Personnel - Requests for Leaves of Absence

- Carmen Perez –Effective immediately due to Work conflicts (letter dated November 19, 2009)
- Callie Branche – Effective immediately due to Illness (letter dated November 20, 2009)
- Tiffany Alston – Maternity leave effective January 1, 2010

Legal Responsibilities and Requirements of Board Members – J. Yan memo

- Much discussion resulting in request that Yan conduct separate session with all Chairs to ensure consistent interpretations and actions and to respond to unanswered questions
- In interim, letters will be sent from Office confirming status of Public Members

Mayor's Office Initiative – Community Board Partnership

- CB9 has been paired with CB4
- Goal: Share best practices, learn about issues in other Boards, create longer term relationships
- Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs to attend General Board meeting, DSC meeting, Committee meetings, as available
 - **Note to Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs:** CB4 Calendar is attached in this package (go to their website for addresses – www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

West 129th Street Rezoning Application

- CB9 voted to oppose this application
- MBPO voted to oppose this application
- City Planning Commission approved application on October 21, 2009
- City Council 50 day review period ends December 14, 2009
 - City Council Zoning and Franchises SubCommittee voted to approve and send to full Council for vote

December 2009

QB 4M

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November 30 th THEATER (CB4 Office) 6:30 pm [No meeting]	1 st	2 nd FULL BOARD (Roosevelt Hospital) 6:30 pm	3 rd	4 th
7 th BLP - South (Westin Hotel) 6:30 pm	8 th BLP - North (Board Office) 6:30 pm	9 th C/HKLU (John Jay) 6:30 pm	10 th WATER (CB4 Office) 6:00 pm	11 th
14 th EXEC (CB4 Office) 6:30 pm	15 th	16 th TRANS (Holland House) 6:30 pm	17 th HH&HS (TBD) 6:30 pm	18 th
21 st CPP (Penn South) 6:15 pm	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th Christmas Day - Office Closed
28 th QOL (CB4 Office) 6:00 pm	29 th	30 th January 6 th , 2010 FULL BOARD (Fulton Center) 6:30 pm	31 st	January 1 st New Years Day - Office closed

BILL PERKINS
SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT
Chairman
Corporations, Authorities and
Commissions



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ALBANY, NY 12247
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(F) 518-426-6809

DISTRICT OFFICE
ACP STATE OFFICE BUILDING
163 W. 125TH STREET,
ROOM 912
NEW YORK, NY 10027
(P) 212-222-7315
(F) 212-678-0001

E-MAIL
PERKINS@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

December 8, 2009

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor, State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I write with a great sense of urgency in respectfully calling upon you to forego an appeal of last week's decision in Kaur v. New York State Urban Development Corporation, and to order a statewide moratorium on the use of eminent domain within the State of New York pending legislative action.

As you are aware, last week's court decision struck down as unconstitutional the taking of property by the Urban Development Corporation d/b/a "ESDC" for the benefit of Columbia University. The court found ESDC violated both state and federal due process clauses in an effort to prevent affected property owners from obtaining information, and that ESDC's finding of blight was "bereft of facts which established the neighborhood in question was blighted." Furthermore, ESDC's determination that the project even has a public use, benefit or civic purpose is wholly unsupported by the record. The court also noted the glaring conflict of interest, which reeks of bad faith, that existed as a result of ESDC and Columbia using the exact same consultant to review the project and determine blight.

You may recall that back in 2005 you and I stood on the steps of City Hall together with several members of the City Council to protest the United States Supreme Court decision in Kelo v. City of New London which affirmed the use of eminent domain for private development that entails a so-called "public use." That decision contained language encouraging states to review their own eminent domain statutes. Some states have done just that. It is now New York's turn.

At the time of the Kelo decision, as a State Senator and Minority Leader you understood that the current process is flawed and called for a blanket moratorium on the use of eminent domain. The same reasons for instituting a moratorium back then still exist. In fact they are even more urgent given the Kaur decision, and the recent decision by the Court of Appeals affirming the taking in the case involving Atlantic Yards. It is my understanding you recently and publicly committed to a full objective review of that project and its financing.

As Chair of the Senate's Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee, I held hearings involving the topic of eminent domain. I have gone on record on numerous occasions against what I perceive to be the abuse of eminent domain in this state, particularly as it relates to private development projects. I have often described that abuse as a "mugging", and one equal to "placing a gun to the community's head".

The Columbia decision has intolerably heightened the confusion and uncertainty over what, if anything, constrains the ESDC from taking anyone's property whenever it suits its fancy. For one, no one knows what "blight" is—the crucial and fundamental issue in both the Columbia and Atlantic Yards cases. What is clear, however, are the signals that the ESDC was not acting in good faith. This I would suggest, is evidenced by the court's statement that "the record before ESDC contains no evidence whatsoever that Manhattanville was blighted prior to Columbia gaining control over the vast majority of property therein." The opinion also makes a strong case that the blight determination in that case was severely flawed, and in large part the product of the ESDC's desire to transfer property to a "private elite education institution". As a result, I am left with my own opinion, and that of others in my community, that these type of actions on the part of the ESDC are part of an insidious form of discrimination and civil rights violations that must not stand. As the Kaur decision reads, "few policies have done more to destroy community and opportunity for minorities than eminent domain." In fact, the Court found that the ESDC's actions in the Columbia expansion is, "clear evidence of that reality. The unbridled use of eminent domain not only disproportionately affects minority communities, but threatens basic principles of property contained in the Fifth Amendment."

For these and other reasons I request that you urge the ESDC not to appeal the Kaur decision. Please impose a statewide moratorium on further eminent domain actions and then let us work together on a legislative solution. I am currently working on a bill to reform how eminent domain is exercised in the State of New York. The purpose is not to hamper development, but to make the process more transparent and provide stakeholders with substantive due process. This will result in development that reflects community input and serves community needs. Your participation will be critical. An enlightened eminent domain procedure will be a significant victory for all involved.

I respectfully request your support on these issues and am ready to stand with you publicly again, this time for the purpose of announcing actions that will lead to genuine reform. Please feel free to contact me for any further discussion at 212-222-7315, or in my Albany office at 518-455-2441. I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest convenience, and I thank you in advance for your attention to this very important matter.

Very truly yours,



Senator Bill Perkins
30th District

cc: Dennis M. Mullen, President & CEO, Empire State Development Corp.

AUTOS

Court Bars New York's Takeover of Land for Columbia Campus

By CHARLES V. BAGLI
Published: December 3, 2009

A New York appeals court ruled Thursday that the state could not use eminent domain on behalf of Columbia University to obtain parts of a 17-acre site in Upper Manhattan, setting back plans for a satellite campus at a time of discord over government power to acquire property.

Enlarge This Image



Raymond McCrea Jones/The New York Times
An appellate ruling sided with Nicholas Sprayregen, who owns four self-storage buildings the state wanted to condemn.

In a 3-to-2 decision, a panel of the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court in Manhattan annulled the state's 2008 decision to take property for the expansion project, saying that its condemnation procedure was unconstitutional.

The majority opinion was scathing in its appraisal of how the "scheme was hatched," using terms like "sophistry" and "idiocy" in describing how the state went about declaring the neighborhood blighted, the main prerequisite for eminent domain.

The \$6.3 billion expansion plan is not dead; an appeal has been promised, and Columbia still controls most of the land. But at a time when the government's use of eminent

domain on behalf of private interests has become increasingly controversial, the ruling was a boon for opponents.

"I feel unbelievable," said Nicholas Sprayregen, the owner of several self-storage

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No eminent domain for Columbia University expansion: court

BY Jose Martinez and Frank Lombardi
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Friday, December 4th 2009, 4:00 AM

In a blistering ruling, an appeals court Thursday blocked the state from seizing private properties for the \$6.3 billion expansion of Columbia University.

The Appellate Division's 3-to-2 ruling upheld charges by several commercial property owners that the Empire State Development Corp. stacked the deck in favor of Columbia University in allowing the use of eminent domain.

"The process employed by ESDC predetermined the unconstitutional

outcome," the judges ruled.

The appeals court said the ESDC's finding that the Manhattanville neighborhood was blighted and underused "was bereft of facts." It also charged the ESDC used stalling tactics to thwart the property owners from "presenting a full record" to the court.

Only six commercial properties are involved - four are used for storage and two are gas stations. Columbia had ruled out using eminent domain for residential properties.

The narrow Columbia decision is bound to be appealed to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

Recently, the top court ruled in favor of eminent domain in the much-litigated Atlantic Yards project to build a new home for the Nets in Brooklyn.

Still, lawyers for the affected property owners hailed the ruling as a major victory in the debate over the controversial use of eminent domain to aid projects without a clear-cut public benefit, such as a highway, public buildings or urban development.

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"Unless it's reversed, this will set a major precedent," said Norman Siegel, lawyer for Nicholas Sprayregen, the owner of the four storage sites.

flombardi@nydailynews.com

In chastising the ESDC, the ruling noted the state agency had used the same consultant as Columbia to do a key study that declared the affected area as blighted.

Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council strongly supported the expansion.

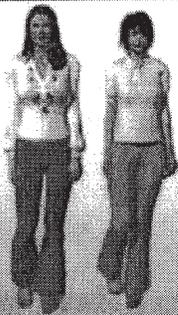
A Columbia spokesman declined comment. ESDC spokesman Warner Johnston said his agency will appeal the ruling as "wrong and inconsistent with established law."

Mayoral spokesman Andrew Brent expressed disappointment at the ruling.

"The Manhattanville plan is critical to Columbia's future as one of the world's leading academic institutions and the city's standing as a world-class center for higher education."

Besides creating an expanded, high-tech academic campus, the plan would create 14,000 construction jobs, 6,000 permanent jobs and 100,000 square feet of public open space, he said.

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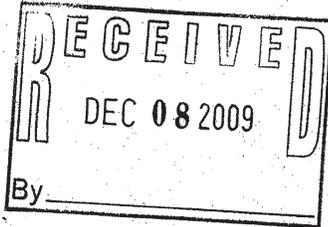


DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
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Criminal Procedure

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December 3, 2009

Robert Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney,

I write today with grave concern for the fate of three rowhouses at 408, 410, and 412 West 115th Street. The buildings, among the earliest multi-family residential structures on Morningside Heights, are slated for demolition by Columbia University. Yesterday the University followed through on that threat by applying for demolition permits from the New York City Department of Buildings.

I have been a longtime and vocal advocate for the protection of these buildings. The demolition will leave an indelible scar on the architectural fabric of Morningside Heights, and is strongly opposed by Community Board 9, the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, and the local block association. The University has ignored pleas to rehabilitate these buildings, instead leaving them vacant and in disrepair.

On December 22, 2008, the New York State Historic Preservation Office deemed these rowhouses eligible for protection as part of a small State and National Register historic district. The state preservation office described 408, 410, and 412 as a "distinctive row of three, five-story Renaissance Revival residences with brownstone facades," and remarked on their "unusual design with undulating bays at the first and second stories reminiscent of low-scale rowhouse design but with three upper floors and cornice above." The buildings were singled out as exemplary and worthy of protection by Columbia University's own graduate-level preservation studio in a 1996 report.

Constructed in 1898 and designed by architect John Brandt, the buildings represent pre-subway era development in Morningside Heights which is significant because the vast majority of structures in the neighborhood were built following the northern expansion of the IRT subway line. The row stands only feet from the western edge of Morningside Park which was recently designated a scenic landmark. I believe it is crucial to preserve the historic streetscapes that surround and provide context for this beautiful park.

The razing of these rowhouses will serve as a glaring example of the Landmarks Preservation Commission's inaction and inability to fulfill its mission. I strongly urge intervention by the Commission on behalf of these worthy buildings and the neighborhood as a whole. The

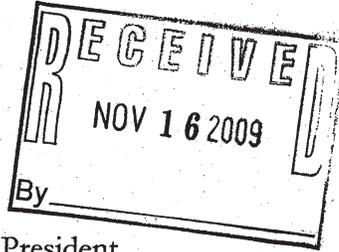


DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69TH Assembly District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
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CHAIR
Subcommittee on
Criminal Procedure

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Codes
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Tourism



November 10, 2009

Noah H. Gotbaum, President
Community District Education Council 3
154 W. 93rd Street, Room 204
New York, NY 10025

Dear Mr. Gotbaum and members of CDEC3,

Thank you for your letter of October 20th describing causes and symptoms of overcrowding here in District 3. I am very familiar with the issue and have been working on it for some time.

As you are aware, I recently testified before the CDEC about overcrowding and have been advocating to DOE for its redress for far too long. I agree with your conclusions and I am ready and willing to engage in all conversations going forward about possible solutions. Overcrowding is the primary concern of parents, educators, and leaders such as myself in District 3 and must be creatively and swiftly addressed as it will only grow worse with time.

Whether due to the encroachment of charter schools or the presence of new development, overcrowding in our schools must be confronted head on. A refusal to directly address the issue could very well have disastrous effects on the quality of education in our schools and on the willingness of young families to raise their children in New York City. I look forward to continuing to work together on this critical matter; please do not hesitate to let me know how I can best be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell
Assembly Member

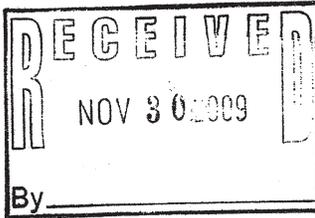
cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
Joel Klein, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
Mel Wymore, Chair, Community Board 7
Patricia Jones, Chair, Community Board 9
Dr. Roser Salavert, Superintendent, Community School District 3

DOD/csm



Department of Transportation

JANETTE SADIK-KHAN, Commissioner



November 23, 2009

By _____
Patricia A. Jones, Chair
Community Board # 9
16-18 Old Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones:

This is in response to your letter dated September 21, 2009 requesting the change of Truck Loading Zone to Street Cleaning regulations on the south side of West 131st Street from 12th Avenue to Broadway.

Our Borough Engineering office completed an investigation of this location. As a result, an order was issued to install "No Parking 8:30am-10:00 Tuesday and Friday." This order was completed on October 26, 2009.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety.

Sincerely,

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner

MF/OR/bd
Manlog: 12124
Ref: 09-0831/Mbe: 7407



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

November 17, 2009

Mr. Noah E. Gotbaum
President
Community District Education Council 3
154 West 93rd Street, Room 204
New York, NY 10025

Dear Mr. Gotbaum:

Thank you for writing to our offices regarding the concerns of District 3 (D3) parents, elected members of Community Education Council 3 (CEC3), and members of the CEC 3 Overcrowding and Space Utilization Committee on the overcrowding issues facing schools across the district.

We have received the New York City Department of Education (DOE) Office of Portfolio Planning's October 19th data showing that nine D3 schools are currently over-utilized by as much as 21 percent. Further, we understand that the loss of cluster rooms and other vital spaces not quantified by the Department of Education is detrimental to the education of our students. Despite measures taken last year by the DOE, overcrowding and space utilization constraints at D3 schools persist and will worsen if long range solutions are not found.

In response to your request, the Manhattan Borough President's office will be convening the first in a series of D3 War Room meetings on Wednesday, November 18th, to address school overcrowding caused by population growth in the southern areas of the district. A second meeting to discuss space utilization constraints faced by schools in the northern areas of the district has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd. Our offices look forward to working with CEC3 members, Community Board members, parent representatives, and the DOE in identifying potential solutions for the overcrowding and space utilization concerns in schools across the district.

Thank you again for writing to our offices, and please feel free to contact Corey Peterson in the Manhattan Borough President's office at (212) 669-4546 or via e-mail at cpeterson@manhattanbp.org with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,



Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President



Jerrold Nadler
U.S. Congress



Thomas K. Duane
New York State



Eric Schneiderman
New York State Senate
Assembly



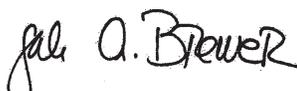
Bill Perkins
New York State Senate



Linda Rosenthal
New York State



Richard N. Gottfried
New York State Assembly



Gale A. Brewer
New York City Council



Melissa Mark-Viverito
New York City Council



Inez Dickens
New York City Council

cc: Dr. Roser Salavert, Superintendent, Community School District 3
Mel Wymore, Chair, Community Board 7
Patricia Jones, Chair, Community Board 9
Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
Joel Klein, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education

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SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT

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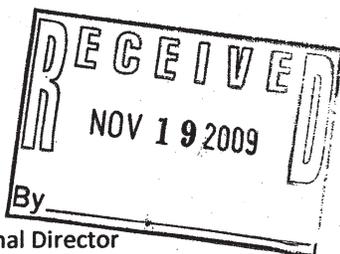
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November 12, 2009

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Lester A. Farthing, Regional Director
Census 2010
330 West 34th Street, 13th floor
New York, NY 10001-2406

Dear Mr. Farthing:

I want to thank you for your participation in the successful community meeting which I held last Saturday, November 7th at the Harlem Branch Library on participation in the 2010 Census.

My office is all too aware, that we can ill afford a repeat of the 2000 census which under counted our community by 60 percent. Thus affecting the benefits and funding allocations to New York State, City and our community.

The standing room only crowd, was well represented by the public housing community, tenant and block associations by their leadership, religious leaders, and others only reflects the many concerns of the upcoming census. This new group of "Trusted Voices" committed themselves to spreading the work about how important being counted is to this community.

Those present indicated an overwhelming concern that the information gathered by the census will be used in a negative manner. Many expressed their fears of privacy. These concerns were expressed not only by those representing the immigrant population but those in public and private housing developments who are in constant fear of displacement.

There were many issues discussed, and many more questions and concerns expressed. My office has prepared the attached report for review and follow up. Clearly, the community wants to be involved and my office is willing and able to be of assistance.

I further want to address an issue which was raised by a community parent. The issue of inmate residency. It has always been my belief that we lose revenue when inmates are counted in the correctional facility instead of the community from which they came and to which they will return. This is unacceptable and unfair to the communities that are negatively impacted by their incarceration. We have to re-exam this policy and undo this inequity and bring an end to this unfair practice. I plan to address this issue on a policy level.

As I stated on Saturday, and reiterated in the article in the Amsterdam News (attached) **Failure is Not An Option.**

My office and I look forward to working with you and your colleagues over the next year.

Sincerely,

Bill Perkins
State Senator

cc: Congressman Charles Rangel, Senators Charles Schumer, Kirsten Gillibrand, Assemblymen Keith Wright
Herman D. Farrell, Daniel O'Donnell, Councilpersons Inez Dickens, Robert Jackson, Melissa Mark Viverito, CB Chairs

CENSUS 2010 "ITS IN OUR HANDS" By Cedric McClester

State Senator Bill Perkins (D) 30th District, hosted a United States Census 2010 event under the theme, "It's In Our Hands," at the Harlem Branch Library 9W, 124th St. Sen. Perkins characterized the event which was held in partnership with the United States Census Bureau as a major effort to get out the word about the upcoming 2010 census. "We want to get everyone counted," Perkins offered. "Blacks and Latinos throughout the country are woefully undercounted as a general rule," the Senator added. For his census event, Perkins targeted tenant and other community leaders in an effort to encourage them to host similar events in concert with the Census Bureau, and to get the word out.

Census Bureau representatives made it clear that they are seeking to saturate the Black and Latino communities. They will have a particular focus on immigrants from the African and Latin countries. Immigration fears was one of the reasons mentioned for lack of participation of members of these communities in

the past. "How do we insure that we won't have problems with immigration if we truthfully respond to the census survey," an African attendee asked? He was assured that the information gathered by the census takers was strictly confidential, as a matter of federal law, and these confidentiality laws are strictly enforced. A census spokesperson stated the penalties for breaching confidentiality are severe.

Sen. Perkins stress the importance of getting an accurate census count. "The census numbers impact everything," Perkins said. In political terms the census determines what kind of representation a community gets. The census is used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives. It impacts upon decision making at all levels of government. Federal, state and local legislative districts are determined by the census count, as is the distribution of federal funds. Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and the location of other health services are all determined by the census count.

Forecasting future transportation and housing needs are also determined by the census count. These are some of the things the Census Bureau hopes to make clear and a consequence of the proactive aggressive approach they are taking to get the word out.

One of the New York City Housing tenant leaders suggested, forums be held in their community rooms, as a large number of their constituents might be reluctant to open their doors to strangers. It was pointed out that many census surveys, which are roughly done in ten minutes are conducted through closed doors. Census takers are allowed to ask neighbors about the household composition of their non-respondent neighbors. The easiest way around these obstacle is for people to fill out the census forms they will be receiving in the mail soon after the new year. It is anticipated census takers will be sent out in early April. Community residents will be hired for this purpose.

Immigrants with Green Cards will also be eligible to work for the Census Bureau.

Amsterdam News

NEW YORK

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 SENATOR BILL PERKINS
 163 W 125 ST APT 912

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The new Black view
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Count Me In Community leaders come out to talk 2010 U.S. Census

By **OMOWALE CLAY**
Special to the AmNews

In the aftermath of the recent New York City mayoral election in which a candidate's success or failure was determined by single percentage points, the importance of being counted was once again dramatized.

In this context, it is not surprising to see that efforts are well underway in some neighborhoods that are consistently undercounted during the gathering of census data to insure that this pattern is not continued.

This past Saturday, November 7, we saw a concrete expression of the necessary mobilization needed to improve the census count. Under the theme of "Count Me In," New York State Senator Bill Perkins gathered community leaders and U.S. Census Bureau representatives together at the Harlem Branch Library on West 124th Street to convey information and to strategize on ways to minimize the undercounting that consistently goes on in Central Harlem in particular.

State Senator Perkins, addressing community leaders and the U.S. Census Bureau representatives, said, "It has been officially reported that our community was undercounted by 40 percent during the last census in 2000. This state of affairs is totally unacceptable, and we are gathered

necessary difference in changing the 2010 outcome."

The senator went on to say, "In light of the current economic crisis that grips our country, a key determinant for the allocation of resources—your tax dollars—will flow along the lines of population representation. I am in office to ensure my district gets its fair share. However, the accuracy of the census is what gives or limits the ammunition I need to prevail." In closing his introduction, the senator conveyed, "I cannot tell you or overemphasize the price of failure for our communities if we fail to make a difference this time around."

Following a well-prepared and informative talk and multimedia presentation by U.S. Census Bureau representatives to community leaders representing churches, community groups, public housing, tenant associations, block associations and representatives from the immigrant communities, the session turned to questions and answers addressing some of the key reasons why people felt undercounting took place and presentation of sound proposals for solutions.

A couple of important questions were posed and answered:

Question: Does the Homeland Security Act give the government the right to distribute or use a person's private infor-

Census

(Continued from Page 4)

Answer: It was stated that Title 13 of the U.S. Code indicates that no one, not even the president, Homeland Security or the FBI, has access to individual census questionnaires. Copies of an individual's census questionnaire cannot even be used as evidence in a court of law.

Question: Can neighbors

provide answers to census takers for neighbors who are not home?
Answer: If the request for mailing in your census questionnaire (which is encouraged) fails, the Census Bureau makes several additional attempts, including home visits. If all fails, then the bureau goes to what they call "last resort" efforts to get information, which allows neighbors to report.

Question: Can neighbors

sented an array of suggestions to State Senator Perkins and the Census Bureau representatives, which included the need to hire census takers from the neighborhoods, advertise with the local media outlets that are representative of the groups and locations that have chronic undercounts, utilize senior citizen and community centers for disseminating and gathering information, post the census form throughout the community and use

known community leaders to do PSAs on local stations. In addition, the people gathered emphasized that census teams going out should reflect the diversity of the community.

Many of the suggestions made at the meeting focused on finding ways to overcome fears and safety and privacy issues among community residents, all of which collectively undermine a full accounting of our presence.

Question: Can neighbors

With representation from

such groupings as the Fred Samuel, Drew Hamilton and Lincoln Houses, along with members from the Council of African Imams, this important meeting ended with the scheduling of a number of additional local and specifically targeted group meetings in the weeks to come.

In closing the meeting, State Senator Perkins said, "We have begun a successful ending. Failure is not an option."

Summary of Census Meeting Hosted by Senator Bill Perkins Office 11/07/2009

1 message

cordell cleare <cordellcleare@gmail.com>
To: socrates.solano@mail.house.gov
Bcc: lester.a.farthing@census.gov

Fri, Nov 13, 2009 at 6:19 PM

Hello All,

As promised this is just a brief summarization of the Emergency Census 2010 Meeting convened by Senator Perkins on Saturday, November 7. Based on the information shared at the meeting held by Congressman Rangel on the previous Saturday we targeted the top under counted groups from the 2000 Census. As you know, the groups mentioned were African Americans nationally and locally; Central Harlem residents and particularly public housing and African immigrants. A very good representation of tenant leaders and other community leaders from all of these groups attended the meeting. Tony Farthing and his staff as well as Stacey Cumberbatch from the Mayor's Census 2010 committee were on hand to deliver count information and explain ways for the community to help. The community was very engaged raising key concerns and offering valuable suggestions and recommendations to improve the count. The following is a summary of main points that were raised:

- Tenant leaders pointed out that many families live doubled or even tripled up in an apartment, many public housing residents are afraid to respond accurately or even respond at all because they fear that information will be shared with NYCHA and as a result their rents may be raised or they may even wind up being evicted. In light of this, they suggested that literature be produced targeted at public housing residents that addresses these fears.
- Also mentioned by tenant leaders is the fact that many people don't want to let strangers in because of safety concerns and privacy issues. Therefore, they suggested that designated areas be set up in public housing community rooms, senior centers etc. so people can fill out the forms conveniently and safely.
- The question of whether or not neighbors can answer for neighbors who are not home when census staff come around. The answer was given that though the Census Bureau has done this in the past, it is only done as a "last resort attempt" following numerous attempts.
- The question of confidentiality came up in general as far as any agency, person or entity getting access to your information. Census staff informed us that under title 13 of the US code that no one, not even the President, homeland Security or the FBI have access to census data.
- The question was raised on how to change the current practice of inmates being counted where they are incarcerated instead of where they last resided and are going to return to on release.
- Hire from the blocks and developments so people see a familiar face and thus be more likely to participate in the census.
- Hire from within the African community to encourage immigrant participation.
- Advertise using people from the community in the ads and do PSA's using folks from the neighborhood
- Dispatch more ethnically diverse teams to go out together and take the census so they are prepared

to deal with as many cultures/languages spoken in a development or block as possible

- Use all forms of local media and publications including immigrant newspapers, radio, Internet programs, etc.

- Produce posters of the form with wording, messaging and photos of locations that reflect the neighborhood. An example of the wording on the posters might be "Harlem Counts". Photos should be of known Harlem locations like a street sign "Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. - 125th Street" or buildings like the Apollo Theater.

- As leaders we should emphasize to people that they fill out the form when they get it and return it in the mail to avoid getting a visit or having to go somewhere to fill out the form.

- Three public housing leaders asked that Senator Perkins office and Census 2010 come out to their development and present at a tenant meeting.

- 2 African community religious leaders asked that our office convene a meeting with their council of leaders and Census 2010.

- At the request of local media outlets our office was asked to set up a meeting with the advertisement contractor for Census 2010 and them to discuss advertising opportunities.

Mr. Farthing and his staff encouraged the leaders present to act as "trusted voices" and spread the word to others. They also welcomed the opportunity to attend the block, church, mosque, housing development, and community events that were scheduled and encouraged groups to schedule more. Many groups signed up as census partners. Overall this was a very successful meeting and we are committed to continue working with the community and Census 2010 to make sure we are all counted. We will be following up with Census 2010 on all of the recommendations and scheduling requests made by the community. Please contact me at 212-222-7315 if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Cordell Cleare
Chief of Staff
Senator Bill Perkins Office
212-222-7315

From: wmullin@gmail.com
To: william.castro@parks.nyc.gov
Cc: Barbara.Allen@parks.nyc.gov
Subject: St. Nicholas Park - Tree Lighting Article
Date: Wed, 9 Dec 2009 10:27 PM

Dear St. Nick Park Operations Meeting Attendees (i have bcc'd from Barbara's list),

I am sending to everyone's way a very positive article written about St. Nicholas Park by a reporter from the Uptowner. Our community really came together and our tree lighting was fantastic this past weekend. This article highlights that event.

Barbara - could you make sure Robert Santos at City College gets a copy of this?

Thanks all!

William Mullin
Friends of St. Nicholas Park

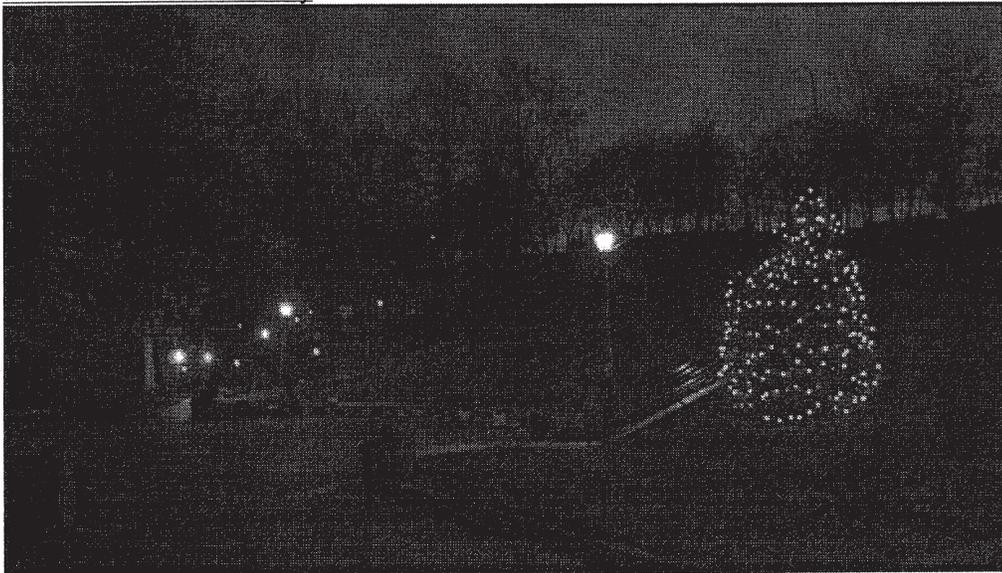
This link brings you to the online version of the article with an audio slide show which is done very well.

<http://theuptowner.org/2009/12/08/rejuvenated-st-nicholas-park-welcomes-a-new-holiday-tree/>

Rejuvenated St. Nicholas Park Welcomes a New Holiday Tree

By [Lisa Waananen](#) on Dec 8th, 2009

[Email Lisa about this story](#)



The new holiday tree in St. Nicholas Park shines against the hillside after a community lighting festival with cookies and holiday music on St. Nicholas Day. (Photo by Lisa Waananen)

The crowd at St. Nicholas Park looked into the dark expectantly, counting down.

"Ten, nine, eight, seven, six –"

Parents clutched cups of cocoa and hot cider and children danced around to keep warm.

"Five, four, three, two –"

Glittery paper snowflakes fluttered against the plaza fence, sparkling under the street lights.

"One!"

Hundreds of tiny lights leaped out of the darkness and the crowd cheered. It might not be Rockefeller Center, but the small tree donated by City College earlier this year glowed against the dark hillside.

The tree is permanent, symbolic of the increasing community involvement taking root in St. Nicholas Park since the days when most lights seen there flashed from police cruisers. Community members first got together as the Friends of St. Nicholas Park in 1995, their hope to reclaim the park from crime has grown into community priority.

"We thought it would be a perfect opportunity to have a permanent tree and see it grow over the years," Friends leader William Mullin told the crowd.

Longtime resident Fred Jordan, collecting winter clothes at the tree lighting for Blessed Trinity Baptist Church's holiday coat drive, remembers when the park became a haven for criminals once the sun set. He looked around at the plaza, where an impromptu round of carols was beginning. "Five years ago or so we didn't have this kind of thing," he said. "You probably wouldn't have even come to this park 10 years ago."

The first snowflakes of the season fell the previous morning as dogs ran around the dog run up the hill overlooking the holiday tree. Their owners chatted about upcoming events and issues with the park. At this casual monthly gathering with coffee and doughnuts, they pick up trash and check for damage – little things that can add up if no one cares.

Mullin's black lab, Guffman, chased a stick past rocks that used to be a hub for drugs and anonymous sex. The entire area was overgrown and scattered with garbage, Yasmin Lauz said. Even old cars had been dumped there.

While walking her border collie, Nina, on a previous weekend, Lauz met a woman who remembered when the path along the dog run was an arena for dog fights and lined with crack dealers. "This area that the dog park is in used to be like their little needle alley," Lauz said.

The park wasn't always an overgrown urban wilderness sheltering drug deals and other shady activities, said Sybil Ward, who grew up on Sugar Hill. She remembers it as a spotless place where families strolled after church when she was young. But sometime in the '70s the park started attracting a different crowd. Parents learned to keep their children away. Cautious citizens stopped walking through. "Nobody came to this park, nobody in their right mind," Ward said. "And now you can walk through it. You see people coming in with their children and dogs to play."

The turnaround began in the late '90s, as the city's overall crime rate was dropping and the city parks department hired a gardener. "It became more pleasant, and more people came in," said park manager Mark Vaccaro, who made sure the lights were working properly at the tree festival.

The dozen people who form the dedicated core of the Friends of St. Nicholas Park are mostly dog owners, who started walking through as the park got a little better; their presence accelerated the park's improvements. "A lot of the activities that were going on started moving out," Lauz said. "Part of it is just having the foot traffic."

This month marks three years since the Friends mustered more than 50 volunteers for a day of fence-erecting to finally build a dog run. The Friends raised the money and gathered hundreds of signatures to show community interest, and the parks department followed through by providing the land and a project manager.

The improvements since rely on the same collaborative effort: The parks department donated benches for the dog run; the Friends paid for the installation. Parks dumps a small mountain of wood chips a few times a year, and volunteers to spread it around the dog run.

"The dog run has brought people in and dog owners – as all police tell me at every meeting I go to – are the eyes and ears of the park," Ward said. "They report every little incident and indiscretion that goes on."

Drug activity and robberies have decreased, particularly in the past few years, said Officer Jason Harper of the 26th Precinct. He credited the dog run and programs like summer movies in the park for deterring loiterers.

The holiday tree is not the only addition to the park this year; notice boards were installed, new paths constructed and long-crumbling sidewalks replaced. July brought the official ribbon-cutting at the renovated basketball courts near 140th Street.

"We've put a lot of capital money into the big Harlem parks, including this one," Vaccaro said. "Especially this one."

Tourists will start flocking to Alexander Hamilton's historic home at the north end of the park when it reopens next summer, and Mullin said the Friends are hoping visitors will stick around to explore. The group is thinking of ways to mark the historic Point of Rocks at the park's south end, where George Washington's army kept watch during the Revolutionary War. "We're trying to find reasons to have all these tourists use the park fully," Mullin said.

The holiday tree also represents City College's increasing involvement with the park. Monthly operations meetings held there draw parks department and local law enforcement representatives to discuss any park problems. "We get updated on any type of crime or crime patterns," Mullin said, "which – knock on wood – has not been a lot in the past few years."

But most students still don't bother coming into the park, Mullin said, after generations of City College students learned to simply avoid the park downhill from campus. City College's public safety and security director, Lt. Douglas White, warns against venturing into the park after dark. "They're doing a great job," he said, "but you always discourage people from walking through parks at night."

Some illegal activity continues, said Harper of the 26th precinct, and the park is technically closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. "I'd recommend that people adhere to those guidelines," he said.

Plenty of neighborhood residents don't visit the park often, either, and that's part of the reason the Friends have hosted a St. Nicholas Day tree ceremony the past few years. This year 13-year-old Kimani Emmanuel, a student at the Harlem School of the Arts, played flute and a choir from P.S. 129 sang carols.

Actress Tamara Tunie, who plays the medical examiner on "Law and Order: SVU," has made a tradition of reading "The Night Before Christmas" – otherwise aptly known as "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

"I think the more people we get involved in the park, the more they'll demand that the park is kept up," Mullin said.

With the tree lit and the cocoa packed away, volunteer Annette Wilcox was ready to head home after a chilly afternoon outside helping with the snowflakes. Investing time into the park – whether with glitter or a shovel – makes a noticeable difference, she said. "When you volunteer, you see a little effort brings a lot," she said.

**Community Board 9M
16-18 Old Broadway
New York City, NY 10027**

December Executive Board Minutes

Date: December 10, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: New Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair P Jones [6:40]
The roll was called, 11 persons being present, there was a quorum

YS/DW: To adopt the agenda – UNAM

See attached tally sheet for names if doubt about initials

DW/CT To adopt the minutes with any subsequent emendations – UNAM

Columbia Update: Ashley Emerson 212.854.8136

Distrib update materials and copies of “Growing Together” newsletter

No construction til 1/4/10 then on water main Bway southbound 131-125 Street

Distrib handouts from 11/30 dewatering meeting. With the CU project storm runoff will not be sent into sewage, but treated. TK questioned, “How, and what then happens to it?”
VG asked where was the location of the treatment facility.

Drew attention to the bidding process which was detailed in Growing Together.

David Martinez of Tapas Is moving to Lower Eastside wants a letter introduction and recognition. Wants a liq lic there. CT will contact 26th Pct and on 1/7 he can come to Tspt/Unif Svs Comm

Attendance:

V. Ballard:

Documentation that he was in attendance at certain times and that his daughter was born on another day. It was UNAM agreed that process should be dropped.

Reports:

Chair Report – P Jones

Provided written report

Wants an att report for the BP reappointment process rolling 12 months.

Will check on previous procedure re time for internal computation

C Perez asked for an LOA; PJ noted that we can give a 3 mo LOA.

TK/DW grant the LOA

10-0-1

C Branch requested a LOA for health reasons
DW/TK: To grant the request
11-0-0

To grant T Allston a maternity leave
9-0-2

PJ spoke of the BP's directive that public members of committees count to quorum and their votes must be counted. Stated that they can't outnumber the CB members.

Need a liq lic process: TK, CT to meet with PJ to work it out

The exchange with CB4 has been extended

W 129th Street rezoning was approved by subcommittee with concessions

DW for Treasurer Written report submitted
Imprest fund \$302.92

DM E Prince

Submitted written report
Provided highlights
Will deal with hiring in Jan
No Dist Serv Cab mtg in Dec
Bruce Lib hosing an education advocacy workshop on 12/15 from 6:00 to 7:30PM

YS/DW to accept the reports

Action Items

Intro 1059 – G Morgan Thomas

As the final wording of the bill was not complete, PJ suggested that we support the spirit. This was accepted as a friendly amendment

6-2-2

Old Business

VB glad the TC letter approved but there are still questions; We need more clarity on how we recruit CB9 students.

PJ noted that if the TC school not in CB9 bounds, then CU loses \$30Million

PJ will question lawyers on percentages etc

VG noted that there were several good locations in the CB9 area.

New Business

We need to confirm and check calendars for not only date but also location

VG: Board member statements to the outside must include that they are not speaking for the Board

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted

Theodore P. Kovaleff

Theodore P. Kovaleff

Executive Committee Meeting

12/10/2009

		ROLL CALL 6:40	Perez LOA	C Branch Health LOA	T Allston Maternity LOA	Intro 1059 8:25
P JONES	PJ	P	y	y	y	Y
J ARRENDELL	JA	Excused.....				
V BALLARD	VB	P	y	y	y	ABS
A FLETCHER	AF	P	Excused.....	Excused.....	Excused.....	
C GIESECKE	CG	P	ABS	Y	ABS	Y
T KOVALEFF	TK	P	y	y	ABS	N
W MAJETTE	WM					Y
S BAILEY-MCCLAIN	SBM	Excused.....				
G MORGAN THOMAS	GMT	P	y	y	y	Y
W SOUTH	WS	Excused.....				
Y STENNETT	YS	P	y	y	y	N
B TAYLOR	BT	P	y	y	y	Y
C THOMPSON	CT	P	y	y	y	
E WELCH	EW					
L WALTON	LW	P	Y	Y	Y	ABS
D WILSON	DW	P	Y	y	y	Y
TOTAL		11	10-0-1	11-0-0	9-0-2	6-2-2

WANTED

FOR RAPE



suspect possessed a
similar style backpack.

The above is a sketch resembling a suspect sought for a **RAPE** that occurred on **8-01-09** at **0245 HRS** in the confines of the **30 PCT.**. This sketch is based on a description supplied by a witness.

Description: **MALE, BLACK, 30-40 YRS OF AGE, 5'09 TO 6'00, MEDIUM BUILD, SUSPECT WORE A BLACK HOODIE, & WHITE SNEAKERS WITH RED DIAGONAL STRIPES ON THE SOLE.**

ABOVE SUSPECT IS WANTED IN REGARDS TO A KNIFE POINT RAPE WHICH OCCURRED IN THE COURT YARD OF 565 WEST 148TH STREET.

Notify the **MSVS** with any information regarding the above subject.

Re: **UF61 #3921, CASE#262**

DETECTIVE RAMA Assigned

COMMAND TELEPHONE #(212)860-6857

40510