

Community Board 9 Manhattan  
Chair's Report  
February 16, 2012

Meeting held with Columbia University Reps. to discuss the establishment of a means in which the community can be assured that jobs are available to the community. And that CU and CB9 start a process by which both non union and union jobs are identified and accessible to the community. CB9 voiced concerns regarding the lack of success our residents are having with McKissack. CU is willing with CB9 to create a monitoring system and brings in a consulting group that has history of success in facilitating the hiring of community residents to work toward creating a process that works.

Discussion took place regarding CU extending dental and medical services to the community and we are setting up a meeting with the heads of the Dental school and the community medical Program to take place in the next month.

Attended the meeting to protest the closing of Wadleigh Secondary School for Performing Arts along with parents, teachers, students, electeds and community residents who came out to let DOE know that we are in support of Wadleigh remaining open and demands were made that before they consider closing they should offer some real help and resources to the school.

Collaboration with Harlem School of the Arts, Harlem Historical Society and St. James Church to create the foundation for the celebration of the co-naming of 141<sup>st</sup> to 145<sup>th</sup> Streets on St. Nicholas Ave as "Dorothy Manor Way". The projected date is May 12 at 1pm.

Attended a forum and screening of a movement in Arizona to create equity in the school curriculum to reflect the community attending the schools. The Young people who spoke were resounding in sharing their feelings about the movement in Arizona as well as their experience with the NY school system and lack of identity in the curriculum here. They were very candid and concerned about the lack of their culture and history being readily available. This event was a clear illustration of the work ahead for our board in the education of our children and the need to make the process equitable.

Attended rezoning forums which were informative and provoked spirited conversation. The Land Use committee has been doing a top notch job with getting the word out. I also meet with half a dozen churches regarding the rezoning and the need for them to have representatives attending CB9 meetings as well as disseminating the information throughout the community surrounding them.

Discussions and meetings held with the coalition for equity in housing. Local diverse group concerned about loss of affordable housing and lack of Senior housing. Explored

ways in which property can be made available and developed by the Coalition (gifted properties to churches, non profits, underutilized spaces etc.). The development of jobs and income for the community. They also identified construction groups that have history of developing large projects and shared ways that they were able to hire community residents.

Attended the “Strong Kids Campaign” at the Harlem YMCA. The campaign is seeking to raise funds to provide free after school programs and summer programs to youth. They are also offering scholarships for High school seniors. The only requirement is that they write an essay and have grades that will allow for their admission to college.

I have spent a great deal of time discussing and meeting with reps from union locals to develop an understanding as to how we as a board should proceed to assure that our community residents can be hire on the many sites of construction in our district. Also to create real apprenticeship (training) programs that will create long term employment for our residents and afford them the entry into the unions that are involved in the construction in our district.

Met with American Fire and security to establish a process by which CB9 can make referrals for employment as well as discussion around development the training that will allow young men and women to be equipped for the positions that they envision.

Attended Town Hall meeting presented by Borough President Scott Stringer and Assemblyman Denny Farrell. The Assemblyman gave an overview of the proposed new design of the voting districts. An extensive explanation of the state budget was given and those in attendance expressed concerns regarding the excessive presence of drugs in the community, stop and frisk, and the lack of resources for youth activities. There was a proposal suggesting that meetings such as the town hall could be done via the internet and individuals would be able to attend the meeting while in the comfort of their home.

Attended the “Freedoms Sisters” exhibit opening and would like to encourage all to visit. It is on display at the Malcolm X Betty Shabazz center through April 22.