

Community Board 9 Manhattan

Chairs Report

June 19, 2013

Participated in the Annual Health Fair where over 250 community residents visited and dozens of health organizations and vendors came out and shared services and information to residents. Great music was available and our children enjoyed many activities (face painting, rock climbing, arts and crafts and many other fun activities). Free testing and evaluations were available and referrals for free medical exams. The weather was fabulous and the response was great.

Chair, DM and Former Chair English met with the Empire State Development Corporation and had a candid conversation about the lack of reporting on the part of Columbia. ESDC indicated that they are frustrated due to the lack of information that they are extracting and the inability to get solid numbers for WMBE which they are responsible for monitoring (they are not responsible for monitoring local business participation). We have agreed to continue to meet in order to press them so that they can press Columbia. They were also informed of the impending lawsuit that will be brought on behalf of our district. We will meet in July at which time the local monitor who has been hire to check the physical locations and demographic will be present.

Chair, DM, Chair of housing and Chair of economic development met with Columbia University regarding the work at the Manhattanville site to discuss the lack of local workers on the site and the lack of statistics available in regard to reporting WMBE and local participation. CB9 indicated the need to have "real" numbers regarding minorities working on the site as well as companies that are local not companies that have set up shop in a storefront with a desk and phone then declaring that they are a local company in order to receive millions of dollars. Though it may be legal for a company to present itself in that manner it lacks a spirit of integrity. We concluded that Columbia, CB9, WHDC and ESDC should meet and work on the issue of reporting and hiring.

Collaborated with Columbia University to set up a clergy focus group where local clergy could share their insight, prospective, issues and recommendations for solutions to Youth issues in our district. The transcript for the meeting will be used to develop strategies to create "Best practices" in serving the youth of our district.

Discussion held with ED of HSA regarding the activity on the lot next door to the school. She indicated that the lot had been sold and the new owner was only doing demolition to assess the vacant lot for development.

Met with Dock Master Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and New York Waterways and discussed setting up a community forum to allow input to determine the types of services they will provide at the Harlem Piers, there will possibly be several Jazz concerts during the summer if they can co ordinate with Minton's Playhouse.

**CB9M****16-18 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396****COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN**

May 17, 2013

Scott Stringer
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Eutha Prince
District ManagerDennis Walcott, Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, N.Y. 10007**Letter of Support re: Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center**

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

At its regularly scheduled General Board meeting held on Thursday, April 25, 2013 Community Board No. 9 Manhattan Unanimously approved the following **Letter of Support re: Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center.**

It has come to the attention of Community Board 9 Manhattan that the Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center (MMALC) has been selected for co-location during the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. Community Board 9 opposes this decision and has voted unanimously against any co-locating at MMALC.

During this serious economic crisis there is an increasing need for the services provided by MMALC to those of our community, now more than ever. This institution has demonstrated its' value over the past 60 plus years by currently having 100s of students on its' waiting list and has graduated thousands of students that have gone on to successful employment in numerous corporations. MMALC is a model that should be replicated rather jeopardized, as we have noted that the co-location of charter schools into existing district public schools have often resulted in the demise of the host school.

A co-location would be disruptive and potentially destructive to this program's ability to grow and develop based on the needs of the existing student population.

We are further concerned with the idea of youth who are impressionable and already dealing with the pressures and stresses of emotional and social development to be housed in and utilizing the same facilities with adults. The proposed co-location will detrimentally expose minors to issues that they do not yet understand, as many adults serviced by this agency may be dealing with issues of re-entry, substance addiction and/or mental impairments. At a time when we have so many missing young people in communities across the nation why would the Department of Education (DOE) create a

Dennis Walcott

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situation that could result in irreparable harm and grave danger for young men and women who should be in an atmosphere that is age appropriate, as well as emotionally and socially safe? We are certain that the Democracy Prep High School and/or the DOE can secure appropriate space within another age-appropriate private space.

Community Board 9 does not approve of the proposal to co-locate Democracy Prep High School in MMALC and is requesting that MMALC be removed from any further consideration to co-locate with any charter school. Our community has a need for more training opportunities and if any action is to be taken it should be to increase and/or add to the existing services being provided to **Adults**.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince at (212) 864-6200

Sincerely,



Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas
Chair