

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
CHAIR'S REPORT  
November 12, 2009**

Community Board Appointments

- Two new Board members have been appointed by MBPO effective immediately
  - Simon Thorsen and Renaldo Snyder
  - Filling seats left vacant by Carolyn Kent and Brenda Faust

Teachers College Demonstration School

- Teachers College has filed an application with Department of Education for a public demonstration school in Community Board 9
- Two community outreach forums scheduled for Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, in order to get community input on necessary elements/enhancements to meet West Harlem public schools needs
  - Location: PS 161, 499 West 133<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - Thursday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM
  - Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11 AM

Re-use of Marine Transfer Station

- West Harlem Community Forum to be held:
  - Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 to 2:00
  - Location: City College, North Academic Building, Lecture Hall 1/203

Borough of Manhattan Complete Count Committee ("CCC")

- MBPO has formed a CCC to be comprised of residents, community, religious, cultural, tenant and government leaders, plus advocacy, NFP, community based and student organizations
- Goal: to encourage maximum participation of Manhattan residents in completing 2010 census
- First meeting: Friday, November 13, 2009 at 10 AM at One Centre Street

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](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4))

### Kill the Drill Campaign

- Well attended rally on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5PM
- Over 174 individuals signed up to give public testimony beginning at 6:30 PM on November 10<sup>th</sup>

### West 129<sup>th</sup> 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

### **REMINDER**

#### Manhattan Community Board Members Reception

- Thursday, December 3, 2009, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- American Museum of Natural History

**DANIEL R. GARODNICK**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
211 EAST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET, SUITE 2004  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
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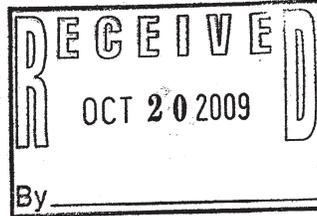
**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
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garodnick@council.nyc.gov

**Via U.S. Mail**



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK



October 15, 2009

**CHAIR**  
PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS & CONCESSIONS

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LAND USE  
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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Patricia Jones  
Chair  
Community Board 9  
565 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones:

I hope you saw the recent article about an innocent New Yorker mistakenly sued in New York City Civil Court because of a negligent process server. In case you missed it, I have enclosed it for your reference.

According to the story, the failure to notify the defendant resulted in a default judgment, which wreaked havoc on her credit rating, caused her to lose her college loans and her work-study job and forced her to drop out of college.

The article highlights holes in two areas of New York City consumer law that cry out for correction – inadequate regulation of debt collectors and process servers.

Earlier this year, the City Council enacted my legislation, Intro 660, to stiffen the regulation of debt buyers in New York City. I recently introduced Intro 1037, a bill that will require process servers and the agencies they work for to provide the City with a surety bond that would reimburse any person injured by the wrongful or negligent acts of the server or agency. In addition, this bill will require annual training of process servers regarding the proper service of process.

I am hopeful that the Council will take up Intro 1037 in the weeks ahead so that we can substantially eliminate the abusive practices of some in the process serving industry. I hope you will join me in reaching out to allies in the Council to ensure that we get this bill passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Garodnick".

Daniel R. Garodnick

## Debt collector's ID snafu 'ruins my life'

By ALEX GINSBERG

Last Updated: 4:43 AM, September 8, 2009

Posted: 2:39 AM, September 8, 2009

She should be in medical school by now, on her way to becoming a pediatrician.

Instead, Rachel Lindor is a college dropout, sharing a room with her sister in Brooklyn and working for \$9.25 an hour -- the victim of a debt-collection paperwork snafu that destroyed her dream, according to a shocking suit filed last week.

Lindor, 23, was a junior at Penn State looking forward to medical school when things came crashing down after a \$4,352.17 debt was wrongly attributed to her.

"My plan was go to Penn State, finish college, get a job, move out, get a car . . . Now, I can't get into med school," Lindor said. "They have ruined my life."

She first realized she was in trouble in fall 2006, when her student loans were canceled because she had been sued, without her knowledge, in Brooklyn Civil Court for the debt. It turns out that a "Raquel Lindor" had racked up thousands with AT&T Wireless. That debtor eventually came to be associated with Rachel's Flatbush address and yet another person's Social Security number.

A collection agency, Palisade Collection, hired a law firm, Forster & Garbus, to go after "Raquel," which wound up, because of the snafu, being Rachel.

In March 2005, unbeknownst to Rachel, the court entered a default judgment against her. A year and five months later, it was on her credit report.

An odyssey of dead-end phone calls and red tape followed. Distracted, stressed out and growing penniless, she struggled to keep from being evicted from her apartment. Penn State let her sit in on classes without registering, but they terminated her from her work-study cafeteria job.

"I'm thinking, I don't have money to go back to school," she said. "My credit-card bills are piling up. And I still have the civil judgment on my credit report. I'm crying. This is it. My life is over."

Finally, Forster & Garbus admitted in writing that the person it was looking to collect from had a different Social Security number -- though the firm never explained why, despite the discrepancy, it sued Rachel.

Armed with the letter, Lindor got her credit report cleaned up -- but too late.

Being broke during the fall 2006 semester, Lindor had failed to pay a single credit-card bill.

What's more, she had been barred from taking some of her finals because she wasn't officially enrolled. Her GPA plummeted to 1.98, just under the 2.0 student lenders require.

Now she's working as an assistant at Borough of Manhattan Community College, sharing a two-bedroom apartment with five relatives and forking over \$300 a month to repay \$80,000 in student loans -- for a degree she doesn't have.

"That's what kills me," she said.

Her lawyer, Kevin Mallon, said it wasn't a case of identity theft because ID thieves swipe personal information that matches. "If you're an identity thief, you steal a name and a Social that go together," Mallon said. "That's how you get a credit card or a phone account."

So Mallon has gone after everybody, the credit bureau TransUnion, as well as Palisade, AT&T and Forster & Garbus, to figure out who was sloppy.

Of the defendants, only Forster & Garbus agreed to comment. Lawyer Ron Forster said the "Raquel" account was closed and no money ever collected. "We deal with this on a regular basis," he said, referring to inaccurate information. "Inevitably, it's only that 1 percent or less that creates the problem, but that's all it takes."

*alex.ginsberg@nypost.com*

**DANIEL R. GARODNICK**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

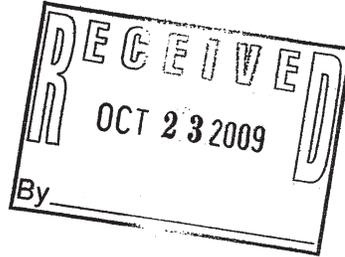
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  - RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS
  - CULTURAL AFFAIRS

October 21, 2009

Patricia Jones  
Chair  
Community Board 9  
16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones: *Pat*

Please extend my thanks to Community Board 9 for its support of Intro 1015A, my legislation to address stalled construction sites in New York City. You will be pleased to know that the bill passed on October 14 by a vote of 47 to 0, and is now awaiting the Mayor's signature.

Your Board's resolution was a great help to me and other members of the Council in thinking through and passing this bill. I believe that this law serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished when various levels of government work together creatively to accomplish a specific objective.

I look forward to working with you and Community Board 9 again in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan".

Daniel R. Garodnick

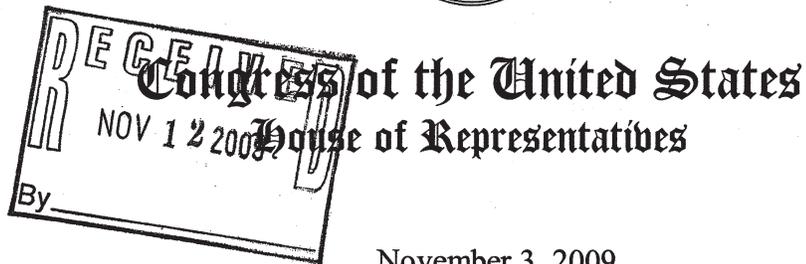
CHARLES B. RANGEL  
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON TAXATION  
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE A. DALLEY  
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR



November 3, 2009

Pat Jones  
Chair, Community Board 9  
16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you very much for showing your support at our Census Leadership meeting this past Saturday. Now that we have established how critical our situation is, I hope that you are as motivated as I am to ensure that each and every person in the 15th Congressional District is counted in the 2010 Census.

This Saturday was only the beginning. Over the next few weeks, our office will begin reaching out to follow up on how we can increase response rates in every part of the Congressional District. Additionally, on November 13, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's office will be hosting a meeting as to how we can create a Manhattan Complete Count Committee.

If you have not done so already, we certainly encourage you to sign up as a Census partner. Also, please begin to think about the events and meetings you can organize starting in late February and throughout March that will not only promote awareness, but translate into real results. **As was mentioned Saturday, while funding is available for outreach efforts, proposals are due by the end of December.** Do not delay in putting your ideas to paper and submit your proposals to the U.S. Census Bureau New York Regional Office as soon as you can.

Please spread the word! Recognizing the diversity of our district, we are depending on a variety of voices to ensure a complete count. If you have any questions on becoming a Census Partner or other ways to become involved, please contact April Harris ([april.harris@mail.house.gov](mailto:april.harris@mail.house.gov)) in my New York office at 212-663-3900.

Let's not forget, "It's in our hands".

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215  
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PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

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163 WEST 125TH STREET  
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**BILL PERKINS**  
SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT

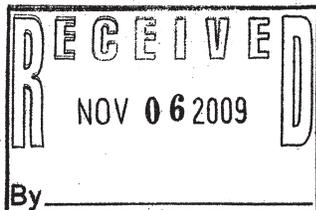
CHAIRMAN  
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES &  
COMMISSIONS

**COMMITTEES:**

CITIES  
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS  
CODES  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
FINANCE  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR  
TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE**  
**SENATE**

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



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WWW.NYSENATE30.COM

November 4, 2009

Honorable Steve Lawitts  
Acting Commissioner  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing , NY, 11373

Dear Mr. Lawitts,

I write to you as the Senator representing the 30<sup>th</sup> district of the New York State Senate, widely associated with historic Harlem, as well as significant portions of East Harlem, (el Barrio), Washington Heights, Morningside Heights and the Upper West Side. On behalf of my constituents, and as a dedicated advocate for more and better parks, I join Community Board 9 in my district, in endorsing the effort to expand and improve Riverside Park.

North of 128<sup>th</sup> Street, East of Riverbank State Park and West of the tracks of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, the New York City Department of Sanitation currently operate an unsightly salt dump. I agree that this facility ought to be relocated, with the vacated parcels incorporated into one of this area's most heavily used open spaces. I feel sure that in reviewing this proposal you will appreciate its benefits. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and please feel free to call on me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Bill Perkins  
30<sup>th</sup> District

Teachers College is developing a new public PreK-8 school in Northern Manhattan. It will be a non-selective, Department of Education neighborhood school. We would like to hear your thoughts on the school and your ideas on the types of services the school should offer to support parents and families in the neighborhood.

**Community Conversation:  
A New Neighborhood School in Community Board 9**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 12<sup>th</sup> • 6 - 8 PM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14<sup>th</sup> • 9 - 11 AM**

at

**PS 161 Pedro Albizu Campos**

499 West 133rd Street

(enter on Amsterdam Ave)

*Refreshments will be provided*

Please call us at (212) 678-8362 to let us know which day you will attend. You can also RSVP online at

[www.tc.edu/PK8school](http://www.tc.edu/PK8school)

**CB9M**

WestSide Harlem  
Hamilton Heights  
Manhattanville  
Morningside Heights



# From Trash to Treasure: Continuing the West Harlem Waterfront Renaissance

## West Harlem Community Forum: Transforming the 135th St. Garbage Transfer Station into a Community Facility

Saturday, November 21st, 2009

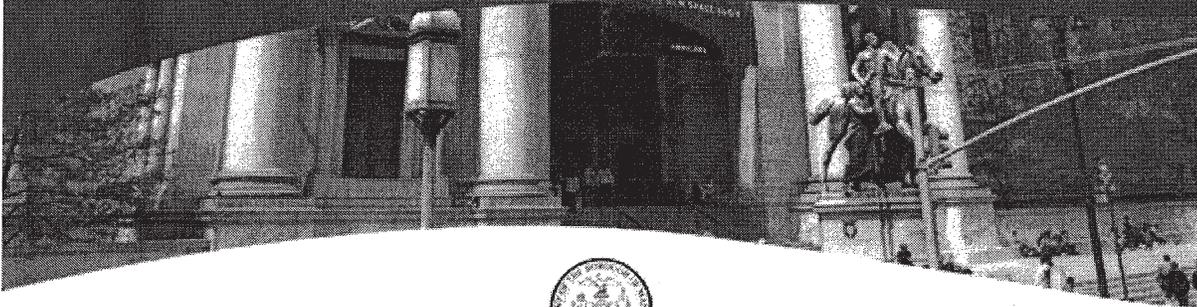
9:30 am - 2 pm

City College, 160 Convent Avenue, (138th St.)  
North Academic Building, Lecture Hall 1/203

To RSVP contact: James Subudhi,  
Environmental Policy and Advocacy Coord.  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Phone: 347-465-8484  
Email: [james@weact.org](mailto:james@weact.org)  
Or contact Community Board 9  
at 212-864-6200  
Breakfast/refreshments served  
Childcare available upon request  
Translation available upon request

Transportation:  
1 train to 137th  
A,C,B,D to 145th  
M101, M100, M18

# AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



**Scott M. Stringer**

Manhattan Borough President

**Christine C. Quinn**

New York City Council Speaker

New York City Council Members

Gale A. Brewer • Inez Dickens • Daniel R. Garodnick • Alan J. Gerson  
Robert Jackson • Jessica Lappin • Melissa Mark Viverito • Rosie Mendez

and

**The American Museum of Natural History**

Invite you to a Reception in Honor of the  
**Manhattan Community Board Members**

**Thursday, December 3, 2009**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

The American Museum of Natural History  
*Hall of the Universe*

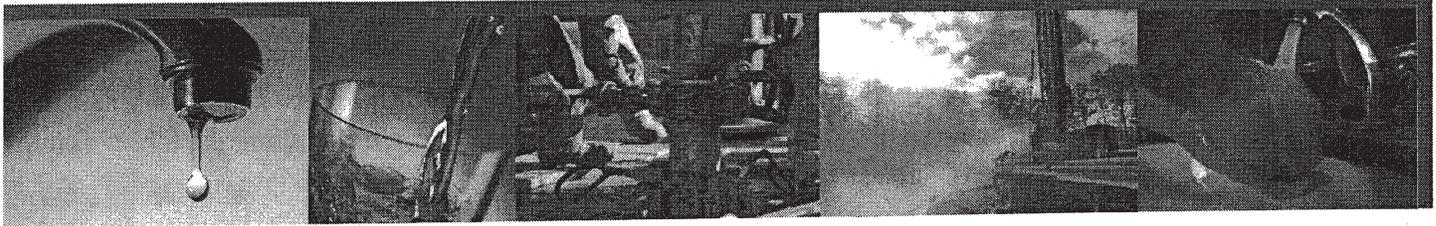
Please enter the museum via the Rose Center on 81st Street  
between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West

To RSVP, please call 212-669-4465  
or email [events@manhattanbp.org](mailto:events@manhattanbp.org)

**JOIN THE**

# **KILL THE DRILL** CAMPAIGN

**TO STOP DRILLING IN NEW YORK CITY'S WATERSHED**



Let the **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** know that they must ban natural gas drilling in **New York City's watershed**

**Rally!** November 10, 2009 at 5pm  
outside **Stuyvesant H.S.** (345 Chambers St.)

**Testify!** before the **DEC** at **Stuyvesant H.S.**  
November 10, 2009 at 7pm

**Hydraulic fracturing** has been linked to dozens of *leaks, spills, contaminations* and *explosions* in several different states.

**You can spread the word!**

forward this message to a friend

join our "Kill The Drill!" Facebook group

join our letter writing campaign at [MBPO.org/KillTheDrill](http://MBPO.org/KillTheDrill)

Please contact 212.669.4462 or [Hearing@manhattanbp.org](mailto:Hearing@manhattanbp.org)  
with questions or to get involved.