

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CHAIR'S REPORT  
September 9, 2009**

Committee Leadership Changes

Youth Education and Libraries

- With her extensive housing experience, Barbara Marshall will join the newly recombined Housing, Land Use and Zoning Committee. Youth Education and Libraries Committee will be co-chaired by Winston Majette and Vernon Ballard.

Health and Environmental Issues

- Due to her significant work responsibilities, Carmen Perez will be replaced by Rev. Georgiette Morgan Thomas as Chair.

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
- Attend General Board meeting, DSC meeting, Committee meetings
- CB's to report back to Borough Board in November

September General Board will be held at Manhattanville Community Center

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**Cc:** jjf@jjf-law.com, dbf@jjf-law.com, lkk@jjf-law.com

**Subject:** Columbia University gas line work on Broadway 125th & 129th

**Date:** Thu, 3 Sep 2009 9:33 PM

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Please be advised that this morning, Sept. 3rd, 2009 at 11.30 am, Mr. Marcelo Velez and Ms. Jennifer Colon of Columbia University, informed me that on Sept. 9, 2009 work will commence on the sidewalk directly in front of Floridita Diner and Bakery. Mr. Velez and Ms. Colon informed me that Con Edison, on behalf of Columbia University, will begin to relocate a main gas line during the hours of 11.00pm and 6.00am. This work involves removing most of the sidewalk in front of my businesses, relocating the bus stop, suspension of metered and non-metered parking from 3205 thru 3219 Broadway, closing of Broadway on the east side of 129th Street and left turns onto 126th St. will be suspended.

All of the above was explained to me today, Thursday, the day before Labor day weekend. Furthermore, I spoke to the Community Board 9 and they had no information concerning all these closing and work to begin on Sept. 9, 2009.

I expressed my concerns to Mr. Velez and Ms. Colon about the interruption of business this was going to inevitably cause Floridita and more importantly the dangers of replacing a gas line directly in front of the main doors of a business that at any given time has over 20 employees and 300 to 400 customers walking through the doors everyday. Their response was that if I had any problems to let them know and they would be addressed and that Con Edison believes it is very "unlikely" and "not probable" that this can create a dangerous situation. Considering Con Edison's track record as of lately these words are not comforting.

I am very concerned about the dangerous conditions created by the relocation of a gas line directly in front of a busy restaurant, I am also very concerned about the relocation of a gas line that feeds my business and any interruption of gas distribution can shut me down immediately.

It is evident that Columbia University is trying to get work done without thought to the possible consequences of such work. They are also timing the work so that I, the business owner affected by this work, can not react to protect my interests. Additionally, for the Community Board 9 to be uninformed of this work and to find out through me is and should be unacceptable.

As the elected officials and representatives of this community I humbly request that you intervene on our behalf.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Floridita Restaurant 212-662-0090.

Thank you

Ramon Diaz  
Floridita Cuban Diner & Bakery