

Community Board 9 Manhattan  
Report From Chair  
May 17, 2012

Hosted meeting to welcome new members in order to provide and discuss board mission, function and procedures. By-Laws, April calendar, district overview, committee goals and accomplishments, as well as committee descriptions were given to each member. Introductions and Q&A promoted great observations and good feedback.

Meeting held with the Borough President and Commissioner of City Planning on the West Harlem Rezoning to discuss updates and possible calendar for moving the rezoning forward.

Meeting held with Grandparents International regarding resources they have for Seniors. They will schedule to meet with the Chair of Senior Issues to discuss how they can share resources.

Continued discussion with numerous unions in order to advocate for and stimulate desire to push for new apprentice programs to train our community residents for "careers" in construction rather than temporary labor positions only.

Great deal of time, phone calls and exploration has been put forth to determine what is happening with the Gas meter station at 134th St. It turns out that Williams Transco (a company out of Houston, Tx.) has been contracted by Con Ed to supply natural gas to our area. I have spoken with the representative and asked that the company present at our June meeting.

Served on a panel for students at Columbia University presenting a broader perspective on the legislative issues surrounding housing & homelessness vs. the practical issues facing individuals and families seeking affordable housing. Shared CB9's work around changing the NIMBY mentality and our fight to create more affordable housing within the district. Furthermore, established a legal clinic, forums against predatory landlords as well as advocacy to protect the elderly from predatory lending practices.

Met with several groups from CCNY and Columbia to discuss the function and the importance of community boards and our need for more participation from young adults.

Represented CB9 at the following events for the month of April:

Minimum Wage public hearing  
Grandparents International board meeting  
Harlem Figure Skating reception  
Ralph Lauren Center

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas  
Chair

Dear Rev. Morgan-Thomas:

*I would like to thank you, on behalf of CU Habitat, for coming to Columbia and speaking at Thursday's event. While Columbia students learn about issues that affect the nation and the world, they often ignore the issues that affect their local community because they live in the bubble of their campus. Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing are problems that they witness so often in the course of living in New York City that they cease to take notice. Your presence on campus really provides a crucial benefit to the Columbia student body by making them more aware of their connection to their neighborhood as well as my challenging to reject the status quo of homelessness in New York City and redlining in the housing market. I hope that you will be interested in speaking on these matters at future events hosted by CU Habitat, or working with one of Columbia Community Impact's other student groups (such as Project for the Homeless).*

*The event made the front page of The Columbia Daily Spectator's Friday paper; here is the URL to the online article: <http://www.columbiaspectator.com/2012/04/06/community-board-9-chair-econ-prof-talk-race-homelessness-habitat-panel>.*

~ Henry