

**Community Board 9 Manhattan
Health and Environmental Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2009**

Committee Members Present: Charles Cooper, Cora Gilmore, Vaughn Jackson (Public Member), Patricia Lewis, Carmen Perez (Chair), Will Simkins
***Ralph Jackson was excused*

Public Present: Michelle Stent, North General Hospital; Vaughn Jackson; Ruther J. Miller

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM by Chair, Carmen Perez.

North General Hospital

Chair Perez introduced Michelle Stent, Director of Community & Government Affairs for North General Hospital for an update and to let the community know that the hospital is not closing. North General Hospital is located at 122nd Street and Madison Avenue. It is the only private community-based hospital in the country. Built in 1979, it was the last hospital built in New York City. It is a 200 bed facility. The hospital faces numerous challenges in trying to stay open with 50% of children living in poverty and 42% eligible for Medicaid. 5% of patients are paying patients. The hospital also faces numerous challenges due to the closing of other hospitals and clinics in the city.

The hospital specializes in diabetes care, obesity, HIV/AIDS, asthma, cardiovascular disease, etc. The Community Outreach unit has a van that will go to senior centers, do testing and screenings on site, and they participate in health fairs, etc. Additionally, they do multiple testings on Thursdays in the hospital lobby. The hospital has a relationship with Mt. Sinai hospital that allows them the benefits of using those facilities and staff. In response to Pat Lewis, Ms. Stent explained that the hospital is not a trauma center and is not on an ambulance route for the west side. The hospital is currently building a new emergency room.

The hospital is hosting a Men's Health Forum at the Apollo Theater on Thursday, June 18th at 5:30pm. A women's health forum will follow. She encourages everyone to use the hospital's services and clinics so that they can successfully expand and apply for funding. A packet of information is available in the District Office of Community Board 9.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project

There remains \$1.1 million funds available for this community as the result of past negotiations surrounding Riverbank State Park and the sewage treatment plant. The West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee (WHEBPC) invites proposals to fund programs or agendas in several areas: school gardens, tree planting, green roofs, Broadway Malls improvements, and waterfront access. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2009.

It was recommended that the packet be forwarded to all Community Board 9 members. Chair Perez will contact Debra Pucci, Director of Community Partnerships for DEP, to enquire about the full status of the project. Committee members were encouraged to share the RFP widely.

Chair Perez recognized that former NYC Commissioner of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was appointed to lead the Centers for Disease Control. She hopes for a more fruitful relationship with DOHMH with the new leadership and new commissioner and plans on establishing communication.

Chair Perez also recommends that Carole Singleton, currently going through CERT training, provide training to the full Board this coming fall. Several committee members were interested to know if the training would be offered again in the near future.

Charles Cooper enquired about the current monitoring of air conditions and whether this committee is given regular reports. Chair Perez indicated that monitoring still occurs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM by Chair Perez.

The next meeting of the Health & Environmental Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

Submitted by W. Simpkins, 6/9/09.