

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Community Board 9 Manhattan

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

*Committee Members Present:* Georgiette Morgan-Thomas (Chair), Ralph Jackson, Will Simpkins, Patricia Lewis, Carmen Perez

*Public Present:* Vaughn Jackson

### MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by the newly appointed Chair, Georgiette Morgan-Thomas. The agenda was adopted by a motion by Ralph Jackson and seconded by Pat Lewis.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Chair noted that following the presentation by North General Hospital, we could be well-placed to approach them requesting services for District 9. She noted that one issue could be a preponderance of younger residents who do not have insurance and do not seek health services. Carmen Perez noted that the federally funded clinic on 145<sup>th</sup> Street does have a sliding scale for services for the uninsured. Dr. Jackson noted that the Emma Bowling Community Center / Upper Manhattan Mental Health Services will be holding a health clinic on 9/18/09. The committee agreed that a large focus of our work should be communicating and spreading information about the services and events already offered. Part of this is also finding out what programs are offered by pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies, and other health care providers. Chair Morgan-Thomas agreed to follow-up on researching programs or special deals offered for drugs commonly prescribed in CB9. W. Simpkins will forward information on regarding Peer Health Exchange at Harlem Hospital.

Committee also discussed the "medical facility" available for rent in a new space on 152<sup>nd</sup> Street whose realtor previously spoke at this committee. Committee agreed that given the high cost, limited space, the space might be best suited for a private practice and not a community clinic.

Carmen Perez reminded the committee that Carole Singleton had been asked to facilitate a community CERT training for CB9. Chair Morgan-Thomas agreed that we should find a date that would work and schedule this. We tentatively looked at Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. C. Perez will look for space at Amalgamated Bank, W. Simpkins will look into space at Barnard College.

Carmen Perez brought information to the committee regarding North River Sewage Treatment Plant – a problem with untreated sewage being released into the river during rainy periods. This information came from a meeting of the North River Community Environmental Review Board, held on the first Tuesday of every month in 626 Riverside Drive.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Patricia Lewis enquired about the H1N1 virus and vaccinations. Committee agreed that information from the Health Department about prevention, treatment, etc. should be disseminated at CB9 meetings.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting of the Health & Environmental Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 583 Riverside Dr.

*Submitted by W. Simpkins, 9/8/09.*