

**CHAIR'S REPORT
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- New appointments effective April 1, 2009
- Letters should go out last week in March
- Half-day retreat planned for Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9:00 to 1:00 (Primary focus will be CB9 background and 197A Plan)

UPPER MANHATTAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

- Friday, March 13th from 8:00 to 1:00
- Sponsored by CB9, 10, 11, and 12
- Over 250 attendees
- Thank you to Christa Giesecke, Yvonne Stennett, Linda Walton and Eutha Prince for volunteering at the event

AGENCY RESPONSES

- Landmarks Preservation Commission
 - Old Broadway Synagogue designation – Will not be recommended for further consideration
- NYCDOT
 - Installation of new luminaries on stairs leading into Riverside Park at 135th Street and at 134th and 12th Avenue is scheduled for third quarter of 2009

ANNUAL REPORTS

- In process

MBPO COMMUNITY BOARD SURVEY

- Can be answered on-line
- Due March 26, 2009

FY 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

- Another Milestone – CB9 first response in about a decade
- Response included with my report

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

- First meeting of CB9 CERT took place Thursday, March 12, 2009 and will continue every Thursday for the next ten (10) weeks



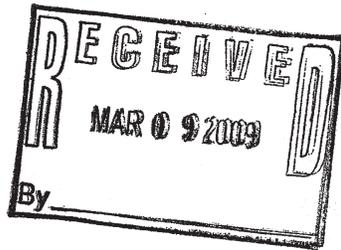
The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 (212) 669-7801 Fax (212) 669-7818

<http://nyc.gov/landmarks>



Mary Beth Betts
Director of Research
mbetts@lpc.nyc.gov



March 4, 2009

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

Re: Old Broadway Synagogue, 15 Old Broadway, Manhattan

Dear Chair Jones:

In response to the information you submitted concerning the property referenced above, a senior staff committee of the Landmarks Preservation Commission has reviewed the property for consideration as a potential landmark. At this time, the property will not be recommended to the full Commission for further consideration as a New York City Individual Landmark.

The decision not to recommend further consideration is based on our current priorities. This decision could be reconsidered at a later date should additional information about the property's significance become available.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Betts

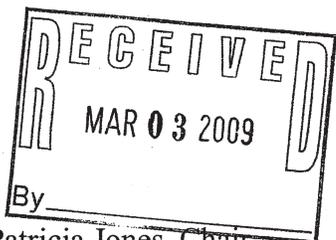


**New York City
Department of Transportation**

**Office of the
Manhattan Borough Commissioner**
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, New York 10038
Tel: 212/487-8341 Fax: 212/487-5710

Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner

Web: www.nyc.gov/dot



February 25, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Jones:

Having completed our lighting survey of the west side of 12th Avenue north of West 133rd Street, it pleases me to inform you of our findings.

We have found cause to install new luminaries on the stairs leading into Riverside Park at 135th Street. Additionally, two new floodlight luminaries will be installed at 134th Street and 12th Avenue. Lighting plans are now being prepared, and the installations are scheduled to take place during the third quarter of 2009.

Thank you for taking the time to write with these concerns. I hope you are able to use this information to the benefit of your community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Forgione
Borough Commissioner

MF: GP:rg
Man. Log#: 11142
DSL# 08-1361
c: J. Orzeck

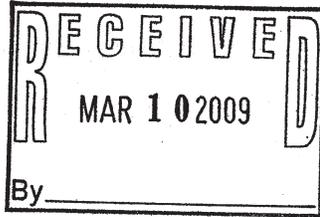


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March 9, 2009

Ms. Patricia Jones
Chair
Community Board #9
565 West 125th Street
New York, New York 10027

Dear Ms. Jones:

This is in response to your January 7th correspondence regarding inoperative street lights on the West 135th Street stairs in Riverside Park.

The Division of Street Lighting has informed us that plans are being designed to install new wall-pack luminaires on the stairway here. It is anticipated that this work will be completed during the third quarter of 2009.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Forgione
Borough Commissioner

GP/sej
Man. Log #11237
DSL #09-068



CB9M
10-10 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396

COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

Scott Stringer
President, Borough of Manhattan

Patricia A. Jones
Chair

March 5, 2009

Carolyn R. Thompson
First Vice-Chair

Yvonne Stennett
Second Vice-Chair

Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10019

Anthony Fletcher
Treasurer

Diane Wilson
Assistant Treasurer

Theodore Kovaleff
Secretary

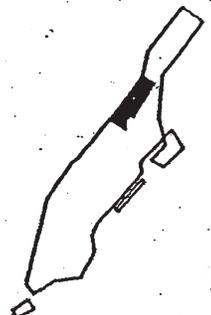
Re: Fiscal Year 2010 Community Board Nine Statement on the Preliminary Budget

Jane Arrendell
Assistant Secretary

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

Eutha Prince
District Manager

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your fiscal year 2010 Preliminary Budget.



Manhattan Community Board 9 encompasses the West Side of Harlem from 110th to 155th Streets; the Hudson River forms the western boundary, and a linear park system along the Fordham Cliffs (comprised of Morningside Park, St. Nicholas Park and Jackie Robinson Park) generally makes up the eastern boundary. CB9 brings together three neighborhoods – Morningside Heights, Manhattanville and Hamilton Heights. Our district includes Riverside, Morningside, St. Nicholas, and the West Harlem Waterfront Parks and is home to two National Historic Landmarks, two designated historic districts and several major academic and religious institutions. Notwithstanding, the median income of our district is only two-thirds that of Manhattan and one third of our residents benefit from some form of public assistance. CB9 is also saturated with numerous substance abuse, mental health and other ambulatory care clinics, as well as several environmentally burdensome facilities.

We recognize that New York City is today forced to deal with an unprecedented economic crisis. However, there are certain parts of our government's work that must be sustained. The proposed budget cuts appear to be based on data and not the native intellect necessary to umbrella and weave together services to sustain communities. This approach ignores the ripple effects of such cuts upon those underserved at the outset. This budget must not be balanced on the backs of people, who

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through little or no fault of their own, have been caught in the rip tide of the economic tsunami. The City's obligation to nurture our children, honor our seniors, and protect the most vulnerable must remain core values.

Before discussing our most pressing needs, we would like to take this opportunity to raise a few general issues.

We are disappointed in several of the City's responses to both capital and expense requests and hope this is not an indication of the diligence with which agencies are reviewing Community Board priorities and requests. For example, in one instance the response to a FY 2009 capital budget request (an outdoor reading garden at the George Bruce Library) was that the agency was in favor of the project; however this year the agency's response changed to "Additional information is required to fully evaluate this request." In two other instances capital budget priorities and requests were identified as "new" and therefore requiring further agency study. Both items (allocation of funds in landmarked districts so that HDFC and TIL buildings can cover increased costs of repairs that designation creates and the development under the direction of the Fortune Society of a lot adjacent to the Castle) were included in the CB9 fiscal year 2009 budget requests, and in the latter case the project has been completed and Your Honor attended the groundbreaking on February 19, 2009.

When reviewing our expense requests, the overall impression is that the City simply says "no." One of our charter duties is to represent the community's needs in the budget process. It is discouraging to find that City agencies give this representation so little weight. Further, it would appear that agencies use phrases such as "The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources" to neutralize Community Board requests. We object to such standard responses and insist that agencies tell us specifically what they will do to meet our community's needs. The tremendous efforts of volunteers supported by a minimal staff at our Community Board deserve much greater consideration.

Community Boards

Reconsideration of any decrease in the annual operating expense budget for the City's Community Boards should be one of the highest priorities. Community Boards' budgets have not been increased in almost two decades. The vital role that Community Boards play in improving the quality of life in our City must not be diminished.

Department of Housing Preservation & Development

Our district is in severe need of permanent, rehabilitated and affordable housing. These needs cannot possibly be accommodated within existing agency resources. The HPD

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\$150 million commitment for the retention and creation of affordable housing in CD9, coincident with City Council's approval of Columbia University's rezoning application, should be scheduled and commenced with all haste.

Police Department

Safety is a priority for the entire City and we applaud the efforts and successes of the NYPD. We continue to request that staffing levels of the uniformed and civilian staff at the 26th and 30th Precincts, as well as the foot patrol by NYC Housing Bureau officers at the Grant and Manhattanville housing developments, be increased.

Department of Youth and Community Development

Funding for youth services and after-school youth programs must be increased. The youth of our community suffer from a service delivery gap, particularly teenagers in junior and high schools in the geographic area between 135th and 155th Streets. Additional programming and services for this high-risk group are essential.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Parks and open space cover about 20% of the total land area of CB9. These seventy-five acres are heavily trafficked and need daily attention. Such open spaces can only be amenities to the community, in particular our children and our elderly, if they are not in constant need of repair and maintenance. The response to nine of fourteen park-related capital budget priorities and requests was "DPR funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials." A comprehensive strategy developed under Your Honor's leadership is necessary to address how the needs of these resources will be fulfilled. We also continue to request that funds be provided for increased personnel for parks safety, maintenance and horticulture – specifically, additional Parks Enforcement Patrols, three maintenance workers for the Broadway Malls and six park workers for Morningside and St. Nicholas Parks and six workers for Riverside Park. Open space and access to usable, safe recreational facilities are fundamental necessities for our community.

Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

Rats and other vermin are invading the entire community as the rodent population continues to grow. The matter is further exacerbated by the significant current and planned development in the district. Increased funding is required to address this important health issue.

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Department of Education

CB9 has long been an underserved public educational community. The request to design and construct a Pre-K through 8 community public school as well as new high school should be reconsidered.

New York Public Library

Due to the dearth of aftercare and the extremely aggressive planned cuts in after school recreation and prevention programs, it is imperative for the Libraries to be fully operational as an alternative for our unsupervised youth. Notwithstanding budget pressures, the commitment our libraries must be demonstrated with increased funding for additional services.

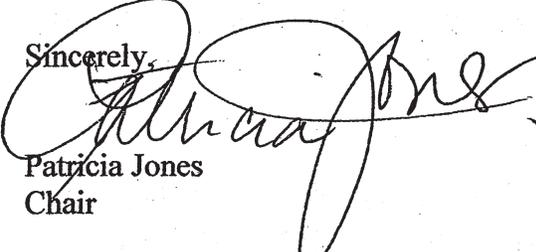
Landmark Preservation Commission

Additional funding is required to increase staffing in order to increase the protection through landmarking of buildings of cultural and historic distinction and to expand historic district designations, as well as increasing enforcement, throughout CB9. LPC has demonstrated that the agency cannot accommodate this issue within existing resources, as has been the response to this request for several years.

* * * * *

In closing, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Budget. We look forward to working with you and city agencies to ensure that the community's needs are met.

Sincerely,



Patricia Jones
Chair

cc: Honorable Scott Stringer
Honorable Speaker Christine Quinn
Honorable Robert Jackson
Honorable Inez Dickens