

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
CHAIR'S REPORT  
October 15, 2009**

Carolyn Kent

- Memorial services will be held Friday, November 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church on West 126<sup>th</sup> Street.

October 15, 2009 Borough Board

- Agenda and September minutes attached
- Chief Banks, Manhattan North, reported the rise in noise complaints and that they are work on a strategy to deal with youth gangs (11 to 15 years old)
- MBPO launched campaign initiative - "Kill the Drill" – encouraging city residents to oppose any hydraulic fracturing in the city's upstate watershed (refer to CB9 resolution passed in April 2009, attached);
  - NYS Public Hearing scheduled for November 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Stuyvesant High School

Community Board Appointments

- Applications for Board members up for re-appointment have been mailed by MBPO
- Although appointments are typically for two years, April 2009 appointees who receive an application must complete it as you were appointed to fill an open Board slot which would have expired in April 2010

West Harlem Rezoning

- DCP to present revised Zoning Recommendations at October 20, 2009 Housing, Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting (will not include 145<sup>th</sup> Street and Mixed Use District)

Teachers College Demonstration School

- Teachers College has filed an application with Department of Education for a public demonstration school in Community Board 9
- Timelines and goals were presented to Youth, Education and Libraries Committee at October meeting
- CB9 will co-sponsor with TC two (2) community outreach sessions in order to get community input on necessary elements to meet West Harlem public school needs.

Re-use of Marine Transfer Station

- Waterfront and Economic Development Committee coordinating with WeACT for community forum regarding re-use of MTS

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
- Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs to attend General Board meeting, DSC meeting, Committee meetings, as available
  - **Note to Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs:** CB4 Calendar is attached in this package (go to their website for addresses – [www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4))

West 129<sup>th</sup> Street Rezoning Application

- CB9 voted to oppose this application
- MBPO voted to oppose this application
- City Planning Commission will vote on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 10:00 AM at Spector Hall



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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

AGENDA

Manhattan Borough Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 15, 2009  
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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- Adoption of the October 15, 2009 Borough Board Agenda
- Adoption of the September 17, 2009 Borough Board Minutes
- A conversation with the NYPD
  - Chief Banks, Patrol Borough Manhattan North
  - Deputy Chief Chan, Patrol Borough Manhattan South
- CB21! *Envisioning Community Boards in the 21st Century*
  - Helen Rosenthal: Chair, CB 7 and Co-Chair, CB21!
- Report by the Borough President
  - Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
- Communications & Reports
  - Council Members and Community Board Chairs
- Adjournment

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD**  
September 17, 2009

***In Attendance:***

***Presiding:*** Hon. Borough President Scott M. Stringer

***Council Members:*** Hon. Gale Brewer, Ms. Shulamit Warren (representing Hon. Gale Brewer), Ms. Diane Stein (representing Hon. Alan Gerson), Ms. Kate Mikuliak (representing Hon. Rosie Mendez), Ms. Christina Bottego (representing Hon. Jessica Lappin), Mr. Dan Pasquini (representing Hon. Daniel Garodnick)

***Community Boards:*** Ms. Julie Menin (CB 1), Ms. Jo Hamilton (CB 2), Mr. Dominic Pisciotta (CB3), Mr. John Weis (CB 4), Mr. Mark Thompson (CB6), Ms. Helen Rosenthal (CB 7), Ms. Jackie Ludorf (CB 8), Ms. Patricia Jones (CB 9)

**8:49 am** – Borough President Stringer called the meeting to order.

Borough President Stringer moved for adoption of September 17, 2009 Borough Board Agenda. The motion carried. Borough President Stringer then moved for adoption of August 20, 2009 Borough Board Minutes. The motion carried as well.

**School Daze: Fuzzy Numbers Mean Overcrowded Schools**

Mr. Scott Schell, Director of Policy & Research, MBPO, and Mr. Brian Cook, Senior Urban Planner & Policy Advisor, MBPO, presented on the third report on school overcrowding issued by the Manhattan Borough President's Office. The most notable achievement from the April, 2008 and September, 2008 reports on school overcrowding have been moving DOE towards a more neighborhood by neighborhood frame of reference when planning for school capacity.

Earlier this year the Mayor and the City Council adopted a new five year capital plan for years 2010 – 2014, largely based on a ten year projection for school enrollment for years 2007 – 2016. Examining that ten year projection yielded two key findings. First, despite acknowledging data that projects 50,000 additional housing units to be built in the city, the DOE projected a decline in school age population in elementary and middle schools. Second, the DOE reaches different conclusions than would be reached by using data from the Department of City Planning.

The numbers in this report are based on the latest data available, from 2007 – 2008 year, which are largely different from current numbers. Using standard CEQR (City Environmental Quality Review) methodology, the report documented a projection of 8,000 new school age children. DOE instead used two organizations for forecasting, the Grier Partnership and Statistical Forecasting, LLC. The Grier Partnership reported there would be 5,000 fewer children in 2016 than there are now, while

Statistical Forecasting projected 2,700 fewer children. The report documents instances in which these firms have made erroneous projections for DOE in the past. When projecting pre-k population for the 2007-2008 year, Grier Partnership estimated there would be 300 fewer children than there were during the 2006-2007 school year, while Statistical Forecasting predicted 400 fewer children. There were actually 900 more students that year, requiring about 65-70 additional classrooms. In 2007-2008, Grier Partnership predicted 3,200 fewer students in the entire Manhattan school system, while Statistical predicted 2,700 fewer students. The actual number increased by 20 students.

The report highlights the fact that the current capital plan, which is supposed to produce 6,400 new seats across Manhattan, would meet the 6,000 kids that will enter the system, but will not address current overcrowding and could underestimate enrollment by 10,000 to 13,000 students. The Borough President's report makes specific recommendations for checks, review, and alternative forecasting for projecting school enrollment.

### **Intro 1059: Paid Sick Leave**

Hon. Council Member Gale Brewer presented on legislation she has introduced to provide employees with paid sick leave. The legislation so far has 37 co-sponsors in the council. The Council Member estimates that there are over one million individuals in New York City that would be positively impacted by having paid sick leave. The restaurant industry would be especially benefited. Small businesses of ten employees or fewer would allow five days of paid time off for a sick employee or an employee with a sick relative. Larger businesses would offer nine days to their employees.

Council Member Brewer, along with Sherry Leiwant, Executive Director of A Better Balance, will be meeting with the Chambers of Commerce and the Nightlife Association in the beginning of October. The Civil Service and Labor Committee of the City Council could hold a hearing on this legislation by the end of October. The Council Member is interested in building support for the bill and is willing to visit community board meetings to give a presentation. Similar bills have been passed in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee, and 17 states are considering proposals this year. The Borough Board will be voting on a resolution on this legislation in November.

### **Vote on Borough Board resolution in support on Intro 1015**

Since several community boards have not passed individual resolutions, no vote was held. Borough President Stringer encouraged community boards to submit their resolutions directly to Council Member Garodnick's office.

### **Report by the Borough President's Office**

Borough President Stringer has worked with Community Board 9, local Police Precincts, and other activists to bring attention to the string of rape attacks in Northern Manhattan. The October Borough Board will include an update from NYPD and a discussion of ways to work together to make our neighborhoods more safe.

The Borough President's Office disapproved a rezoning for a manufacturing district of Manhattanville in West Harlem. The Borough President believes that any rezoning in this neighborhood must benefit the entire West Harlem community. A rezoning must also include an economic agenda and affordable housing plan if appropriate for the neighborhood.

## **Communications & Reports**

### **Community Board 1**

CB1 is focused on the impact of local construction activity on small businesses. They are examining the issue of taxi stands, and will likely be asking for the city's help with signage to mitigate the impact from construction and sidewalk sheds.

### **Community Board 2**

CB2 will be planning a forum for the end of October to address the many ways in which sidewalks and pedestrian walkways are obstructed.

### **Community Board 3**

Port Authority is identifying possible areas of the LES as a staging area for World Trade Center construction activity. The Borough President said that he will work with the board on this issue.

### **Community Board 4**

CB4 recently attended a ULURP public hearing for the expansion of PS 51, a new school between 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Streets and 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The school is projected to open in 2013. Originally planned to house children from pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, there is a possibility that the plans will be changed to accommodate children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade because of overcrowding concerns. The chair suggested that the Borough Board review the recent changes at SLA in a future meeting.

### **Community Board 6**

Much has been discussed on increasing public access to the waterfront, a long time goal of the board. There are proposals for projects around the UN and Robert Moses Playground. The board wants to keep a set of caissons in the East River in order to further the goal of a contiguous greenbelt. There are also ideas for a potential blueway and esplanade along the east side.

### **Community Board 7**

CB7 is pleased that Jewish Home Lifecare has supplied an attorney to the CB to review JHL's restrictive declaration.

### **Community Board 8**

Vendors are a major issue. The board would like to streamline the rules governing the activity through new legislation.

### **Community Board 9**

Caroline Kent passed away; memorial services are being planned. The board provided comprehensive feedback to the DCP for the West Harlem rezoning. The board expects to have a response from DCP in time for their Housing, Land Use, and Zoning Committee meeting in October. The Board is optimistic regarding DCP's responsiveness.

The Borough President reminded everyone that attendance is mandatory per the New York City Charter, and that attendance is recorded.

Council Member Brewer discussed proposed anti-graffiti legislation in the City Council which would empower the community to locate and report graffiti locations to the City. The City would then send a letter to the owner to see if the owner wants the graffiti removed. This procedure would eliminate the current waiver procedure.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.*



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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Borough President Stringer Says Plan for Upstate Gas Drilling Jeopardizes City  
Drinking Water; Calls for Outright Ban on Drilling in City Watershed**

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*Coalition of Elected Officials and Advocates Join Stringer in Announcing "Kill the Drill"  
Campaign to Add Ban to Draft Drilling Rules;  
Confirms Pledge by Governor to Hold Public Hearing in NYC*

**Thursday, October 1, 2009 (New York, NY)** - Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, joined by a coalition of elected officials including City Council Environmental Protection Committee Chair James F. Gennaro and top environmental advocates, today demanded that the State environmental agency's plan for natural gas drilling be modified to include an outright ban on drilling in the Catskill / Delaware watershed, which supplies 90 percent of New York City's drinking water.

In addition, the Borough President announced the launch of "Kill the Drill," a campaign by city residents to voice opposition to any hydraulic fracturing in the city's upstate watershed. Borough President Stringer also said that he had received the Governor's commitment that a public hearing on the matter will be held in New York City sometime during the period for public comment on the drilling plan.

Borough President Stringer said, "This is an issue that every New Yorker should pay attention to. Today we start a campaign with one clear goal: to make certain that before this State's draft plan becomes law, it includes a ban on drilling for natural gas in the city's upstate watershed."

"The State's safeguards are half measures," continued the Borough President. "No special permit or buffer zone can prevent the kind of human error that has resulted in the pollution of freshwater from Pennsylvania to Colorado. An outright ban is the best protection, and anything less than the best protection for our drinking water is a bad choice."

The State's draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, issued yesterday, states that of the 1,549 square miles making up the Catskill / Delaware watershed, "1,077 square miles of the Watershed that are not protected potentially are available for the placement of well pads for the development of shale gas reservoirs." (Draft SGEIS 9/30/2009, Page 2-22.) Sixty-nine percent (69.5%) of the watershed is open to drilling.

Just last week, state regulators closed down a hydraulic fracturing gas drilling operation near Dimock, Pennsylvania in Susquehanna County after three chemical spills occurred in less than a week.

In "Uncalculated Risk," a report issued in February 2009 by the Manhattan Borough President's Office, 14 examples of significant freshwater contamination were documented in 9 different states, with more than 24 incidents of environmental harm catalogued in total.

Borough President Stringer said, "I believe the choice is simple: we either correct this error and ban drilling now, or soon enough the officials entrusted with protecting our environment will be asked to explain why they were asleep at the switch when it mattered most."

The draft SGEIS released yesterday by the Department of Environmental Conservation proposes rules for governing natural gas production in upstate New York through the use of a drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing. DEC has announced a 60-day public comment period.

The 809-page SGEIS can be found here <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/47554.html>.

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum said, "I want to thank Borough President Stringer for his continued efforts to safeguard the upstate watersheds as well as the environment and health of all New Yorkers. The state should not proceed with any action that could potentially taint the water supply."

City Council Environmental Protection Committee Chair James F. Gennaro said, "We simply cannot afford to jeopardize the health and financial well-being of New Yorkers by allowing the natural gas industry to undertake large-scale development in the Catskill / Delaware watershed; the assurance of clean, safe and reasonably priced drinking water for millions must take precedence over the desires of the gas industry to drill in areas whose protection is necessary to safeguard our public water supply for future generations of New Yorkers. The environmental impact statement starts a process of evaluating these concerns, but I remain skeptical that the protective measures go far enough to protect the largest municipal drinking water supply in the nation."

State Senator Thomas K. Duane said, "For more than a year I, along with other elected officials and environmental advocates, have demanded that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ban drilling in proximity to municipal and local water supplies. While this environmental impact statement demonstrates that the agency has studied the catastrophes caused by natural gas drilling around the nation, the proposed mitigation measures do not go far enough. It is inconceivable and unacceptable that the measures do not include a ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in and around New York City's watershed and, indeed, in all water supplies statewide."

State Senator Daniel L. Squadron said, "When it comes to New York City's water supply, we only have one chance. Drilling for natural gas in the watershed that supplies our drinking water is too risky. We can't begin any practice today that will jeopardize our drinking water in the future."

Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick said, "It is imperative for New York State to learn from the mistakes of other states. Hydrofracking creates enormous amounts of damage to the environment for questionable gain. The growing concern about fresh water-throughout the world- demands that any action that has the potential to damage the quality and quantity of our water supply must be rejected."

Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried said, "I don't think the mitigation measures in the SGEIS will protect our water supply from contamination. I support State legislation that would place a moratorium on this kind of drilling. Just one mistake with hydro-fracture drilling can be extremely hazardous. In this case, one mistake could endanger the health and safety of millions of people."

Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick said, "When it comes to New York City's water supply, we simply cannot take any chances. Allowing gas drilling in the watershed opens us up to unnecessary health risks and jeopardizes the \$1.5 billion investment we have already made in our watershed protection program."

Council Member Jessica Lappin said, "By failing to ban drilling in New York's upstate watershed, the DEC is taking a huge gamble and they're betting the health and well being of New York's residents. This was just the wrong decision."

Natural Resources Defense Council's New York City Environment Director Eric A. Goldstein said, "New York City's drinking water supply is its single most valuable capital asset. And it is unwise from both a public health and economic standpoint for the state to seek to advance industrial gas drilling around our reservoirs. This is not a situation well-suited for half-measures or after-the-fact clean-ups; city residents are still waiting to hear from the state that polluting activities like industrial gas drilling will not be permitted on lands that provide 90% of their drinking water supply."

Riverkeeper President Alex Matthiessen said, "From everything we've learned about the hazards of hydraulic fracturing, it is difficult to imagine how any restrictions will be sufficient to safeguard surface drinking water supplies. While we will reserve making an ultimate judgment until we have thoroughly reviewed the draft environmental statement, we are highly skeptical of any regulations that fall short of a

permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing for sensitive water supply areas such as the New York City Watershed.”

Earthjustice Managing Attorney Deborah Goldberg said, “We’ve said all along that we’d like to see New York set the standard with its drilling regulations – not play catch-up. We’ve seen far too much drilling-related contamination right next door in Pennsylvania - and elsewhere in the country - where regulatory programs are plainly inadequate to prevent sometimes irreversible environmental and public health catastrophes. Drilling permits should not be issued in New York until we are certain that we have done all that we can to protect our communities and our natural resources.”

The Sierra Club’s Atlantic Chapter Energy Committee Chair Annie Wilson said, “The most dangerous threats to our city’s drinking watershed are the hydrofracking chemicals used for gas extraction, and the Indian Point nuclear facility in Buchanan.”



*The City of New York*

## **CB21!** *Envisioning Community Boards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**Helen Rosenthal**  
Co-Chairperson

**Craig Hammerman**  
Co-Chairperson

### **Envisioning Community Boards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force (CB21!) FACT SHEET**

**What is this Task Force?** The Envisioning Community Boards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force (CB21!) was born out of a convergence of energies and interests all designed to support and strengthen the voice of citizens in municipal government through their local community board.

**What is the mission of the Task Force?** The Community Boards of New York City are non-Mayoral City agencies defined by the City Charter. Their roles were last modified a generation ago by the 1989 Charter Revision. CB21! will take a hard look at how community boards currently function in City government – what’s working, and where further changes should be considered – to support efficient, effective, constructive, fair, balanced and meaningful citizen participation in local government within their communities.

**What will the Task Force do?** CB21! will develop specific conceptual recommendations with our collective vision of Community Boards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We anticipate doing this by surveying key stakeholders throughout the City including the general public, all community board members and district office staff, the individual Borough Presidents’ Offices, City Council Members, and other organizations and groups who regularly interact with community boards. Survey results will be tabulated and synthesized into a position paper that will summarize the diverse ranging views across our City. The position paper will be made available and widely distributed as a starting point for further discussion and consideration by a Charter Revision Commission, if one is appointed.

**What is expected of Task Force members?** We anticipate monthly meetings running from September through early 2010 with other activities occurring between meetings. Over this period we will tap into the collective talent pool of our Task Force members, and beyond, to help design the survey instrument, interview experts knowledgeable in community boards, interpret survey results, propose specific recommendations, and assemble, review and discuss the final position paper. Task Force members would be expected to attend the monthly meetings and contribute toward the overall effort.

**Who is on this Task Force?** CB21! is a co-active initiative involving borough representatives of the community boards and district offices, the five Borough President's Offices and the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. It is Co-Chaired by Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson of Manhattan Community Board 7, and Craig Hammerman, District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 6. All Community Boards Citywide – their members and staff – and the public will be encouraged to energetically participate by sharing their individual thoughts, ideas and concerns with the Task Force.

**Who can I contact for more information?** CB21! Co-Chairs Helen Rosenthal at [Helen@nyecb21.org](mailto:Helen@nyecb21.org) or Craig Hammerman [Craig@nyecb21.org](mailto:Craig@nyecb21.org).