



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**SHATIC MITCHELL**  
District Manager

### **April 8, 2020 General Board Meeting**

6:15 call to order meeting held via Zoom because of the Coronavirus

Chair Report Cicely Harris

It is important that the community is aware that our office although operating virtually is still open for business. All committees will be meeting virtually this month unless otherwise noted.

Thanks to all of our elected officials for keeping the community informed of services that are available and the latest COVID-19 updates. Also thanks to all of the health care workers for the job they are doing on the front line of this virus. Please remember that our local churches are operating virtually so you can avail yourself of those choices. Thanks to all of our service workers MTA, NYPD etc for your daily service to our community. Today is Census Day, I hope that everyone is completing the Census.

Thank you to Nicky Yearwood for keeping us informed about the Census. Harlem is below 27% so that is not good. The national average is 36%. The Board office will post information. It seems that people are not practicing social distancing. People are still hanging out. Stay home for your family your colleagues and coworkers.

Mental health note please reach out to friends and family that you have not spoken to in a while to check on them.

Pastor Mike from FCBC had a good word on this past Sunday, he reminded us that 'we are more than conquerors' and also that , "I don't know how we are going to win this but I know we wont lose"..

Chair Harris gave an account of the current number of cases in NY based on the Governors report.

Test kits being sent all over the state for use. NYC playgrounds are closed it is important to continue social distancing. New Yorkers without health insurance are encouraged to apply for insurance up until April 15. Unemployment insurance will be available to all who qualify.

## District Manager Report – Shatic Mitchell

Thank you to Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer for quickly providing free and unlimited access to the Zoom platform so that community boards can continue to function. Thanks to the Mayor's office, Gale Brewer's office, the BID and NYC team for keeping us updated on all the COVID-19 reports and newsletters. Thanks also to Councilman Perkins Office and all of our city agencies and elected officials who have been keeping the community updated with all the latest COVID-19 information. Thank you to Gaby from Beta NYC who is on the call tonight and will be helping us with any technical difficulties should they arise.

On Monday April 6 the FDNY responded to a report of a fire aboard a number 2 train at Lenox Avenue and 110 Street. The fire killed Garret Nobel who was a 36 year old MTA conductor three others were critically injured but are expected to survive. There were 17 other injuries including 5 fire fighters no arrest has been made as of now. Being investigated as arson. We also send our condolences to

Detective Cedric Dixon of the 32nd Precinct he was 48 years old and the first NYPD officer to die from COVID-19, he was a 23 year veteran.

The CB10 office has been closed since March 16 but the office has continued to work remotely. Constituents have been advised to communicate via email or the staff's mobile devices.

Before the office closed the personnel committee was interviewing candidates for the Community Assistant position. The personnel committee will be doing interviews virtually going forward. Assessment and testing center has been opened at the Sydenham Gotham Health Center for evaluation and if deemed necessary will be transferred to a hospital. Hours of operation are 9-5 M-F 264 w 118 Street. Mayor's office Director of Nightlife hopes to get a survey distributed to small business who have been affected by COVID. Thanks to restaurants and organizations who have provided free meals to our community, i.e. National Action Network, Ponty Bistro, Red Rooster and Fieldtrip Harlem to name a few. Department of Sanitation is still working and alternate side parking is suspended. Teachers and students are expected to continue to work remotely. You can connect with the board via Facebook and Instagram.

## Committee Reports

Arts and Culture – Jerika Richardson Reporting

The Arts Committee has shared a link with resources for the Arts community for grants and we ask the board office to send the link to the public. George is in conversation with Harlem Arts Alliance and other organizations will be coming together to come up with resources and ideals to help the Arts the community

April 1 and rent is due and although the governor has stated that no one will get evicted it is still nerve racking for tenants. Don't trust owners of buildings. Urging rent guidelines board to leave the topic alone in 2020 with no increases. Census day is today. Construction should not be working unless it is affordable housing.

### Economic Development Report

Mari Moss reporting – there are loans available to small business that are being recommended. She will share the list with the board for them to send out. Freelance relief and independent contractors relief through SBA is available and Mari will share that info as well. Greater Harlem Chamber and Gail Brewer on April 3 on zoom with Arts and Culture. Harlem Park to Park is working with the Mayors' office to help local restaurants.

### Education Youth and Libraries

Borough President Gale Brewer did a wonderful Town Hall on her website. This Thursday anyone who is hungry can get food. Lots of resources available if students need equipment to log on students can call 311. The Department of Education has said the spring break will be limited to four days so they are working through the COVID. UFT CSA and DOE are in talks to do something different in NY. It will focus on a family engagement week. They will continue education to meet state mandates. Want to do

something different not just focus on instruction. Not sure exactly what it will look like but are working on it now but more about family and engagement of children.

### Health and Human Services

Pauline from Health Department – The Mayor has stated getting all medical staff PPE and ventilators are a priority. Working with Heath and Hospitals to make sure that that chain is coordinated so the hospitals that are in need receives PPE. People need to continue social distancing. Encourage people to exercise but congregating en masse in public places is not advisable. Want to make sure that people are seeking mental health care if needed. NYC Well is a resource available. Working on a city wide anti stigma tracker not sure when it will be active. It is not ok to mistreat people based on some misinformation on what their involvement is with COVID.

## Transportation and Historic Preservation

Want to make sure everyone is practicing social distancing on public transportation. A letter has been sent to CitiBike about the issues we are having. CitiBike is offering a discount to all first responders.

## Housing Committee

Charles Powell – The expectation that something needs to be done beyond the closure of the landlord tenant court. Concerned thousands of New York tenants could be displaced. In shelters there are 40 people in a lunchroom with no protection and no bathrooms to wash hands. Hoping that our officials will give greater debt relief forgiveness not delayed payments. All of our CB10 committees should be coming out with specific action items. Open up hotels that are closed down to house the homeless.

## Parks and Recreation

Karen Horry – Governor has ordered playground closures. Hospital set up in Central Park is a 68 bed treatment center to treat overflow patients from Mt. Sinai. Spoke with Steve Simon to speak at the town hall on Monday. Discussed at last month's meeting the Central Park 5 commemoration and the Waterfront situation.

## Ms. Kaufman from the Parks Department

All playgrounds are closed as of today and remove all basketball rims to control crowds at the parks. Parks staff is still working but limited because of childcare. DOE has provided places for childcare so the parks staff can work. Thomas Jefferson Park is giving out food you must register through Uber Eats and other delivery services. Complaints about A Phillip Randolph Park because of large gatherings, people seem to have spaced out.

## Deborah Gillard

Seniors – Agree with Borough President Gale Brewer it is such an enormous task to feed seniors. At the senior centers they have prepared the grab and go meals. The Department of Aging decided to phase out the grab and go and wanted a meal delivery directly to seniors for their safety. Include a five meal package plus fruit and vegetables and will receive once a week. Seniors can call 212-244-6469 or call 311 if they want to be a part of the program. Some local supermarkets have allowed seniors to arrive early to shop before the crowd.

## Voting Items

Althea Gibson Way street co-naming. West 143rd Street between Adam Clayton Blvd and Malcolm X Blvd. Voted on in the Transportation Committee one short of quorum and passed in Executive Committee meeting.

Yes 27 No Abstain Barbara vote Yes X No Abstain

Need to respond to Barbara Nelson's question regarding making an exception about this being the first Zoom meeting and she was not able to log in. Can we count her vote.

Gale Brewer

Last week we gave to Harlem Hospital, thanks to the City University of NY Graduate Center a huge amount of PPE mostly masks, shields and gowns. Working hard to get food to people. Fresh Direct focused on NYCHA working from the top to bottom of Manhattan. Three or four developments in Harlem are participating they go to same places every week and give generous packages of food that will last for multiple days. Focusing on meals for seniors because it is not a good system talking to Kathleen Garcia who is in charge of food for the City trying to find a major procurement for the seniors that is not so confusing. DoorDash brings to senior centers but does not help those not connected to a senior center.

Currently schools are distributing food to students and their parents starting Thursday anybody that is hungry between can pick up food between 7:30 and 1:00pm.

MBPO held a robust YouTube forum around the new way of teaching and technology with Teachers College and CB9. The forum can be replayed on the Borough Presidents website. The next YouTube topic will be on small business with Columbia Business School they will include businesses in Harlem. There is concern about funding from the nonprofit community. The SBS which is the city has an ongoing opportunity for nonprofits and for small businesses including grant programs and zero percent loans. Transitioning to federal program starting Friday and Monday good for independent contractor workers. Good to have further discussions if they keep their employers they don't have to pay the money back. The nonprofit community is important thanks to Athena and Lloyd Williams and Voza Rivers there is a phone call with the Arts community of upper Manhattan. MBPO has a daily newsletter which has the information.

Isiah Jenkins from the Mayor's Office, Manhattan Borough Director out of City Hall. New website HelpNowNYC.

Nina Saxon Comptroller's Office

Did an economic profile analyzing the budget and contracts. Active in the housing crisis and has written a letter calling for a rent freeze.

Senator Brian Benjamins Office

NYC is creating a Central Coordinator Team to organize upstate and downstate hospital needs dealing with transferring patients from hospital to hospital.

Myna Whyte Assemblyman Al Taylor

There is an emotional support line which can be reached at 844-863-9311. Anyone who is uninsured can call 855-355-5777. You are now entitled to paid leave if you have COVID-19. Supports the bill for rent freeze. Please complete the Census.

Phillip Ellison from the Public Advocates office

Supports the legislation that calls for cancelling rent for tenants affected by the Coronavirus. Allow for landlords to write off the rent owed. Has released a report on safety issues in our community regarding the lockdown. [pubadvocate.nyc.gov](http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov) for all the latest news. Laid out price gouging guidelines and his office will not stand for it as they survey stores in respect to price gouging. Youth forum on Friday around how young people are feeling during the lockdown.

District Attorneys Office Jacques Brumil

Cancelling the candlelight Vigil and postponing the Clean Slate event. Domestic violence hotline is still active and running and can be reached via 212-335-4388. If you think you have been a victim of fraud or know of a fraud you can reach out to [fraudcomplaining@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:fraudcomplaining@dany.nyc.gov) to send information. To stay updated on things follow on all social media platforms @manhattanda. The office is working remotely but available to the public.

District Leader Cordell Cleare

Governor postponed the election from April 28 to June 23rd. People who are concerned about voting in person can request an absent tee ballot, deadline to ask for a ballot is June 16th. Deadline to register is May 29. The District Leader is having a conversation with the community daily at 3:00pm live on Facebook to share information.

Curtis Leroy – Small Business Harlem Community development Program

Will have a webinar on Monday the 6th to get all the information about what is available to businesses. SBS is available to businesses now through the financial assistance employee retention grant program. A requirement of two years of operating revenue from SBS. Small business continuity loan program for when there is an interruption in business there is a \$75K cap. SBA Federal program don't have the caveat of 2 year operating can be start ups, pay check protection program, forgivable loan to cover payroll, mortgage, rent or utility payments.

Congressman Espiallat office - Michelle Booker

Stimulus the Social Security will still be functioning. Your supplemental and benefits will still go out and your social security payments as well. Direct payments \$1200 per person should be sent out in the next 3-4 weeks as long as you completed either the 2018 or 2019 tax returns and meet the financial requirements. Northern Manhattan Recovery Fund, if you are a company they will provide support including nonprofits. \$2M that will be accessible and second round of \$8M will be for long term sustainability.

Complete Zoom meeting available on YouTube

Adjorn 9:28pm