



## Community Board No. 10 - Manhattan

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**SCOTT M. STRINGER**  
*Borough President*

**Community Board 10**  
**Full Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 7, 2009 6 pm**

**W. FRANC PERRY**  
*Chairman*

**GENEVA T. BAIN**  
*District Manager*

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm and Franc Perry, the Chair of Community Board 10 opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Mr. Perry proceeded to open the floor for community speakers.

### **Public Announcements:**

Mr. Perry announced that any concerns brought up during the Community First portion of the General Meeting will be forwarded to the appropriate Committee Chairman to be addressed in the New Business portion of their next committee meeting.

Lamont Mays representing Inez Dickens reported the following actions taken by the Councilmember since our last meeting:

Councilwoman Dickens has talked to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and they will be able to keep the Jackie Robinson, St. Nicholas and Polo Grounds Senior Centers open until June. These centers were scheduled to close at the end of this month due to operational costs. The Councilwoman has been in touch with several community based organizations to look into their support to keep these centers open past June. In December the Mayor's office received over 400 letters from seniors living in the Councilwoman's districts in support of keeping the centers open. 307 West 111<sup>th</sup> Street is now officially a Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC) co-op and many residents in the area have the opportunity to become homeowners. Also the Councilwoman has been in touch with community activists like Chester Asher who is associated with Transform America about developing more community programs for youth. Transform America encourages young people, teaches them leadership skills and understanding the political process.

Lolita Jackson from Mayor Bloomberg's office spoke about several initiatives all involved with the Office of Financial Empowerment, to help with financial literacy and provide resources to low-income residents. Two million brochures were printed in 12 different languages about the earned interest tax credit and the child care tax credit. Free tax preparation will be available for families earning less than \$45,000 and individual earning less than \$25,000. As part of the Save NYC Club Account, if tax refunds are deposited with one of the 10 selected credit unions and are left there for a year, participants can earn back 50% up to \$125. The closest participating credit union is Blue Bank at 124<sup>th</sup> Street. The Mayor announced the Pass It On Initiative on December 22nd, where tool kits including palm cards are being distributed to clergy. Many people facing economic hardships are turning to the clergy for support and these cards will provide information for their parishioners. Trainings are being offered by the Department of Consumer Affairs and this program should be in full gear by early February.

Ernesta Temple from Assemblyman Farrell's office announced that their office will be providing help for residents with IT214 (Claim for Real Property Tax Credit for Homeowners and Renters) and IT 210 (Underpayment of Estimated Tax by Individuals). People who need assistance should bring proof of their rent and income Monday – Friday between 10 -3.

Calvin Solomon from the District Attorney's Office announced that trial of Kendrick Johnson who was arrested for the murder of Nathan Allsbrooks will adjourn on February 18<sup>th</sup>. On December 19<sup>th</sup> District Attorney Robert Morgenthau presented plaques to the five ministers who assisted with the Gun Buyback Program on October 25<sup>th</sup>. 744 guns were traded in and are off the streets. Another Buyback day will be scheduled in the early spring.

Fredrick Wilson, the 146<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, on behalf of Gwen Gatling, President of the 210 146<sup>th</sup> Street Tenant Association, and the thousand plus residents living in the 146<sup>th</sup> Street area thank the eighteen Community Planning Board members who voted down the Ebrograph project. He also thanked Dr. Samuels for her work and help with this project.

A representative from O'Grady Plumbing and Contracting spoke about the role of blacks in history.

Brian Conliffe, Community Consciousness, talked about the need for Americans to reach their potential and maximize their opportunities.

Brian Smith, CASH (Civic Association Serving Harlem) will be holding a civic awareness program on February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm, at the Mary Bethune School on 134<sup>th</sup> Street. The purpose of the program is to get residents involved in their community through seminars with city and state officials and representatives from community organizations. There will be entertainment and refreshments provided.

Jolinda Ruth Cogen, President of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council, announced that their next meeting January 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Salvation Army Temple at 540 Lenox Avenue, between 137<sup>th</sup> and 138<sup>th</sup> Streets. During their March, April and May meetings a Youth Positive Direction Seminar will be held. The Justice Department, District Attorney's Office, the FBI and local precincts will all be participating. The focus is not only preventing gang violence, but finding alternative activities for young people.

Michael Campbell from HUBNYC is proposing a Greater Harlem Market where local food producers, artists, etc. can have a place to sell their products. He is also talking to the school at 124<sup>th</sup> Street to have a used book stall that would be run by their students. He's asking what are the next steps would be and can he get Community Board approval. Mr. Perry suggested that he write a letter to the Community Board's Economic Development Committee outlining his idea and business plan.

Charles Calloway from WEACTION announced the Advancing Climate Justice: Transforming the Economy, Public Health and Our Environment Conference will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>,

9 am – 6 pm at Fordham University. Registration is \$60, but scholarships are available. A meeting will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am at the A Philip Randolph Senior Center with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection agency regarding the removal of the underground tanks at the closed Mobil station at 145<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ms. Pierre reported on behalf of the Borough President's Office: All Community Board applications (for new and renewing members) are due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Borough President will be testifying at a hearing on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hilton Hotel about raising subway fares and Access-a-ride fares. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, at the State Building, 10 am – 2 pm there will be an event to assist people with their income taxes and claiming the earned income tax credit.

Carmen Perez said that she has resigned from Assemblyman Keith Wright's office and introduced Maurice Cummings who will be taking over her responsibilities. Mr. Cummings announced that the Assemblyman was unable to attend today's meeting due to inclement weather. Today was the State of the State Address and the Governor agreed to an increase in rents for public assistance 10% each year for three years. There are also plans to do away with the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

Ja'mella Godallah of Universal Black Family Association said that UBFA has been around for 44 years and wants to be a strong and active participant in the community and Community Board 10.

Jose Maldonado voiced a housing complaint against DAKKO Management. His issue will be referred to the Housing Committee.

Dr. Samuels raised concerns for the Transportation Committee regarding 125<sup>th</sup> Street and 155<sup>th</sup> Street. She also reminded the community of the need to formally rename Lenox Avenue to Malcolm X Boulevard.

Friends of Macombs will be hosting a telephone conference about the working poor. Details to follow.

Danny Perez thanked the Community Board 10 for the award.

Councilmember Robert Jackson reported that two Education Committee hearings in December were held on The DOE/School Construction Authority's Five Year Capital Plan. No one from the Harlem community came to testify about the lack of new classrooms for School District 4, 5 or 6. On December 16<sup>th</sup> the Councilman chaired a public hearing on the Gift and Talented Program Admission's policy, which have resulted in fewer minority students. Last month Intro 837 was passed in the City council creating a new exception to the City's residency requirement for municipal employees. Also a resolution was passed calling on the DOE to survey city schools to assess their compliance with State Education Law requiring instruction outside of the core reading, math and science curriculum. Two pieces of legislation affecting the Council's Charter were approved in council, which needs to be signed by the Mayor. Intro 516-A will

require the Police Department to submit a Weapons Discharge report to the City Council. The second is a proposal for a 15 Day Property Tax Collection Grace Period.

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the December 3, 2008 were accepted.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mr. Perry reported that a Harlem/United Kingdom dialogue has started to discuss issues of economic development and how it will impact the UK and Central Harlem. There will be a meeting this Tuesday and afterwards information will be disseminated to the community.

Patty Jacobs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, announced that scholarships applications for financial assistance for education are still to students. There is also a sign-up to get the application by e-mail to be environmentally conservative. Community Board 10 will be on Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN) cable on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to get out information about Community Board 10, Mr. Perry, the 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair will be featured and the show will be called "Community Board 10 Unplugged." The next appearance will hopefully feature the Housing and Economic Development committees. Each month other committees will appear. The thirteen amendments which were approved at the December Board meeting were in effect as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. The staff evaluations are due on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and should be mailed to the Community Board office or sent to the Personnel Committee. The Calendar will be displayed on MNN's electronic board.

#### **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Bain encouraged everyone to attend the MTA Public Hearings, they are proposing changing the M1, M2, M101, M102 and M103 and eliminating the M10 line. Applications for the public members are still available. These applications as well as the board member applications will start to be reviewed. Part of the proposed cuts includes a 12% cut to the Community Board budget, which is only \$200,000 annually.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Healthcare Committee** Dr. Hazel Dukes, Chair of the Healthcare Committee, and Stephane Howze announced that starting next month there will be a monthly health challenge where participants can support each other to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Pamela and Havari from Harlem Hospital Center talked about the resources available in the community. There are different screenings available at local facilities such as mammograms, gynecological, psychological and HIV testing. There will also be a health fair in May and will send more information when it is available.

**Landmarks Committee: Letter to Landmarks Preservation Committee** to de-calendar the Renaissance Ballroom and Theater from the Landmarks Preservation Commission schedule.

**Transportation Committee: Safer Streets Resolution** recommending the institution of longer pedestrian crossing times and Leading Pedestrian Intervals at the aforementioned dangerous intersections.

**Religious Congregation/Aging/Disabilities Committee:** Department for the Aging Request for Proposal. *\*This RFP was officially rescinded by DFTA.*

**ROLL CALL**

**Roll Call:** 31 Present                      9 Absent                      6 Excused

**BUSINESS SESSION**

**Voting Items:**

**1. Landmarks Committee: Letter to Landmarks Preservation Committee**

Vote  
18 Yes              4 No              7 Abstained

**2. Transportation Committee: Safer Streets Resolution**

29 Yes              0 No              0 Abstained

**Amendment**

The matter of Renaissance Ballroom and Theater will be placed on the next Landmarks Committee Agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

**Stephane Howze**  
**Secretary**