

April 3, 2018

127th Street Block Association
General Membership Meeting Minutes

- **Treasury Report/Membership Dues (Marilyn)**
 - The account is in good shape with a \$\$\$ surplus. Part of the surplus is money we received from the “Love Your Block” grant. That money will be used to purchase a new tree guard and towards beautification/plantings for Spring.

- **Harlem Grown Farm Report (Lisa)**
 - No new updates on the permit at this time. Harlem Grown is still awaiting approval from the DEP site connection. They will keep us posted on any progress and in the meantime all community members are welcome to enter the Harlem Grown area whenever the gates are opened.
 - Suggestion was made to call into the Brian Leher show with the Mayor on Friday mornings to try to move permitting along. Lisa to discuss with Harlem Grown leadership.
 - Harlem Grown is hosting an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 21st from 11-3pm. This celebration will be held at all locations - 127th, as well as 131st and 134th Streets sites.
 - Angela – visiting from the 126th BA – will help distribute Earth Day flyer via the Harlem Children’s Zone
 - **Opportunities at Harlem Grown:**
 - Harlem Grown Summer Camp participant *applications are due on April 15th* to be in the lottery.
 - Last of all, we are *hiring for a number of seasonal farming, summer camp, and afterschool education positions, as well as a full-time development coordinator*. If any applicants are interested, they should visit our [website](#) for links to the job applications.

- **28th Precinct Report (Lisa)**
 - Neighborhood Community Officer (NCO) Report
 - There has been a recent increase in burglary and larceny, especially in buildings under construction.
 - Red Rooster and Whole Foods are prime targets for pick pockets and stealing personal bags. So, please do not leave your cart unattended while shopping or put your phone down in restaurants/while shopping. Be Vigilant!
 - Official briefing on the shooting that occurred outside of Whole Foods a couple of weeks ago. Police in the loss prevention room were holding a shoplifter, when he pulled out a knife and lunged towards an officer. The officer drew his weapon, and wounded the man. The man was subdued and arrested.

- Mail Phishing – there was a discussion about this organized effort being widespread across Manhattan, not just in Harlem. The culprits are organized and have official keys to the mailboxes. We are urging everyone to avoid sending any checks through the mailboxes at this time. Please bring any letters to the Post Office.
 - Stolen Packages – Amazon and FreshDirect packages have been stolen from stoops on the block. FedEx delivery men have been uncooperative – “Not my problem”
 - Suggestions to solve these problem:
 - 127th Street Block Association is looking into security ink pens to distribute to neighbors. These pens will ensure that the ink on your checks cannot be acid washed.
 - Designate one person to bring packages to Post Office – helping out any neighbor who may have difficulty getting to/from the Post Office
 - UPS has a delivery option where you can request they only deliver after a certain hour. Use this option and ensure someone is home to receive packages.
 - Suggestion from block association member to contact the specific division of the PO that is responsible for investigating issues
- **NOTE: NYC Grow is giving away free plants/flowers to all. Must order by April 13th**
 - **Follow ups to last month’s meeting – (Items Completed or in Progress)**
 - Mail Fishing: *(This topic has also been addressed with the NCO report from the 28th precinct)*
 - The Block Association has completed the following
 - Tamper resistant mailbox request
 - Letters have been sent to both post offices
 - Block survey
 - The Board is developing the 1st of 2 surveys
 - The goal of the 1st survey is segmentation. 10 questions or less. Learning more about our neighbors, their needs and interests. For example, how many people are in their household? Do they have infants or young children? College graduates?
 - Value of the survey will be to provide neighbors with information that will be of use, e.g. playgroups for younger children or College prep and scholarships for high school seniors. There is money out there! \$\$\$\$
 - Distribution of these surveys will include 1) online 2) door to door or 3) via the building captains
 - Number of meetings/events per year
 - 10 – We will **NOT** hold a meeting in January or August
 - We will meet February through July and September through December, with a mix of themed meetings and social events.
 - Open to ideas for agenda in May and November meetings...
 - May – meeting

- June – Spring Clean up
 - July – TBD (possible neighborhood potluck)
 - September – Tag Sale
 - October – meeting (possible meet the candidates for political office)
 - November – meeting
 - December – holiday party
 - Programming ideas
 - Social Events
- Announcements
 - Guests and New Neighbors/Sign-in Sheet
 - **Wednesday 4/2** – 6:00 p.m. - CB 10 Meeting - 2nd floor art gallery of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building (163 West 125th Street)
 - **Wednesday 4/11**- 6:30 p.m. - 28th Precinct Community Council meeting – at Touro College – entrance on West 124th Street (between 7th and 8th Avenues – 4th Floor)
 - **Sunday, 4/15** – Application deadline for Harlem Grown Day Camp
 - **Thursday 4/19**- 7:00 p.m. - 32nd Precinct Community Council meeting @ Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Community Center, 34 W 134th Street
 - **Saturday, 4/21** – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Harlem Grown Earth Day Celebration
 - **Tuesday, 5/1** – 7 p.m. LenoxFive 127th Street BA meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Angela (126th BA President)

Marilyn

Tiffani

John

Lisa

Butch

Ancilla

Anne

Bryan