



Virtual Town Hall Meeting: Monday, September 21, 7pm
Responding to Crises and Planning for the Future

The meeting will begin soon.
We will start with a short video.

mhccnyc@gmail.com

Welcome

Presented by Laura Friedman



- Thank you for joining us
- Why a Virtual Town Hall Meeting now?



Virtual Town Hall Meeting: September 21, 2020

A Moment of Silence



In Memory of Our Neighbors Lost in the Pandemic

Setting the Stage



- **Ground rules**
- **All questions must be posted on Zoom chat**
- **Please participate in the four-question poll during the meeting**
- **Agenda**
 1. MHCC Community Survey Results
 2. COVID
 3. Rezoning
 4. Morningside Heights Community Fund
 5. Volunteering in Morningside Heights
 6. Open Forum
 7. Conclusion and Thanks

MHCC Community Survey

Presented by Andrea Brecker



Background and method

- Follow-up to June 2020 survey, which reinforced MHCC campaign to oppose local campus reopenings
- Emerged in response to significant community challenges
- Conducted via SurveyMonkey and Mailchimp in September 2020
- 245 Respondents, 18+ years of age

MHCC Community Survey

Presented by Andrea Brecker



Key findings: Morningside Heights residents want to maintain the neighborhood they know

- ***Rezoning*** is considered the most important issue.
- **Housing for residents and local businesses thriving** are salient issues.
- Matters of **safety** are important– both **preventing the spread of COVID** and **preventing crime** in the neighborhood.
- **Sanitation/clean streets** are also important issues.
- To **support local businesses**, residents are willing to do **more shopping** in the neighborhood.
- A **majority agree that Columbia's reversal of reopening plans** was necessary to **prevent the risk of COVID infection** increasing locally.

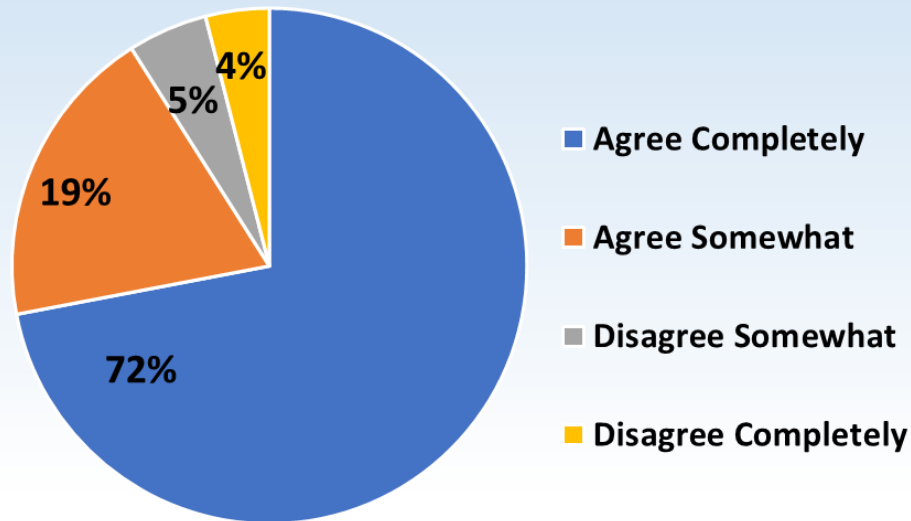
MHCC Community Survey

Presented by Andrea Brecker



Agreement with Columbia University's reversal of plans to hold in-person undergraduate classes this fall

91% Agree Completely or Somewhat

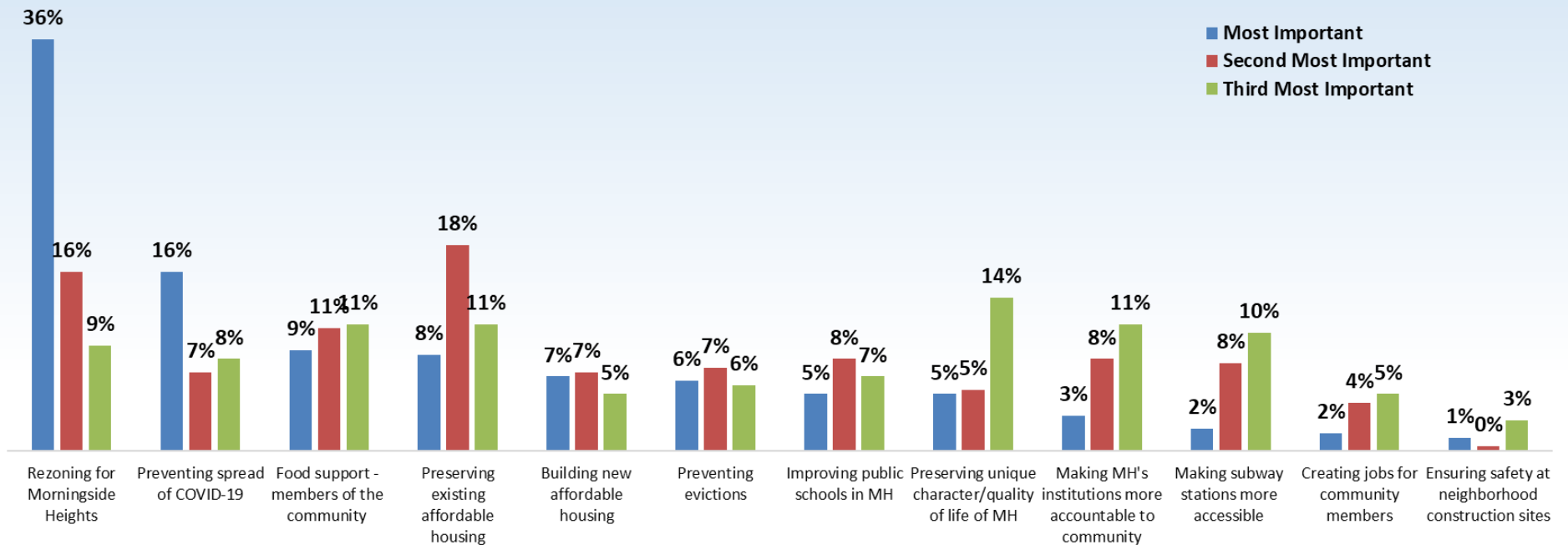


MHCC Community Survey

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Most, Second-Most, and Third-Most Important Issues for Morningside Heights



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MHCC Community Survey

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• Visual Depiction of “Other Important Morningside Issues”



Focus of verbatim responses
is to **maintain** the **quality of**
life in our **neighborhood**.

Safety/concern about crime

Sanitation/clean streets

Local businesses

Homelessness

• Questions

COVID Impacts and MHCC Response



Presented by David Robinson

- **Local human impacts**

- New York City **Infections: 227,000** New York City **Deaths: 23,758**
- Morningside Heights/
West Harlem **Infections: 2,801** Morningside Heights/
West Harlem **Deaths: 291**

(NYC Department of Health; ProPublica, 9/15/2020)

- **MHCC immediate and ongoing responses**

- Construction Halt
- Support to local food pantries
- Campaign: campus reopenings

COVID Impacts and MHCC Response



Presented by David Robinson

Campus reopening campaign: survey, letters to institutions and elected officials, media outreach



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COVID Impacts and MHCC Response



Presented by David Robinson

- **Reporting concerns over institutional compliance**

- Columbia University

www.studentconduct.columbia.edu

Telephone: 212. 854. 5555

- Barnard College

No online reporting found

Telephone: 212. 854. 3362

- **Questions**

COVID: Local Impacts

Presented by Council Member Mark Levine



- **Thank you to essential workers**
- **Neighborhood and city-wide situations**
- **What should institutions be doing?**
- **Questions**



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Rezoning

Presented by Robert Stern



Objectives

- Affordable Housing
- Contextual Development
- Community Leverage in Development Plans
- Small Business Support
- Preserve Neighborhood Character
- Community-Based Planning

Rezoning

Presented by Robert Stern

Protection of rent-stabilized units in areas with

- Concentration of rent-stabilized units
- No existing regulatory protections, like a historic district
- Substantial unbuilt floor area possibly attractive for redevelopment
- High rate of units that are being de-stabilized

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Rezoning

Presented by Robert Stern



- **Progress: 2016—2019**

- Town Halls; Zoning Challenge; Soft Site Report; Morningside Speaks Report; Demonstrations; CB9 Support
- Rezoning Plan

- **2020**

- Commitment for development of rezoning plan by Speaker Corey Johnson
- Plan iterations shared with community stakeholders; Bids for development of Environmental Assessment Statement

Rezoning

Presented by Robert Stern



- **Next steps**

- Environmental Assessment Statement
- Final Zoning Plan and EAS to ULURP
- City Council vote

- **Questions**

Morningside Heights Community Fund



Presented by Harry Schwartz

Round One Awards Summer 2020: Non-Profit Organizations Receiving \$5,000 Awards for Services in Morningside Heights and West Harlem

America SCORES New York

Behind the Book

Broadway Community Food Pantry

Brotherhood-Sister Sol

Harlem Wellness Center

Legal Outreach

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Food Pantry

The Reading Team

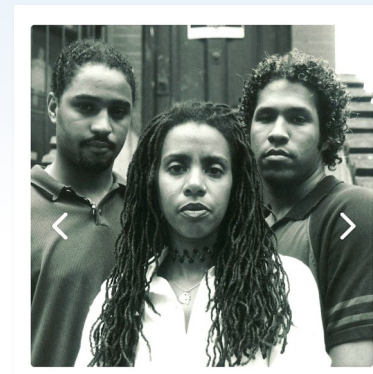


MHCF Awardee: The Brotherhood/Sister SOL



Presented by Dr. Marsha Jean-Charles

- **From organizational mission statement:** “Our Theory of Change is to provide multi-layered support, guidance, education and love to our membership, to teach them to have self-discipline and form order in their lives, and then to offer opportunities and access so that they may develop agency.”



- **Questions**

Local Volunteering

Presented by Dan McSweeney



- Renaissance of community spirit
- MHCC volunteer opportunities: www.mhccnyc.org/volunteer
- Questions



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Open Forum

Presented by Laura Friedman



Questions and comments must be posted on Zoom chat



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Thanks for Participating

Presented by Laura Friedman



- **Lessons learned**
- **Please participate in the four-question poll before you exit Zoom**



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Please Keep in Touch



We will follow up on this evening's discussion in the coming weeks.

Website: www.mhccnyc.org

Email: mhccnyc@gmail.com

Facebook: Morningside Heights Community Coalition

Twitter: @mhccnyc

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