

About Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC)

MHCC wants to make sure that planned developments do not harm Morningside Heights, and offer real benefits to the neighborhood, its families and public services. We are working to limit luxury over-development, promote affordable housing, and preserve the unique character of our community.

MHCC advocates for the following:

- Ensure the community and environment are safe during construction
- Height Consistent with Nearby Buildings
- Exteriors Harmonize with Surrounding Buildings
- Views of Nearby Landmarks Preserved
- Mitigate the Impact on the Environment and Local Services
- Provide Affordable Housing
- Support Local Social and Economic Development
- Rezoning Morningside Heights
- In addition, guiding practices for building construction should stress well-paid union jobs, training and local business opportunities.



Email us at: mhccnyc@gmail.com
<https://morningsideheightscommunitycoalition.com/>

About the MHCC Health and Safety Committee

MHCC started our “Health and Safety Committee” when we observed violations and dangerous health conditions as a result of construction practices at two adjacent sites on 122nd Street between Broadway and Amsterdam.

Seniors and children with their caregivers walked past construction sites with heavy equipment idling daily. In addition to these diesel fumes, the air contained serious construction dust that created unsafe respiratory conditions which place our neighbors at significant health risk.



MHCC Health and Safety members have witnessed and documented other egregious health and safety practices including sound pollution, environmental hazards, failure to comply with street regulations, and unsafe construction practices.

We have taken pictures and videos to document these dangerous practices and used them to hold

developers and construction crews accountable to our community. **We need more help.** We believe these conditions are not unique to our neighborhood, and are likely widespread throughout New York construction sites.

MHCC works closely with our local elected representatives, neighbors, and all affected parties. We hope to raise awareness of these critical conditions with the broader public and promote a commitment to “zero community risk” at construction sites within a vulnerable community.

Morningside Heights Community Coalition Health & Safety Corps

We need your help in keeping developers accountable to our community.



Join the MHCC Health & Safety Corps

We are looking for a group of neighbors who are observant and willing to take action in our Morningside Heights Community

Email:
MHCCSafety@gmail.com

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We have observed multiple environmental, health and safety violations in our community...

What to Look For

Here are just few things to look for to make sure a developer/contractor is keeping the community safe and informed. Please report on any one of these items:

1. **SIGNS:** Are the caution signs clearly posted in a timely fashion? Are they translated? Eye-level? Can children understand them?
2. **PUBLIC PATHWAYS:** Are sidewalks, cross-walks and streets clear of debris and vehicles? Is cement run-off in the gutter or in blocking drains?
3. **SUPERVISION:** Are the immediate areas surrounding the construction site free of debris, garbage and secured so that children cannot enter?
4. **TRAFFIC PATTERNS:** Can vehicles safely pass the construction site? Are emergency vehicles (Fire, Police, EMS) able to pass without obstruction? Do trucks block traffic?
5. **24/7 SAFETY:** Are the walkways, sidewalks and construction site safe after hours and weekends for you and your neighbors?
6. **TRUST YOUR SENSES:** Does something sound or smell different? Is there a pattern to these occurrences?
7. **IMPACT on HIGH RISK AREAS:** How does the construction impact schools, early childhood and senior centers, city parks, etc.? Are there flag personnel making sure pedestrians are safe?
8. **IDLING TRUCKS:** How long are construction vehicles and delivery trucks left idling?

How to Document

There are several ways to document and record dangerous conditions without placing yourself at risk.

Use your cellphone to take pictures.



Take several pictures to ensure at least one captures all that you want to document. Once you have taken these pictures, submit them to **MHCCSafety@gmail.com** along with a brief description of what you saw, where you saw it, when, and why you think this is a dangerous situation.

Short Video

Use your cell phone to video and document the dangerous or hazardous conditions. Keep this video short to about 10 seconds if possible so it can easily be reposted on Facebook and/or Twitter. Make sure to send it to **MHCCSafety@gmail.com**.

Pictures/video with commentary

Make sure to record the date and time of your pictures. Include any special notes that help describe the setting so that others can understand the context and urgency of the situation.

YouTube tutorials on taking pictures with your smart phone:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaNJlIqKvA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19MoUYPoFWs>

How to Take Action

1. Document what you have observed. Artifacts and evidence matter when holding a developer accountable to our community.
2. Contact NYC's 311 and report the situation making sure to highlight key words like, "health hazard" "dangerous conditions" "environmental hazard," "unsafe conditions," etc. At the same time, let the agent know you also have photo documentation that captures the incident.
3. Contact the Environmental Protection Agency <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>. The EPA website states, "If you are seeing an environmental event that may lead to an immediate threat to human health or the environment, call 911, then report it to the **National Response Center** at: **1-800-424-8802**. Learn the difference between a possible violation and an emergency.
4. Email the MHCC Health and Safety Committee **MHCCSafety@gmail.com** and describe what you have observed. Submit any documentation you have so that your work will be added to other members of our community in taking action against these violations. Make sure to include the NY 311 report # as well as the EPA complaint #.

If you believe the situation is an immediate danger, call 911 and report the address and situation calmly and with descriptive language. Make sure you and others are not in harm's way...