

## SENIOR ISSUES MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 4, 2023

In attendance: Hon. Carlton Davis, Hon. Walter T. Alexander, Hon. Arelis Mejia, Hon. Lydia Gerson, Eutha Prince (CB9), Verna Arthur, William Hamer, Ireatha Fletcher, Cora Gilmore, Lorraine Wilbourne, Gail Powell, Naomi Goldberg Haas, Daniel Jeremy Lopez, Richard Allman, Jarrell Peaker, Cora Gilmore, Richard Allman, Rosalia Lowe, Alicia Barksdale, Isha Banerjee, Dr. A. Herbert, Louis Bailey, Will Haggis, Roberto Sanchez. Hon. Patricia Caldwell was excused,

I-Call to Order @ 11:08

II-Agenda Amended-Naomi Goldberg Haas, Dances for a Variable Population added-Agenda Adopted

III-Minutes Amended-Richard Allman was not acknowledged present at the last meeting-I apologize! - Adopted

IV-Discussion

Mr. Hakeel Ellison was introduced as the new office assistant who will work with Ms. Madison Ayala. Welcome!

Naomi Goldberg Haas-Dances for a Variable Population

- We give programs for a strong and creative movement for older adults and for seniors
- We give performances at various locations in Harlem
- Its Is a low impact workout suitable for those with challenges
- Classes have been held with Richard Allen at the A. Phillip Randolph Center
- She states they will be at our Senior Resource Event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Jarrell Peaker, ARC

- ARC started giving classes for hip hop dance. Classes went from 10 to 35 seniors! They love it!
- They (along with Richard Allman) are preparing for two performances in June

Dream Center/Senator Cordell Cleare not in attendance

Verna Arthur, Dept for the Aging

- A pilot program will start this spring in 13 high schools in Brooklyn (along with the Department of Education) regarding resource guides about ageism and age discrimination for teachers, who will introduce lessons to the students. This program is expected to become city-wide.

Louis Baley, WeAct

- A membership drive (\$25 a year, or what you can afford) will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am. They will be talking about their worker training program in solar panel installation and scaffolding in order to get skilled jobs for youth. More information can be found at their website which is [www.weact.org](http://www.weact.org).

William Hamer, Harlem Advocacy for Seniors

- Discussed the project linking West Harlem Development Corporation and seniors in the catchment area for upcoming excursions, There were three trips held already: Radio City Rockettes, Magic Johnson for Whitney Houston movie, and Mama I Want to Sing. All were successful! The next meeting will be held via Zoom on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- Also spoke on the new senior task force started by Senator Cordell Cleare which will meet monthly.

Will Haggis, George Bruce Library

- The Library is still offering tax preparation for low income people. Appointments are recommended but they will accept walk-ins. They will be there this Friday and Saturday as well as next Friday and Saturday.
- They have partnered with the Food Bank who distributes food on Fridays and Saturdays between 11am and 2pm at the library.
- Ireatha Fletcher added that they have an English conversation hour twice a month as well as a job fundamentals class to assist in job searches.

Dr. A. Herbert, Rosalia Lowe, and Daniel Jeremy Lopez, Columbia Dental Van

- Came to inform us that they will be at our Senior Resource Fair to provide dental screenings and referrals. Questions were asked about their fees. There is no sliding scale at Columbia, but they will refer patients to the Ryan and Health Centers for services.

Richard Allman, A. Phillip Randolph Center

- Stated they had a very successful Women's History Month celebration. They are scheduling a concert later this month at the National Jazz Museum. They also show movies twice a month, along with various other events regularly.

Arelis Mejia

- Spoke about our recent senior center visits to Hamilton Grange and Jackie Robinson Senior Centers, She thought that the interiors were in a drab, depressing state and is in need of brighter colors and lighting. This topic needs to be brought to the attention of Senator Cleare at the next meeting. Ms. Arthur asked that these conditions should be brought up so that the proper agencies can address them.

V-New Business

- Our first Senior Resource Fair will be held at the Board office which is 3291 Broadway at the corner of 133 Street and Broadway. Sp far we have a number of commitments! It should be a successful event.

VI-Old Business

- None discussed.

Our next meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be possibly be held in a hybrid format.