



## SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

### Committee Members

Hon. Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair, **Excused**  
Hon. Anthony Fletcher, **Present**; Hon. Martin Wallace, **Present**

### Public Members

G. Wanda Capan, **Present** Laenoria Conyers, **Excused**; Bessie Davis, **Present**; Inez Woodhouse, **Excused**; Cora Gilmore, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Present**; Lillian Doctor, **Present**

**Other Attendees:** Jay Virella, Amsterdam Adult Day Program, Connie Santana, Community League of the Heights, Alethia Brown, Leonard Bananno, Ameenah Muhammad, Margaret Collins, Adrienne Felton, NYC Public Advocate, Anne Payne, Thaddeus Krupo, Hamilton Grange Public Library

The meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, 10027.

Anthony Fletcher, Esq., Senior Issues Committee member called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.; welcome everyone and introduced the speakers.

The Agenda was adopted as it is and minutes were accepted with necessary corrections to be submitted to the district office.

### Updates/Reports:

#### Amsterdam Adult Day Care Program:

Mr. Jay Virella – The Day Care Program is a Medicaid funded program that provides medical, recreation, and social services. So far the Affordable Care Act hasn't been changed, but there is a ripple in the services due to health insurances calling the program to find out if a clients needed a particular service. Health insurances are cutting services that were protected by Affordable Care Act. He urged seniors to manage their health care, stay healthy and save funds for emergencies. Mr. Virella specified that the following services are considered optional and some health care insurances may not cover:

- Transportation
- Dental
- Optometry

Adult Day Care Program assist seniors/disabled with the process of applying for Medicaid and provide information and referrals to other services. In order for a client to join the program, an Authorization from the health insurance should be provided. Once the client is enrolled, the program tracks all due re-authorization and done by a social worker on site. The social worker contacts the health insurance ahead of time on behalf of the client.

**New York City Public Advocates Office:**

Ms. Adrienne Felton reported that her agency serves as a direct link between residents and their government, acting as a watchdog over City agencies and investigating complaints about City services. She stated that on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 the Public Advocate Letitia James will have “**Talk To Tish: Harlem**” a conversation about issues in Harlem. The event will be held at Harlem Hospital Center Mural Pavillion, 512 Lenox Avenue (at West 136<sup>th</sup> Street) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She urged seniors to attend and reserve a seat by call (212) 669-7683 or send an email to [afelton@publicadvocate.nyc.gov](mailto:afelton@publicadvocate.nyc.gov). Dinner will be served.

**Community League Of The Heights:**

Connie Santana and Daniel Mercado stated that their organization started as a grassroots effort to provide recreational and educational opportunities for the neighborhood’s children and youth. CLOTH’s main office is located at 500 West 159<sup>th</sup> Street [between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue]. The organization has expanded its services and provides educational programs, affordable housing, food pantry, technology center, merchant organizing and advocacy and annual health festivals. As part of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development Ombudsman Program, CLOTH assist the community residents who are seeking housing on how to fill the Housing Connect Affordable Housing Application. The Housing Connect Affordable Housing is an online application and a little challenging for some residents, especially those who have no to little knowledge of operating a computer or internet. Mr. Mercado stated that the center is located at 2113 Amsterdam Avenue [corner of West 165<sup>th</sup> Street]; opened five days a week and accessible to the public. The Technology Center also provides adult classes including English as a Second Language, Basic Computer Skills in English and Spanish and Workforce Development. For more information and monthly schedule for classes call (212) 795-4779.

**Action:**

A motion was taken to request Manhattan Community Board No. 9 to write a letter opposing Governor Cuomo’s proposed cuts for senior services. The committee voted unanimously and Martin Wallace was to draft the letter.

**Suggestions:**

- Draft a petition opposing Governor Cuomo’s Budget Cuts on senior services to be circulated and mailed individually
- Attend the Manhattan Community Board No. 9 General Board Meeting, Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Castle Gardens, 625 West 140<sup>th</sup> Street [between Broadway and Riverside Drive], 6:30 p.m.

**Announcements:**

- Free AARP Income Tax Preparation at the Hamilton Grange Public Library, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 28; March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>; April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the community room on the lower level
- Talk To Tish: Harlem event by Public Advocate Letitia James, Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at Harlem Hospital Center Mural Pavillion, 512 Lenox Avenue [at West 136<sup>th</sup> Street], 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. RSVP by calling (212) 669-7683 or email to: Adrienne Felton [afelton@publicadvocate.nyc.gov](mailto:afelton@publicadvocate.nyc.gov)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**Note:** The next meeting is Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> St

**Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate**