

## Senior Issues Manhattan Community Board 9

**Date:** February 7, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:** Hon. Walter T Alexander, Co-Chair; Hon. Arelis Mejia, Hon. Patricia Caldwell, Hon. Lydia Gerson, Hon. Carlton Davis, Members. **Attendees:** Richard Altman, Verna Arthur (DFTA), Louis Bailey, Anthony Fletcher, Will Haggis (George Bruce Library), Alberto Roldan, Sara Bahri, Megan Molina, Heather Jason, Gail Powell, Eutha Prince (MCB9), Brenda Spivey-Nieves, Martin Wallace, Maude, Ms. Douglas, Brenda Spivey, Alicia Barksdale, William Hamer, Minah Whyte, Tony Gonzalez, Stacey Otter, Pat Johnson, Gail Powell, Iretha Fletcher, Jarrell Peaker, Lorraine Wilbourne.

- I. **Call to Order** Quorum established at 11:12am
- II. **Adopt Agenda** Chair Alexander asks for a motion to accept the agenda for this month's meeting-accepted.
- III. **Adopt Minutes**-motion to defer the Minutes as they were not mailed out-accepted.
- IV. **Presentations/Updates/Discussions**
- V. **Paula Seefeldt, Program Director; *Life force in Later Years (LILY)*** in for Irene Zola, Executive Director, LILY; Paula-Seefeldt@ifily.org
  - LILY was launched in 2009 to assist seniors to age in place.
    1. They provide meetups for seniors.
    2. Volunteers help seniors to adopt technology, such as Zoom, Tablets, Cell Phones
  - 2. There is a need for more gathering areas for Seniors, i.e., benches for seniors in the Northern section of their catchment area (105<sup>th</sup> street to 145<sup>th</sup> street on the West Side).
    1. Martin Wallace will assist in this effort.
  - a. **Alexis Walters, Columbia Community Shuttle**
    2. The Columbia Shuttle runs Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
      1. Main stops are located at Columbia University Irving Medical Center: 96<sup>th</sup>, 116<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup>
      2. Major issues
        1. Better promotion of the service, i.e., hard copy pamphlets, flyers, posters, etc. is necessary
          1. Online Shuttle schedule is confusing.
          2. Many Seniors do not have access to the Internet.
          3. No signs to indicate the Shuttle stops.
          4. Should be more accessible, i.e., allow seniors to get off at preferred stops
      3. To be eligible for the service you must show a Medicare Health Insurance card or Metro card for Seniors or people with disabilities

- c. **Alberto Roldan, Sara Bahri, Megan Molina, MTA/MCB9 Community Liaison, OMNY (One Metro New York)**
  - 1. OMNY is MTA's new contactless fare payment system.
  - 2. OMNY offers more options for how and where to pay fare
  - 3. OMNY will replace all older means of fare payment, such as the Metro Card and eTix by 2024
  - 4. Passengers can use contactless credit, debit or reloadable prepaid card to pay the fare; or a digital wallet; or, OMNY card
    - 1. OMNY cards will be available at many retail outlets.
  - 5. OMNY offers the same half price fare that current reduced for customers received today
  - 6. Customer Service will be available online and in person at several subway stations
- c. Martin Wallace read a poem by Amanda Gorman, *Call Us What We Carry*
- c. Will Haggis announced that George Bruce Library is offering free Tax Preparation help

**VI. New Business** None were submitted at this time.

**VII. Old Business** None were submitted at this time.

VI. **Adjourn** P. Caldwell moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Gerson seconded the motion. All participants were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM

**Next Senior Issues Meeting to be held March 7, 2023 via zoom.**

*Respectfully submitted by Lydia Gerson*