



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Ernestine Welch, Chair; Hon. Anthony Fletcher; Martin Wallace

Committee Members Excused:

Hon. Barbara Marshall; Carole Singleton

Public Members Present:

Cora Gilmore; Lillian Doctor; Graig Himmons

Public Members Excused:

Wanda Capan; Laenoria Conyers; Bessie Davis; Ruther Miller; Inez Woodhouse; Nazareen Robinson

Other Attendees Present:

C. Daigle; Z. Bucknor; C. Himmons; Ameenah Muhammad; Fidel Malena, Council Member Levine's Office; Irene Zola, Lifeforce in Later Years; Paula Seefeldt, Lifeforce in Later Years; Sonia LereRours, Lifeforce in Later Years; Verna Arthur, Department For The Aging; Wali Amin Muhammad

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027.

Hon. Ernestine Welch called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and welcome everyone.

The agenda was adopted and minutes accepted with any necessary corrections submitted to the district office.

Update/Reports:

Council Member Mark Levine's Office

Fidel Malena, Community Liaison stated that there were numerous housing concerns related to heat and gas. He stated that there are five (5) Participatory Budget Committees: Transportation; Street Safety; Environment; Parks and Recreation; Education and Youth; Community and Housing. Mr. Malena reported that there is a Transportation Participatory Budget meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 500 W 141st street. For more information at him via telephone at (212) 928-6814 or email at fmalena@council.nyc.gov

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Lifeforce in Later Years. (L-i-L-Y)

Irene Zola, founder of the Lifeforce in Later Years initiated the Morningside Village in response to the dire challenges facing frail elderly member in the community who want to age in their homes and need assistance. The Morningside Village catchment area is from West 108th Street to West 122nd Street from Riverside Drive to Morningside Drive. The organization has enlisted 100 volunteers to assist senior in the area. This organization has been existence for 6 years have a 501(c) (3) status, has a volunteer insurance and raise their own money. The volunteers provide the following practical help to seniors:

- Assessing home environment
- Linking seniors to healthcare and social services that they need
- Assist in home management issues and providing support of all kinds
- Telephoning, trouble-shooting is required
- Ironing out confusing or complicated issued
- Supporting medical management issue, e.g. regularity with taking medicine
- Accompanying seniors on outings where needed

The organization also offers the following classes, yoga, theater, movie club and lectures to seniors. The month of October 1st is love an elder day and Lifeforce in Later Years promoted "Elder Day" every year for the past 3 years. For further information, please contact L-i-L-Y – 917-775-1199 website <http://www.L-i-L-Y.org>

NYC Department For The Aging (DFTA)

Verna Arthur reported that DFTA and the Mayor's Office of Domestic Violence are working together in combating the domestic violence in New York City Housing Authority Developments. There are 15 NYCHA initiated domestic violence program, and three staff members are hired to monitor the programs. She stated that Manhattan Community Board No. 9 is the only board that has a Senior Issues Committee and that meets in the morning to accommodate and encourage seniors to participate.

Suggestions:

- There is a need for a visible progress of addressing and achieving the committee agenda and plans for the year.
- A formal letter to be sent to the United States Postal Services regarding complaints.
- Information and updates should be circulated every month.
- Advertise Senior Issues Committee more at senior centers; libraries; NYCHA developments; nursing homes; etc.

Announcements:

- Manhattan Community Board No. 9 Housing Forum, January 24, 2015 at 3333 Broadway, 11:00 a.m.
- Council Member Mark Levine Housing Forum, January 28, 2015 at Riverstone Senior Center, 99 Fort Washington Avenue, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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Action Item(s):

Resolution: re Access-A-Ride

- 3 voting members in favor, 6 public in favor, 0 abstentions 0 opposed.
- Friendly amendment: send to Public Advocate.

Adjournment: 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate