



# Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

## SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

#### Committee Members

Hon. Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair, **Present**

Hon. Anthony Fletcher, **Excused**; Hon. Martin Wallace, **Present**

#### Public Members

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

**Other Attendees:** Anne Payne, Ameenah Muhammad, Iris Arce, Anne Burley, Wanda Capan, Zonia Bucknor, Alethia I. Brown, Leonard Bonanno, Shirley Saxton, US Department of Social Security Administration.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Manhattan Community Board No. 9 District Office, 18 Old Broadway [between West 125<sup>th</sup> and West 126<sup>th</sup> Streets], New York, 10027.

Reverend Morgan-Thomas, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She introduced the representative from the post office.

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

#### Reports:

##### LifeForce In Later Years

Iris Arce, Coordinator for West Harlem stated that LILY has expanded and opened a new service in West Harlem called West Harlem Neighbors. The service started with 12 seniors, which is now serving 49 seniors and has been operating for about two and half years. The program provides services to seniors who reside in Manhattan between Riverside Drive and Convent Avenue from West 123<sup>rd</sup> to West 135<sup>th</sup> Streets. West Harlem Neighbors provides opportunities for elders to socialize and enjoy activities, such as making music. The organization pairs seniors with volunteers, who are screened for safety purposes. Volunteer schedules differ and are created according to the need of a senior(s).

#### Update:

Reverend Morgan-Thomas, Chair of Senior Issues Committee reported that NYC Housing Preservation and Development is reaching out to churches in our community re: Developing Affordable Housing. She indicated that some churches do not have enough membership to cope with the day to day operation of managing a building, and stated that the community should encourage churches to seek advice and have of knowledge the zoning code in the district. Reverend Morgan-Thomas cited that churches with air rights should be encouraged to reach out to community boards or to someone knowledgeable of the zoning code, and the housing laws before speaking to developers.

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The committee suggested to concentrate on developing a 202, supportive housing for the elderly in the district, and will host a Senior Affordable Housing Forum in April 2017. It was agreed to invite the following government and non-government agencies to participate:

- HUD
- HPD
- Broadway Housing Communities
- HCCI
- National Occurring Retirement Community (NORC)
- Elected Officials
- Churches
- Developer(s)
- 

### **Suggestions:**

- Liaison form the committee working group (sub-committee)
- Churches should understand what ground leasing is
- Seniors in the community should fight for a senior housing in this district
- Identify spaces
- Cb9 should do a survey regarding 202 housing in the district

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

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

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