

SENIOR ACTION MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 5, 2024

In attendance: Hon. Carlton Davis, Hon. Walter T. Alexander, Hon. Lydia Gerson, Hon. Pat Caldwell, Hon. Francina Wearing, Hon. Liz Eastman, Hon. Pat Watler-Johnson, Hon. Victor Edwards, Committee Members: Gail Powell, Tony Gonzalez, Richard Allman, Iretha Fletcher, Messiah Ramdissoon, Martin Wallace

I-Call to Order-11:10am

II-Minutes Accepted (no changes were posed); Francina, Carlton; Francina, Lydia

III-Discussion

1-Tony Gonzalez-Arts & Minds tony.gonzalez@artsandminds.org (646) 755-3726

- Educator with Arts & Minds.
- They harness the power of art to inspire and engage people with dementia and their care partners. Their services are free to the public,
- They are expanding to community centers and senior centers in Harlem.
- Our approach is based on experience in the fields of art dementia, care and adult learning.
- To harness the power of art to inspire and engage people with dementia and their care partners.
- produce arts based workshops that enhance verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Our programs are not just for people who have memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's, but they are for the people who have memory loss plus their care partners.
- We're trying to educate the public as to some tools that are available for them if they have a family member with the disease.
- As there is no cure for the disease, the consensus is amongst experts that there are tools available that can delay the onset and slow the progress.
- We are partnered with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Studio Museum in Harlem, Schomburg Center, and the Jewish Museum, and this Museum of the City of New York.
- African Americans over 70 are twice as likely to have the disease that whites, and Hispanics are one and a half times as likely.
- We are in conversation with Riverbank State Park and Manhattanville Community Center where we hope to start pilot programs at these locations soon.

2- Messiah Ramkissoon-Youth Justice Network info@youthjustice.org (212) 760-0755

- We were founded 34 years ago on the school floor of Rikers Island under the name Friends of Island Academy. We changed our name to Youth Justice Network because we felt that that better reflects who we are and our mission as an organization. We serve youth between 16 and 24 returning from prison to help them return to society. We work with youth in all five boroughs as well as upstate prisons. We focus on youth

advocacy and connect with them between 24 and 72 hours upon release. We strive to build a relationship based upon trust. We also work with youth in the courts also.

- There are classes in GED, interviewing skills, and job prep to facilitate them applying for employment.
- A lot of their parents and adults in their lives are skeptical of their development. Some of the parents feel that the youths are safer in prison, as they know where they are. This is an on-going situation in their lives.
- We are partnered with the Fortune Society and other organizations to help them assimilate into society. Our staff consists of 67 people. We had to lay people off due to the pandemic but we are recovering from that.

John McGregor jmgbooks2@gmail.com

- Wants to open a bookstore in Harlem. Has a location in mind. Is requesting our assistance (MCB9) in finding funding for this purpose.

IV-New Business-We began discussion of the Senior Resource Fair in May. Eutha was in the office but we did not get to meet with her to update us. We may have to change the facility. We will be discussing this further.

V-Old Business-none

Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm. Next meeting is April 2, 2024 at 11am via hybrid format.