

Senior Issues Meeting  
November 10, 2020

Board Members in attendance: Marti Cummings, Martin Wallace, Walter Alexander, Anthony Fletcher, Carolyn Thompson

Public Members – Iretha Fletcher, Ameenah Muhamad, Bessie Davis, Cora Gilmore, Mary Goodman, Lorraine Wilbourne, Annie Payne, Ingrid S.

Agencies – Verna Arthur

Nonprofit Representatives: William Hamer (HAS), Patricia Lewis (L-i-L-Y)

Elected Officials – April Adams (Boro Pres. Office), Porfirio Figueroa (Senator Jackson's Office), Shana Harmongoff (Senator Benjamin's Office)

Zead Ramadan – Executive Director - WHDC

#### Elected Announcements

Porfirio Figueroa (Senator Jackson office) - Bill #S3320 was sent to the Governor to be signed

- If anyone received an eviction notice since March reach out to 212-417-3888
- Senator Jackson's office has received some calls regarding landlords harassing tenants
- Free Flu Shots w/Ryan Health Center and Senator Jackson's Office Tuesday November 24th at 159th St and Corner of Amsterdaum Ave. From 10am-3pm. Look for the Ryan Health Winnebago or sign up in advance at [flushot@snatorjackson.com](mailto:flushot@snatorjackson.com)

April Adams (BP Brewer office)

-sign up for newsletter - call April 929-337-0978 to receive

- November 23 6pm seminar to learn about tenant protections

Anthony Fletcher request amendment to the agenda

- edit of how Carlyn Thompson is listed on our agenda (she is listed as our 2nd Vice Chair but she is in fact our 1st Vice Chair) - wants to make mention that in one years time it will be her 30th anniversary on the board.

- Ziad Ramadan has had a change in status at West Harlem Development Corp. He is now the Interim Director at WHDC.

Motion made for these friendly amendments, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Anthony Fletcher has called the meeting to order at 11:26am

First Speaker is Carlyn Thompson

- Uniform Services hasn't had many changes in terms of working with seniors during the pandemic. Continue to work with NYPD, FDNY on senior services.
- Sanitation services have changed
- EMS has made no changes in terms of their service.

Anthony asks how they are doing in terms of capacity in the event of an emergency - Carlyn states they have the same emergency staff. They are doing numerous runs because of the pandemic but nothing has changed to amount of people serving.

Seniors were involved with the budget for CB9 - Anthony asks if there will likely be a diminishment in uniformed services due to the cities budget gap.

- Carlyn says no that the budget doesn't cut these

William Hamer asks - has there been a diminishment in sanitation?

Carlyn - there have been services cut back but her understanding is that they will be back out more to clean. The budget had cut back their days of cleaning.

William Hamer - discusses due to these cutbacks neighbors had to pick up the slack and clean their blocks themselves.

Marti Cummings talks about the CB9 cleanups and gives shoutout of thanks to April Adams, Kysha Smith, and Gale Brewer and Mark Levines offices for organizing these events.

Discussing the uptick in COVID-19 cases and why there is a rise in cases.

April Adams - BP office is working to distribute PPE especially with the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday

Pat Lewis - states that there are people on her corner of 131/Convent outside congregating and partying with no masks. This is 3 or 4 blocks from the police station yet no one came by to stop or disperse the crowd of over 30 people (almost none of which were wearing masks). She says the crowd is so big that it is best to walk on the other side of the block. She is unsure who the people are, one time she walked through the crowd and they called her and her friend all sorts of names. Due to this they now walk on the other side of the street.

Carolyn - will reach out to the 26th Precinct

April Adams - the police have been instructed to not enforce masks or social distancing due to the history of police violence against People of Color. She has said that she often distributes masks to help.

Carolyn - NYPD is supposed to disburse crowd

William Hamer - with an uptick in crime and shootings how do we bring together community involvement and support.

April Adams - when the NYPD was enforcing social distancing it disproportionately impacted communities of color. Gale Brewer position is of course we need to keep everyone safe but we aren't going to ask the NYPD to do something that is going to impact communities of color negatively.

Shana Harmongoff (Senator Benjamin office) - the Senator position is he does not want the NYPD to enforce the social distancing rule because the NYPD often doesn't wear masks themselves and when they step in it gets out of hand. The Senator began the community policing tasks force where each Wednesday they distribute masks and sanitizer to the community.

- 212-222-7315 you can call the Senators office at any time

Marti Cummings - suggest we work with local businesses to distribute masks and sanitizer - could this be a part of discretionary funding. This way we work as a community rather than bringing in the NYPD.

April Adams - find a way to deploy different organizations or groups to help with the spread of COVID-19.

Agenda has moved along to Mr. Ramadan presentation.

Mr. Ramadan served on Community Board 12 - discussing Senior Centers

When he joined the board right after 9/11 the 2002 budget was scapped including Senior Centers. Senior Centers operate on such small margins as it is.

WHICOA - West Harlem and Inwood Coalition on the Aging - an umbrella group of all the Senior Centers within CB12.

Creating a community coalition with all the board chairs and leaders from Senior Centers within the community board is essential. We can't stop doing the arts for seniors, we can't stop feeding seniors. It is vital to have assistance for our seniors.

If you had an association how could you benefit?

Example: if one senior center is doing an event and doesn't have enough fold out tables they can contact another center and borrow tables. Other resources could be grant application support.

The same people are fighting for the same money. If there is a coalition then the senior centers can work together within the community to have the most impact on the community. We want to see funding rain into the community.

This is a long process. Something that takes leadership within the board to start having these conversations to form a coalition/umbrella group to discuss what works and what doesn't work and what resources can we share rather pulling the same string in different directions.

When the city takes our tax dollars to create maps that don't reflect the entire borough we must be treated the same and provided the same services. It is important for the leaders of our senior centers to recognize that and work together so no one loses out on grants that could be coming to our senior centers.

Send an invitation to the boards to get them all to the meeting to discuss their role in providing resources for seniors.

WHICOA – West Harlem and Inwood Coalition on the Aging – potential model for us

Standing meeting focused on organizing senior centers/non-profits serving seniors

Exec Dir. And Boards of every senior center

Chair of CB9M

Invite not just senior centers, but also other non-profits supporting seniors (LILY, HAS)

Cross border work can also work with an eye towards services that are available in some boards and not others. What do our seniors need and where do they go to meet those needs?

W. Hamer – Mr Ramadan – now exec director of WHDC. As int. dir. Of WHDC< major funding arm in CB9, is some of this presentation part of your vision as exec dir of WHDC – in terms of directing funds and prioritizing efforts to maximize resources through collaborative efforts and joint ventures?

Ramadan – Intuitive question. I execute policy and will of board. Board tells me what to do. I get to say what I see and make recommendations. Yes, I have a lot of ideas because I have a lot of experience. This is something that could serve the entire community from which the whole community could benefit.

Research other coalitions in the city. Talk to board leadership and let them know what we are planning to do. Create a resolution. Put forth the mission and begin building the coalition. Commissioner on the aging. Expense project.

Lower East Side Interagency Council

LILY just got tablets for their seniors. Pat Lewis will distribute them. Pat Lewis (917) 847-7275

DFTA Three models of program to reach out to seniors – Friendly voice – zoom or phone 212-244-6469 or visit DFTA website

One on One for 6 months

Peer to Peer one or more days per week for min. of 8 weeks

Group Engagement – small virtual group

Old Business – Sen. Jackson’s office still working on putting together the phone bank. Will keep all updated as to progress on this initiative.

New Business –

Adjourn – 1:25 PM