

SENIOR ISSUES MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 6, 2020

In attendance: Hon. Martin Wallace, Hon. Marti Cummings, Hon. Walter T. Alexander, Eutha Prince (CB9), Verna Arthur (Dept for the Aging), William Hamer (Harlem Advocate for Seniors), Ameenah Muhammed, Bessie Davis, Iretha Fletcher, Cora Gilmore, Annie Payne, Lorraine Wilbourne

I-Call to Order @11:27am

II-Adopted Agenda

III-Adopted Minutes

IV-Discussion

Sonal Jessel, WeAct Environmental Justice

- Heat emergencies affect health especially impacting people of color and seniors
- Heat illnesses due to lack of air conditioning
- North Manhattan has more bus depots than other parts of the city
- Increased perception of risks due to natural disasters
- Policy changes (NYC)
- Improve cooling center conditions/problems
- Subsidize heating bills (more funding and air conditioners for seniors)
- Bill-Intro 1563-sending to MCB9 for approval (Reso)
- Mark Levine is holding a meeting about the bill
- New members needed at WeAct
- City should also have food in the cooling centers (Annie Payne)
- Distinguish between public and private centers-also accessibility to all of them!

Fern Hertzberg-Executive Director, 16 Fort Washington Ave (has 3 Senior Centers in CB9)

Richard Allman (Site manager) and Jessika Roldan also attending

- She offers transportation services to seniors (blue bus)
- Whist Transportation (212) 568-5030
- Focusing on broadband for seniors for connectivity
- Advocacy for seniors
- Accessibility of senior centers
- Affordable housing for seniors
- Funding is necessary!!!

William Hamer-Harlem Advocacy for Seniors

- Senior housing category is changing to include supportive housing as Section 8 persons from shelters and programs are moving into senior housing
- Department for the Aging-Housing Connect Program (212) 244-6469

V-Old Business

- Budget Hearing-suggestions are needed
- DFTA-Food Program anticipates no changes in the near future
- Not sure if there will be another Air Conditioning Program next year
- Outreach-contact Senator Jackson's office @ (212) 544-0173

VI-New Business

- October is Fall Prevention Month-concentrate on preventing falls which can be dangerous
- Fall Prevention Coalition has a Home Safety Checklist-contact DFTA (number above)
- Vote! Contact Board of Elections (212) 886-2100 or League of Women Voters (212) 725-3541

Meeting adjourned at 1:37pm. Next Senior Issues Meeting will be November 10, 2020 via Zoom