SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

Committee Members:
Ernestine Welch, Chair, Present; Tiffany Alston, Present; Anthony Fletcher, Excused;
Carole Singleton, Present; Gladys Tinsley, Present

Public Members:
G. Marilyn Alexander, Excused; Wanda Capan, Present; Laenoria Conyers, Present; Bessie
Davis, Present; Ruthie Miller, Excused; Inez Woodhouse, Present;
Nazarene Robinson, Present

Other Attendees Present:
Cecilia Varga; Florence Rice; Dothe Rudolph; Raysa Alarconi; Jully Merino, Columbia
University Office of Community and Government Relations; Ireta Fletcher; Anne Payne; Sarah
Martin, President of Grant Houses Tenants Association; Victoria Meson-Ailey, Vice President,
Columbia University Office of Community and Government Relations; Joel Balavram, Senior
Representative at NYS Attorney General’s Office; Shirley Saxton, Public Affairs Specialist,
Social Security Administration; Cari Tropnas; Sanders Mendez; David Barlow, Woodlawn
Cemetery

The meeting was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West
125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

The agenda was adopted as stated and the minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections.

Reports:
New York State Attorney General’s Office:
Joel Balavram, Senior Representative stated that the Attorney General’s Office located at 163 West 125th
Street receives approximately 2,000 complaints and 90 percent of the complaints are non fraudulent
according to the Attorney General. The Attorney General’s Office normally mediates complaints and
with the extreme volume of work the office has interns who assist in research and finding solutions to the
problem(s). Pay Day Loans are illegal in New York State because a legal interest rate in New York City
is 24.9 percent (24.9%) and the paid day loans charges 95.0% interest rate on a loan. Consumer beware
anytime you borrow money is free no deposit is required and the following are scams – secret shopper;
Sweepstakes/lottery and Grandparent and never sends money to an unknown person through Moneygram
or Western Union. Mr. Balavram distributed the following booklets of information “A Housing Guide
for Senior Citizens, Smart Seniors, and Identity Theft Kit: What to Do If you Have Been
Victimized”
Columbia University Office of Community and Governmental Affairs:
Victoria Mason-Ailey reported that she will give a full report on senior transportation at next committee meeting.

Senior Reading Garden:
Sarah Martin, President of Grant Houses Tenants Association reported that the working group is continuing to plant and taking care of the garden. Dr. Vicky Gholson mentioned that the Grant’s Tomb donated shrubs and I have arranged a truck to pick up the shrubs for the garden. There was a misleading/misinformation article on the post about my remarks regarding NYCHA and the garden.

Announcement:
  i. Thursday, September 20, 2012 is The NYCHA's 8th Annual Senior Benefit & Entitlement Fair at Riverbank State Park, 679 Riverside Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate