

SENIOR ISSUES MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 5, 2022

In attendance: Hon. Walter T. Alexander, Hon. Anthony Fletcher, Hon. Arelis Mejia, Hon. Martin Wallace, Verna Arthur, Ameenah Muhammed, Cora Gilmore, Lorraine Wilbourne, Gail Powell, Lillian Vale, Jason Hansman, Evan Forman, Laquisha Grant, Will Haggis, Nicole Torres, Dora Garcia, Iretha Fletcher, Pat Lewis, Fern Hertzberg, Brian Robinson, Angelica Perez, Angelica Scott, Barry Devone, Zead Ramadan, Robert Garden, Kevin Powell, Catherine Christian.

Call to Order @11:10am

Adopted Minutes

Adopted Agenda

Prior to the regular meeting, the committee members met privately to adopt the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes. In addition, there were well wishers given to Martin Wallace who will be leaving the community board after years of service. He will be missed!

I- Brian Robinson - **Fortune Society**, 140 Riverside Drive

- Re-entry Program, Job Training, Education Programs, and Drug Treatment Services (45 years)
- Two Residences-Castle Gardens and The Academy
- Has a garden for seniors on the roof for their residents (Angelica Scott, WHDC) for recreational and therapy,

II-Verna Arthur - **Government Affairs Office - Department for the Aging**

- All available laptops have been distributed.
- WIFI service was extended to December, 2022
- DFTA has a monthly newsletter. Sign up at nyc.gov/aging or call (212) 602-4261; (212) 422-6469 (Aging Connect).

III-Jason Hansman - **Acting Dir. Of the Mayor's Office of Community Health for Community Boards 9, 10, and 11**

- Strategy to fill gaps in mental health.
- "Be Heard" program for mental health crisis, suicide prevention, and substance abuse issues for seniors. Mobile Crisis vans with EMT's and NYPD Officers will respond. They are looking to expand to the South Bronx, Seniors can call NYC Well or 311 (call 911 in an emergency).
- A. Mejia was concerned about the homeless encampment removal program that the Mayor recently implemented as well as homeless persons sleeping in hallways and in the stairwells. She feels that the program needs to be more compassionate to the homeless.

IV-Catherine Christian - **Asst. District Atty., Chief of Elder Abuse Unit, Office of NYDA Office**

- Discussed elder abuse (financial scams and giving remote access to unknown persons). Be careful of someone asking to get into your computer. Always call the institution to make sure it is them.

V-Fern Hertzberg - **Exec. Dir ARC XVI Fort Washington Inc Senior Centers**

- Discussion on how to run a GOOD senior center
- Topics ranged from recruitment and retention, program services, meals, transportation and entertainment
- Finance and Budgeting

VI-Shirley Saxon - **Social Security**

- Local Social Security offices will re-open April 7th. The lines will be long, so it's best to call and make an appointment. Walk-ins will be served but those with appointments will be served first.

New Business-none

Old Business-none

Next meeting will be held on May 3, 2022 via Zoom