

DRAFT
SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

Committee Members:

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Tiffany Alston, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Excused**,
Carole Singleton, **Excused**

Public Members:

G. Marilyn Alexander, **Excused**; Wanda Capan, **Excused**; Laenoria Conyers, **Present**; Bessie
Davis, **Present**; Cora Gilmore, **Excused**; Ruther Miller, **Excused**; Inez Woodhouse, **Excused**;
Nazarene Robinson, **Excused**

Other Attendees Present:

Tisha Jackson, Community Board #9 member; Annie Payne; Quentin Fletcher; Gisele Guerre;
Sarah Martin, President of Grants Houses Tenants Association; Florence Rice; Cory Ortega,
Council Member Keith Wright's Office; Zonia Bucknor; Genia Addo; Joyce Garrett

The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West
125th Street, New York, NY 10027

The agenda was adopted as stated and due to super storm Sandy and shortage of staff the
November minutes were unavailable but will be provided at our next monthly meeting.

Report/Reportes:

The seniors committee at their November meeting requested to have legal advisors, Ms. Jackson
and Mr. Fletcher to brief the committee on legal business on trust and estate, etc., in order for
them to be better informed on the subject.

Legal business on a Trust and Estate

What is a Will?

Tisha Jackson stated that it doesn't take much to accumulate property such as an estate; a car; a
house; a fur coat etc., and there is no such thing as a small or big estate. A will is a document
which provides the manner in which a person's property will be distributed after death and it will
be executed by an executor.

How Is A Will Made?

- 1 A will must not be verbal but written (it can be typed or hand written)
- 2 It must be signed.(must be signed by a person 18 years and older)
- 3 It must be witnessed (must have two signatures)

When Should You Make A Will?

It is advisable that a will should be made while a person is in good health, free from emotional
stress. If you have children and you pass away, do you want to name guardianship of your
children or do you want the court to appoint one? If you do not have a Will, the court, by law,
will appoint the guardian for your children.

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A Will Can Be Changed:

A person may change a Will as often as he or she desires. Changes are made by either executing a new Will which revokes or replaces the prior Will. If you desire to change your Will, it is advisable to consult a lawyer.

What is a Trust?

A trust agreement is a document that spells out the rules that you want followed for property held in trust for your beneficiaries. Common objectives for trusts are to reduce the estate tax liability, to protect property in your estate, and to avoid probate. A **Trustor** (a person setting up a trust) appoints a **Trustee** (a person in charge of the trust). The trustee needs to understand the rules for the type of trust he or she is managing to make sure everything in the trust stays in working order.

Ms. Jackson advised seniors to have a health proxy and a living will, which will explain everything what a person wants to be done when; he/she is unable to make decisions. There are two powers of attorney, durable and traditional, and seniors should not take it lightly.

- i. Durable Power of Attorney enable the principle to have his/hers affairs handled easily and inexpensively after she/he becomes incapacitated. The durable power of attorney is often created to deal with decision involving either property management or health care.
- ii. Traditional power of attorney which is called "spring" takes effect when a specific event occurs, such as the disability of the principal.

Elected Officials:

Honorable Robert Jackson, City Council Member, District 7^h - Update on Pending Legislations

- 1 The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bill on having reconstruction of 125th Street river to river regarding buses M60 and M101 is pending.
- 2 Pending resolution #0117 calling on the State to pass and amend its Elder Law bill and add that the State Department for the Aging to report on the delivery of services and the needs of the underserved population.
- 3 Intro # 0270 a local law establishing a silver alert program to provide public notification for missing senior citizens with certain cognitive impairments.
- 4 Resolution #1352 encourage employers to hire people 55 years and older.
- 5 NYS Assembly Bill 195-A161 No fare for seniors in the entire metropolitan of New York City.
- 6 Intro #090 local law to establish a free legal counsel for seniors facing eviction or foreclosure.
- 7 Redistricting has not been finalized as of yet.
- 8 Community and district leaders should advocate on voting sites.

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Assembly Member Keith Wrights

Corey Ortega, Special Representative

- Super storm Sandy clean-up - 5,000 employment for the unemployed and should be 18 years and older.
- Bill to increase minimum wage to 8.25
- Tax abatement bill will be renewed
- The senior transportation bill “**no fare**” still stuck in the Senate Chambers.

The George Bruce Library

Tiffany Alston, Site Manager stated that financial workshops and distributed the December calendar with different events for children and adults. See attached calendar.

Senior Reading Garden:

Sarah Martin stated that she hasn't heard anything from New York City Authority.

Suggestions:

- 1 Invite Time Warner to resolve service and bill problems at the Grants Houses
- 2 The committee suggested to have a planned forum on wills, trust, health proxy, etc., which will be arranged by Anthony Fletcher and Tisha Jackson
- 3 Invite Board of Election representative to explain the changes made and the non-working machines.

Adjournment: 1:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate