

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

***Committee Members:***

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

***Public Members:***

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

***Other Attendees Present:***

Florence Rice, Lucille Brodie, Anna, Quentin Fletcher, Zonia Bucknoe, Alpha Sesa,  
Dothe Rudolph, Vicky Gholson, PhD., Annie Payne, Vinella Henry, Russell Schmidt, Access-A-  
Ride, Donna Fredericksen, Margaret Collins, Ginia Addo, Judge Landers,

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West  
125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.; she urged seniors to tune into  
the radio and stay abreast about changes that will be forthcoming after the Presidential Elections.

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

***Update:***

***Access A-Ride Paratransit Service:***

Russell Schmidt and Donna Fredericksen, Outreach & Public Coordinator stated that:

- Due to hurricane Sandy, Access-A-Ride had to cut back and most of the vehicles were damaged during the storm.
- Access-A-Ride subcontracted some of its services to black car services to fill the gap.
- the Metropolitan Transport Authority (MTA) New York City / Paratransit Division provides Access-A-Ride as an alternative from of public transportation for people with disabilities or medical conditions that prevent them from using public buses or subways for some or all their trips.
- Access-A-Ride is a shared ride, door-to-door Paratransit service which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within the five boroughs of New York City. The fare for each trip on Access-A-Ride is the same for a single ride on a bus or subway.
- Because some disabilities can be **invisible** is recommend that all applicants bring a detailed medical documentation to their assessment stating specifically how their disability or medical condition prevents them from using public buses or subways for some or all of their trips.
- Each person is evaluated individually as to their transportation needs and it is urged that if your medical condition has changed from the first time you apply for services, please notify Access-A-Ride of all the changes.

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- If customers encounter any issues on the day of their trip, contact the **Commander Center at 877-337-2017** and if customers have a concern about the service or someone they wish to commend, they should contact the MTA NYC Transit Customer Assistance at (718) 330-1234 and follow the prompts. The Transit Customer Assistance line is open 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and you can send your complaint by email log on to \_\_\_\_\_ or write to:

*MTA New York City Transit  
Paratransit Division, Customer Relations  
130 Livingston Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201*

- When making a complaint include your name, address, telephone number, your Access-A-Ride Identification number and provide specific details of your complaint, "**when and where it happened.**"
- A **Guide to Access-A-ride Service** was distributed.

Seniors Garden next to the George Bruce Library:

- A list of names of volunteers who provided services in the development of the garden was submitted and distributed to the committee.

### **Suggestions:**

- Extend an invitation to legal representatives to give a briefing on wills, trust, health proxy, etc.
- Send an invitation to Councilman Robert Jackson to give a briefing on the redistricting especially for seniors.

**Adjournment:** 1:30 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate