



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Committee Members

Hon. Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair, **Present**

Hon. Anthony Fletcher, **Present**; Hon. Martin Wallace, **Present**

Public Members

G. Wanda Capan, **Present** Laenoria Conyers, **Excused**; Bessie Davis, **Present**; Inez Woodhouse, **Present**; Cora Gilmore, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Present**; Lillian Doctor, **Present**

Other Attendees: Ameenah Muhammad, Annie Payne, Shirley Saxton, Social Security Administration, Zonia Bucknor, Leonard Bonanno, Verna Arthur, Department For The Aging, Linda Guy, Senator Perkins' Office

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1st, 2016 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, 10027.

Reverend Morgan-Thomas, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She introduced the representative from the post office.

The Agenda was adopted as it is and minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections.

Presentation:

Senate Bill Perkins's Office

Linda Guy, Scheduler reported that housing crisis affects all new Yorkers but seniors are the most affected and her office is constantly receiving complaints regarding lack of senior housing for seniors stay in their homes, downsizing and moved to smaller apartments, which is not guaranteed, increased rents, harassment and intimidation by property managers and landlords. The Senator would create a series of town hall and public meetings to address the above mentioned issues and would like Manhattan Community Board No. 9 to play a significant role in this. Ms. Guy provided a copy of a study done by former Comptroller John C. Liu regarding Senior Housing in New York City "The Coming Crisis". See attached link https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/NYC_SeniorHousing.pdf.

Housing is a concern due to seniors living longer and living healthier lives and wants to stay in their communities. The Senator reached out to former Comptroller Liu who is now teaching at Columbia University to participate in the senior housing study and update his former study including interested students in public policy. The Senator's Office will contact other Community Boards and Community Based Organization to participate in the dialogue addressing the senior housing crisis. Ms. Guy stated that there are few senior programs to assist seniors, especially homeless seniors because most do not have young children and barred them from accessing assistance based on the requirements set forth.

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Page 2 November 1, 2016

Social Security Administration

Shirley Saxton stated that November 1st is the opening of the enrollment for affordable act and January 31st is the deadline but if an individual wants to be insured in 2017 they should enroll before December 15th, 2016. If an individual is unhappy with their Affordable Act insurance this is the time to do it. To enroll visit this website www.health.gov . Cost of Living [COLA] will increase with 0.3 percent in 2017.

George Bruce Library Branch:

The following are offered in November:

- One on One Basic Computer Classes offered by New York Cares, November, 5th, 12th, and 19th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- NYPL TechConnect, computer help sessions, November 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Adult Tech Time Sessions (additional computer time no instructor) November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Microsoft Word for Beginners, November 22nd from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Celebrate Moving in Strong and Creative Ways, November 4th, and 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- De-Stress and Self- Express With Adult Coloring, November 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Meditation for a More Peaceful and Healthy Life, November 12th at 2:00 p.m.

Suggestions:

- Community Boards Senior Issues Committee should come together and address the senior housing issue; housing crisis was on top of the priorities at the Department For the Aging Annual Public Hearing.
- It was agreed to invite Community Board Chairs or Co-Chairs of Senior Issues Committee, Housing Preservation Development (HPD), and Housing Urban Development (HUD) to the December meeting.
- There is a need of Social Security representative to meet with seniors on a one on one regarding understanding their benefits and other issues that affect them.

Announcements:

- The City of New York will hold a Job Fair November 2nd, 2016 at Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 7th Avenue, Rooftop Ballroom, 18th Floor from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Note: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 6th , 2016 George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th St

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate