



Lilliam Barrios-Paoli
Commissioner

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SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 6, 2012
2 Lafayette Street, 7th Floor
Janet Sainer Conference Room
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Members Present:

Dr. Philip Brickner, Suleika Cabrera-Drinane, Carol Dunn, Gladys Joyner, Evelyn Laureano, Hattie Lucas, Mary Mayer, Marcia Stein, Eartha Thompson-Washington, Louis Vazquez, Nancy Wackstein (by representative, Carin Tinney), Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Doris Williams **(13)**

Members Absent:

Michael Adams, Suzannah Chandler, Doralina Colon, Rose Dobrof, David Gillcris, Claire Hall, Katherine Martinez, Cao K. O, Benjamin Pan, Raymond Raimundi, Stacy Shuchter-Gomez, Marjorie Tiven, Leonora Vaccaro, Gloria Lind Vanterpool **(14)**

DFTA Staff Present:

Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Verna Arthur, Bill Chong, Colicia Hercules, Caryn Resnick, Gabriel Oberfield, Jeanette Reed, Marah Rhoades, Jennine Ventura, Linda Whitaker **(10)**

PROCEEDINGS

Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Dr. Brickner made a motion for approval of the last minutes to be accepted as read. The motion was passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Budget

DFTA was saved from budget cuts for 2013.

Contract Registration

99.9% of DFTA contracts have been registered.

Hurricane Sandy

- Commissioner Barrios-Paoli commended DFTA's staff for their stellar performance in the various boroughs during and after Hurricane Sandy. The Commissioner also gave special recognition to Assistant Commissioner Linda Whitaker for her sleepless nights when she was assigned to OEM's headquarters as a troubleshooter to ensure victims' needs had been met.
- The Commissioner also commended DFTA's Providers for their extraordinary assistance to victims of Hurricane Sandy. She noted that DFTA's providers did not differentiate; they reached out to everyone in need.
- The Commissioner commended Rabbi Wiener for the extraordinary job he has done during these trying times. Rabbi Wiener's office was totally demolished.
- The senior centers that were damaged during Hurricane Sandy and are still not habitable are New Dorp (which was severely hit), Surf Solomon, Red Hook, Howard Beach, CCNS Seaside, and JCC of Greater Coney Island. Damage at these centers resulted from being underwater for two weeks. In addition, administration offices were totally destroyed, as well as equipment and furniture.

Some Stories of Heroism:

- **Charles A. Walburg Multi Service Organization** used volunteers as foot soldiers to help deliver meals when their vehicles ran out of gas.
- **Peter Cardella** had police escort them to a gas station for gas and other programs followed their lead.
- **Staten Island Meals-on-Wheels** program was able to double deliver meals before Hurricane Sandy and the Wednesday after Hurricane Sandy.
- **JCC of Staten Island** called over 2,000 people to ensure they were okay.
- **NY Citymeals-on-Wheels** performed beyond the call of duty. Eileen Mullarkey, a DFTA staff member, set up her office at Citymeals to assist seniors. Citymeals also instituted a telephone system to reach out to people.

- **Jose Ortiz of Red Hook R.A.I.C.E.S.** must be commended. Because of the damage done to Red Hook R.A.I.C.E.S. Senior Center, Jose was forced to serve meals from a table in front of the damaged facility. He later found alternative space at the Red Hook Pal Micco Center to open a make-shift senior center from 8 a.m. to midnight for the first three days after the hurricane.
- **Far Rockaway and Coney Island** – Many people who refused to leave their homes received blankets and food. DFTA was also able to coordinate generators for these tenants. Also, volunteers took to the stairs with buckets of water to bring to tenants who were without water.
- **Hamilton Madison** staff coordinated the delivery of 2,000 Citymeals-on-Wheels meals to frail homebound seniors. They also joined with **Knickerbocker Village Housing Management** staff in canvassing units door-to-door and making hundreds of phone calls to residents to identify their needs.
- **DFTA received a donation** of 100,000 body warmers and shared them with NYCHA and delivered them to seniors.
- **Wayside** delivered meals to its members and non-members in the community.
- **Private funders** reached out to DFTA asking how they could assist and responded with assistance immediately.

Plans for Emergency Preparation Moving Forward

- **DFTA** has had discussions regarding the possibility to work with landlords in relation to emergency preparedness.
- **Bill Chong** suggested we look at decentralizing responsibilities to prepare for future disasters by working with local neighborhood groups, since they are likely to be in the most advantageous position to help in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

- **Rabbi Wiener** gave special thanks to DFTA's staff. He said that when the history of the hurricane is written, DFTA must be recognized and acknowledged as one of the beacons in the recovery effort.
- **Marcia Stein** said that City agencies had not received enough credit for the work they did during Hurricane Sandy.
- **Carol Dunn** suggested a video be made on DFTA's involvement with Hurricane Sandy for future reference.
- **Doris Williams** thanked Caryn Resnick and Susan Fein for assisting her when she needed help from DFTA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Caryn Resnick introduced Jennine Ventura as the new addition to her staff. Jennine is the Director of Government Affairs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.