

## **Committee for Concerns of the Aging**

**Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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**Committee Members:** Mary Anderson, Chair; Fern Hertzberg, Assistant Chair; Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Committee Member.

**Members Absent:** Eleazar Bueno and Domingo Estevez.

**Members of the Public:** Norma De Candido, Public Member; Guests: Dr. Lisa Hark, Noel Conley, Ryan Dubois; Community: Yobo Obierto, Lakeeh Bitew, Audrey Balkaransingh, Joseph Rosenbaum, Dorothy DePasquale, Ann McCosh, Nilda Sarroca, Tova Gilbert, Jiahul Lyu, Linda Salomon, Gloria Vanterpool, Benita Martinez, Angela Rivas, Briseyda Cos, Elena Andriuoli, Silvia Acuna, Pearlina Jennings, Julio Batista, Consuelo Ramirez, Leah Ferster.

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The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Anderson at 10:45AM.

Today's meeting was held at the YM-YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood, in the Adults Living Well Senior Center dining hall. Literature was distributed to the audience on the Community Board, its purpose and an explanation was provided of both the Community Board as well as the moving of the Committee for the Concerns of the Aging meetings to the various senior centers. The seniors and the committee members agreed that we like having the meetings at the senior centers, recognizing that the issues differ at each part of the community.

Ryan Dubois of the Commission on Human Rights made the first presentation. The Commission on Human Rights is the Mayor's agency charged with combating discrimination (in all protected categories). NYC has the strongest anti-discrimination laws in NYS and in the USA. The departments within the Commission are Community Relations Bureau; Law enforcement; Mediation and Conflict Resolution; Chairperson and Policy Department.

General areas of concern are discrimination due to age or disability; Discriminatory Harassment; Lack of Public Accommodation; Bias based Police Discrimination. The phone number for the office is 718-722-3131 or call 311 for complaints.

Dr. Lisa Hark made the second presentation. Lisa Hark, PhD, RD is currently Administrative Director of the Jonas Children's Vision Care Program and Co-Director of the Clinical Trials Unit in the Department of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Hark is also Professor of Ophthalmic Sciences (in Ophthalmology) at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She was formally director of the Department of Research and Director of the Glaucoma Research Center at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia from 2009 to 2017. She is applying to NIH to conduct additional research and vision screenings in senior buildings throughout northern Manhattan. If the participant is found to have vision problems, their issues will be treated, including eye glasses, at no cost to the participant. The purpose of the study is to increase eye examination participation by older adults.

The Committee was in support of this application, **4-0-0**.

**Next meeting September 6 at 10:30am. Scheduled for the Community Board office at 166<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Adjourned meeting (Norma DeCandido/Gloria Vanterpool) at 12noon.

Submitted by Fern Hertzberg.