

## Committee of the Aging

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

Isabella Geriatric Center

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Attendance:

**Committee – Present:** Fern Hertzberg, Yosef Kalinsky. **Absent:** Mary Anderson

**Board:** Richard Allman, Elizabeth Lehmann. **Public:** Paul Hinterstein, Margaret Meagler, Erica Cox, Patrick Johnson, Joan Nichol, Imogene Hooker, Joseph Rosenbaum

- Fern Hertzberg announced that the speakers had both cancelled late last night. The attendees of the meeting requested that we arrange for a new date for their presentation.
- Meeting then began with discussion related to ADA compliance issues within our public transportation, especially in terms of elevator service.
  - We will invite Lyle to the next meeting to discuss these matters with him
- Discussion related to OMB preliminary budget rankings
  - While our items were ranked high up on the list, the response was that we should continue to advocate for increased funding, however presently there is not additional funding available to increase program budgets on these initiatives. We will pass that request on to our Community Board Chairperson.
- Richard Allman suggested a motion, based on the [news that morning](#) that US District Judge Edgardo Ramos issued a ruling that the MTA violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to put in an elevator when it renovated a Bronx subway station in 2014, a ruling that is identified as setting the stage for other possible challenges from disabled rights groups. U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said, in response, that “The MTA is now on notice that whenever it renovates a subway station through its system so as to affect the station’s usability, the MTA is obligated to install an elevator, regardless of the cost, unless it is technically infeasible.”
  - The resolution passed with votes of:
    - Committee 2-0
    - Board 2-0
    - Public 6-0
  - Since there is no quorum, this resolution will need to be voted again in its final form next month. The draft resolution will also be shared with the Traffic and Transportation committee, and may become a joint resolution.
- Betty Lehman mentioned how the major billion \$ budget cuts coming from the state will greatly impact health and education services
- Old business – there still seems to be an issue with garbage piled up at 179<sup>th</sup> Street and St. Nicholas. This needs to be addressed.
- Richard Allman informed us of a new homeless shelter in the community located at 286 Audubon Avenue (corner of 179<sup>th</sup> Street) with 175 beds. Concern was raised in light of the fact that across the street will be a senior center, a vulnerable population. Fern Hertzberg will continue to follow up on this and the related concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.