

Minutes from Committee for Concerns of the Aging

Thursday May 2nd 2019 @ ARCXVI Senior Center

Committee: Fern Hertzberg, Yosef Kalinsky, Mary Anderson

Public: Fred Riley (NYC DCA), Esperanza Hernández, Celsa Cepin, Benita Martínez, Brígida Poza, Constanca Ferraras, Carmen García, Rosario Cepin, Altagracia Alfonso, Bilka Muñoz, Elsa Almonte, Diva Yapor, Emilia Picado, Joseph Rosenbaum, Carmen Barbosa, Imogene Hooker, Paul Hintersteiner, Patrick Johnson, Joan Nicols, Juana Díaz, María Ortega, Dory García

- Presentation – Fred Riley (NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, 212-436-0813, friley@dca.nyc.gov)
 - If you are sold “bad” goods at a store, declined an exchange of a broken item, or receive the wrong change – you can contact his office (42 Broadway) and they will investigate. You can call 311 to file a complaint about a specific business.
 - All stores must clearly display a refund policy and must provide a receipt for items if consumer requests one.
 - Some common scams targeted at seniors include:
 - Go the post office to send mail. People go “fishing” in public mail boxes looking for your personal information
 - People say that you owe a large amount of money on credit and need to pay a small amount now and ask for your information to pay that amount.
 - There is a resource in our community to help you with budgeting, collections, managing your money located at: (1) 175th and Wadsworth Avenue – NIMIC (2) 166th between Audubon and Saint Nicholas – neighborhood trust. You can call 311 to make an appointment or through their websites.
- Old Business – discussion of two passed resolutions
 - Resolution calling upon MTA to add ADA accessibility in all planned subway station renovation projects. This is highly supported by those in attendance.
 - Resolution in opposition of planned DHS men’s homeless shelter at 286 Audubon Avenue
 - The city did not include the community board in the planning stage.
 - There is specific concern for seniors since ARC is moving across the street and they are a vulnerable population
 - CB12 had a public hearing, there was a loud protest from the community and elected officials.
 - Yosef – reported from the public safety committee that NYPD suggested working with the block associations so that the local residents and senior center can be familiar with the NYPD staff patrolling the area. They also said that in their experience, these individuals don’t want to start up with seniors, because it brings greater attention to their criminal activity if they are caught.
 - Fern – Why isn’t a better solution providing more affordable housing for these people instead of a shelter? We need to attack rent regulations to gain control over increases. We need to fight for having appropriate people in the shelters for the area they are in.
- Next meeting is scheduled for June 6th at the CB12 office.