



Stephanie Pinder, Executive Director of Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, 250 West 65th Street, who died unexpectedly following Christmas of 2009, was remembered at the January 5 full board meeting. This remembrance and Council Member Gale Brewer's farewell make up our January West Side Neighbor of the Month tribute.

Barbara Van Buren and other CB7 members spoke of Stephanie as a beloved and committed community activist, who was dynamic, intelligent, forceful, professional, and humble. She was always innovating and displaying her great sense of humor as she led the multi-service settlement house. Barbara worked closely with Stephanie in the NORC program and in CB7's Health & Human Service Committee, which she co-chairs.

Stephanie organized the most effective and largest NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) in the US, and spoke widely about how to organize and sustain this new type of program. A special feature of the NORC is its Advisory Council, composed of elected officials and representatives, BID members, directors of major hospitals, corporations and non-profits, and area residents. She served the residents of Amsterdam Houses and Addition and the surrounding neighborhood with great results and dignity.

She also worked closely with the Community Board's Health & Human Services Committee to help identify the District's needs and budget priorities. She always brought vibrant, cutting edge programs to discussion on budget priorities. Stephanie recently advocated for community based-planning and sought to re-activate the West Side Council of Social Service Agencies. She just applied for membership on CB7.

Stephanie believed in possibilities: that the seniors in her care could have adequate and nutritious food, that they could feel and be safe, that they could have appropriate mental and physical health care, that they could be happy and enjoy life together. And she knew how to make possibilities into real, sustainable programs. We are grateful she was here to do all that she did. She will be greatly missed.

BREWER BIDS FAREWELL TO STEPHANIE PINDER, A CITY LEADER IN HUMAN SERVICES

I met her some twenty years ago, when she was the Director of Grosvenor Neighborhood House, 176 West 105 Street at Amsterdam Avenue. In both cases, she was the leader of a settlement house, which is a multi-service organization that serves the youth, seniors, and families of a neighborhood. These settlement houses are part of the settlement house umbrella organization, the United Neighborhood Houses, and with her extensive background, she was an integral part of the citywide effort to provide quality support services in all five boroughs. Executive Directors who were new to the settlement house world relied on Ms. Pinder's knowledge, and she was incredibly helpful to each person who called on her for professional insight.

When Ms. Pinder took over Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, the agency had not had quality leadership in many years. Very quickly, she changed the direction of the programs, bringing in excellent staff, raising money, and forming alliances with community stakeholders. LSNC is located in the heart of NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses and Amsterdam Addition, and the

Center works closely with all of the residents. Residents from all parts of the immediate neighborhood attend the senior program, the after-school, day care and summer youth programs, computer classes for all ages and hundreds of other programs. Birthdays, retirements and other celebrations were also part of the activities at the Center.

Thanks to Stephanie Pinder's leadership, she brought in a NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Program) that works with the New York City Housing Authority and many community and private sector organizations - including corporations, the NYPD, Lincoln Center, and hospitals - to support seniors choosing to age in their homes. Ms. Pinder led regular meetings for the NORC that were a model for other NORCs statewide. She received many awards and grants, leading to better mental health and other health care options for residents. The older adults participated in all discussions about their homes and their community, and as a result there was a much improved comfort level between residents and the police, leading to a safer neighborhood.

Ms. Pinder, as she was fondly called, worked seven days a week at the Center. She was the CEO but she also moved chairs in the multi-purpose rooms, greeted people at the front desk, answered the phones if necessary, and had a ready smile for all participants. Everyone in the neighborhood knew and loved her. She appeared at Family Day celebrations, Community Board meetings, citywide panels and discussions, and testified often at government hearings regarding the need for more human services funding. She was always organized, concise, clear and focused in her presentation.

I will miss Stephanie Pinder more than I can ever express here. We looked to her for the advice and knowledge that comes with years of experience in leading programs that truly help families and individuals. She did not mince words or ideas if an agenda needed to be stated. I loved her for that.