

Health and Environmental Committee

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 on Sept. 10th, 2013

Previous Meeting Minutes: Not adopted as we did not reach a quorum

Agenda: Not adopted as we did not reach a quorum

Items

Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation by GWINY. Represented by M. XXX and Mr. YYY, the company looks to address the air quality within homes on New York City, especially those occupied with asthmatics. One of their goals is to conduct a study with Community Board 9, demonstrating the benefit of using their air purification systems. We related to the company that we cannot undertake a study with them on this topic in this manner, for a number of reasons.

- 1) Such a study will involve humans, which requires an Independent Review Board (IRB) confirmation that all participants of the study are fully aware of all components of the study.
- 2) They were unable to demonstrate any other similar studies that they have conducted and thus their track record for conducting such studies it left undetermined.
- 3) They are a for-profit company which has the potential of raising conflict of interests
- 4) They did not have a proposal to demonstrate the study purpose or intended outcomes.

Old Business

An update was provided to the issues surrounding the closure of the Pediatric and Detox departments within St. Luke's and the impending buyout of St. Luke's by Mt. Sinai.

On Thursday July, 25th, the Health and Environment Committee supported the Patient Care Breakfast Forum, which was hosted by the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) and held at a café across the street from St. Luke's. The purpose of the event was to galvanize support around ensuring that St. Luke's can maintain delivery of services to the Harlem Community. Starting at 8AM we had the opportunity to discuss the issues confronting the community as well as discuss how we may be able to prevent the healthcare services disruption to our community. We also enjoyed breakfast compliments of the NYSNA.

Organizations and/or persons that participated included: CB9 Chairwoman Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas; City Councilwoman Gayle Brewer; National Action Network's Theresa Freeman; as well as, doctors and nurses at the hospital, there were also representatives from the offices of Harlem politicians.

The event can be deemed a success for the number of people that attended as well as the press coverage that we were able to bring to the issue.

New Business

1. Health and Environment committee is working with NYSNA to develop a health forum that will provide an update to the Harlem community around the St. Luke's Hospital issue, addressing how service reduction will affect Harlem; how other organizations like, Harlem Hospital and might be picking up the slack; as well as other service providers that are expected to pick up the slack. The forum will also serve to provide greater information about other health services that are available in Harlem. Part of the focus will also be on what other measures can be taken to maintain services at St. Luke's.
2. Health and Environment Committee will be developing a compendium of health service providers within community Board 9 catchment area. The compendium will be available to the community board and Harlem residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM