The City of New York

CB9M
16-18 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396

COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

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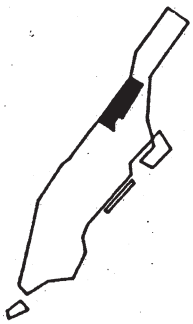

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9 MANHATTAN
SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, 10027.

Committee Members in Attendance: Ernestine Welch; Chair; Tiffany Alston; Donitra Clemons.

Public Members in Attendance: Bessie Davis; Sophie Johnson; Helen Marshall; Virginia Lee; Dothe Rudolph; Inez Woodhouse; Vannisha Taylor;

Committee Member Excused: Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas; Cora Gilmore

Public Members Excused: G. Marilyn Alexander; Laenoria Conyers

Public Members Absent: Ruth Lewis, Ruther Miller; Viola Rhodes; Wanda Capan; Margaret Collins

Other Attendees: Giovannah Philippeaux, TimeBanksNYC; Linda Guy, Senator Perkins' Office; Sarah Martin; Verna Arthur, Dept. For The Aging (DFTA); William Landers; Sylmeta Donaldson, Hamilton Grange Senior Center; Gisele Guerre; Zonia Baker, Hamilton Grange Senior Center; Kenneth Boyd; Mary Boyd; and Alfreda Summers.

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

The Agenda was adopted as stated and minutes were adopted with any necessary corrections, which may be submitted to CB#9 district office at a later date.

Reports:
Giovannah Philippeaux, Volunteer, stated that TimeBanksNYC is a network of neighbors helping neighbors; started in November 2009 and has about 90 members enrolled. It is free resources for connecting individuals who recognize that each person has skills to share and the entire community is strengthened with a range of services. Members earn time credit for providing services. The network is citywide and is only based on trust - no background checks; to become a member, call (866) 244-6469 or go to timebanksnyc.org. See attached brochure.

Honorable Bill Perkins, New York State 30th Senatorial, stated that New York State legislators were able to agree on the 3.6 deficit reduction plan out of the budget in December due to shortfall in revenue. The legislators are still facing a challenge to come up with 3.2 billion to close the budget deficit. Senator Perkins stated that he sponsored a **Public Authorities Reform bill** that will force public authorities like the MTA, Empire State Corporation to be more transparent. (See attached article) copies of the bill are available in his 125th office.

He urged everyone to participate in the Census 2010 and indicated that **only** 44 % participated in the 2000 Census in our district, meaning that according to the federal funding almost 60 % is not accounted for in our community; the federal funding depends on the Census statistics to assign funds to our community. He is aware of local Post Office complaints and his office will work with the committee to resolve problems when possible.

Complaints:

- There is a safety concern from parents due to no security at the Grant Houses Day Care Center.
- There is a huge problem regarding home attendants; seniors are seeking help to correct the current safety problem.

Action Taken:
Complainants referred to:

- DM, Eutha Prince (present) who urged official filing of complaints with CB#9 Board Office – Reminded the group that neighborhood complaints to be filed at Board Office.
- Senior Helping Seniors – Vannisha Taylor (present)
- Tenants and Landlord Reconciliation Community group (Florence Rice) call (212) 491-7229.
- Senior Issues Committee – to follow-up.

Old Business:

The Committee Chair summarized the Senior Issues Committee Goals for 2008-2009 and accomplishments. The Committee agreed on continuation of last year's items and others as needed.

Update on proposed Senior Reading Garden next to George Bruce Library:

- Sarah Martin, Grant Houses, NYCHA reported that the letter requested by Manager of Grant Houses was delivered and awaiting response from the appropriate administration office. The Horticultural Society of New York representative to submit the revised proposal by 12/15/08. An updated report is expected at the January 2010 meeting.

Priorities for Committee Agenda:

- Senior Housing complaints and Senior Post Office Complaints

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Assistant