



**CB9M**

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**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANURAY 10, 2012**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Ernestine Welch, Chair, Present

Cora Gilmore, Present

Anthony Fletcher, Present

**OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT**

Quitin Fletcher

Aretha Fletcher

William Landers

Gina Cuevas

Zonia Bucknor

Florence Rice

Katherine Chen, City College

Joyce Garrett

Corey Ortega, Assemblyman Wright's Office

Shirley Saxton, Social Security Administration

Sarah Martin, Grant's Houses Tenants Association

Anne Burley

William Landers

Ginia Addo

**PUBLIC MEMBERS:**

G. Marilyn Alexander, Excused

Wanda Capan, Present

Laenoria Conyers, Present

Bessie Davis, Excused

Ruther Miller, Present

Virginia Lee, Excused

Inez Woodhouse, Present

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the George Bruce Library,  
518 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:40 A.M

The agenda was adopted as stated; the December minutes will be available at a later date.

Update:

**Senior Reading Garden:**

- Sarah Martin, President of Grant Houses Tenant Association reported that John B. Rhea, Chair, New York Housing Authority was contacted regarding the Senior Reading Garden at General Grant Housing ( an email was sent)

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**Page 2, Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

**Reports:**

**Goddard Riverside Community Resources, Single Stop**

- The Single Stop program is located at 140 West 140<sup>th</sup> Street (between Lenox and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues)
- Hours of operation are from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The program offers free, one on one services for individuals and families such as:
  - **Benefit Screening** – Public Assistance; Food Stamps and Healthcare
  - **Financial Counseling** – Money Management; Credit Debt; Bank Account and Referrals to free Neighborhood Tax Filing Center
  - **Legal Consultation (twice a week)** Housing; Benefits, Including SSI/SSD; Family and Custody Issues
- Free Income Tax Preparation every Wednesday starting February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call for an appoint at (212) 234-3481 (see attached)

**Housing Court Answers – Gina Cuevas:**

- Housing Court Answers, formerly known as the City-Wide Task Force on Housing Court.
- Assist people in New York City navigate the complex world of Housing and NYC's tangle of housing laws and regulations.
- There three basic conditions for receiving outside assistance with back rent.
  - Housing emergency
  - Good reason for falling behind
  - Household income is sufficient to pay rent in the future (see attached)

**Announcement:**

**Phase Piggy Back**

- Phase Piggy Back closed down for lack of funding. The organization serviced the West Harlem community for over 40 years.

**Con Edison**

- Con Edison confirmed to attend the February 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Issues Committee meeting to address issues and concerns presented at the December meeting

**Adjournment: 1:00 P.M.**

**The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2012, George Bruce Library**

**Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate**

**COMING SOON TO:**

**GODDARD RIVERSIDE**

**SINGLE STOP RESOURCE CENTER**

**140 WEST 140<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**NYC 10030**

**FREE!!!**

**FREE!!!**

**FREE!!!**

**INCOME TAX PREPARATIONS**

**FEBRUARY 1 TO APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY: 10:00AM UNTIL 2:00PM!!!!**

**Call for an appointment @ (212) 234-3481**

Documents needed to file taxes:

- Tax filler's Social Security Numbers and State ID
  - W-2's and other income tax forms (1099's, Schedule K-1, etc.)
  - Permanent Residence Card (Green Card)
  - Copy of your most recently filed tax return
  - Bank account and routing number ( only if you want refund direct deposited)
- **Please bring these additional documents only if applicable**
- Dependent's birth certificates and social security
  - Mailing address ( State ID, Driver's license)
  - IRA Contribution (Form 5498)
  - For students or parents of student ( Form 1098T)
  - Medical expenses
  - Charitable donations
  - For the child care credit: Provider's address and tax I.D. and amount paid to provider for each child (Receipts).

Will File: 2011 and three prior Years ONLY!!!

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Documentos necesarios para completar los impuestos:

- Números de Seguro Social de relleno Y su foto de identificación in Nueva York
- W-2 y otras formas de impuesto sobre la renta (1099, K-1, etc)
- Tarjeta de Residencia Permanente
- Copia de su declaración de impuestos más recientes
- Cuenta bancaria y número de ruta (sólo si desea su reembolso depositado a su cuenta de cheques directamente)

**Favor de traer estos documentos adicionales sólo si es aplicable**

- El certificados de nacimiento y la tarjeta de seguro social de cada dependiente
- IRA Contribución (forma 5498)
- Estudiantes o padres de estudiantes (forma 1098T )
- Los gastos médicos
- Las donaciones de caridad
- Para recibir el crédito de cuidado de niños: Proveedor de tratados y número de identificación fiscal y el monto pagado al proveedor por cada niño (recibos).

# How to Get Help with Back Rent

## Three Basic conditions for receiving outside assistance:

- You must have a “housing emergency” which means your landlord is taking you to housing court and you will be evicted if you don’t pay the back rent owed.
- You have a good reason for falling behind in the rent: You or a family member lost a job, or received a reduction in hours/pay, or had a medical emergency, or there was a death in the family.
- Your household income is sufficient to pay the rent in the future.

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**For a rent arrears referral to a charity, call the Housing Court Answers hotline at 212-962-4795 (Monday-Thursday, 9am to 5pm)**

**Charities and community based organizations** receive Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP, formerly FEMA) money from the federal government each year. In general, this money is given as a grant and does not have to be paid back, but it is limited to one month’s rent. Call the number above for a referral., or ask at your local community center or elected officials’ offices.

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**For a One Shot Deal, go to the HRA office in Housing Court with your eviction papers, or go the Rental Assistance Unit at your local work center (call 311 for the location)**

**NYC’s Human Resource Administration** gives out emergency rent assistance known as One Shot Deals. The HRA rent arrears assistance is not limited to one month, and, for most tenants, it is a loan which must be paid back. Tenants receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and seniors can get grants that don’t have to be paid back. Assistance to tenants on public assistance is limited. One Shots are also available for tenants with utility cut-off notices.

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## Other resources for people behind on rent:

- Rent arrears assistance and ongoing assistance is available to people living with AIDS or HIV. Call HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) at 212-971-0626 or visit the HRA office in Housing Court. (In Manhattan, 111 Centre Street, Room 521)
- Tenants with rent arrears sometimes qualify for ongoing public assistance. Go to the HRA office in Housing Court or your local work center (call 311). Families on public assistance may get help from a program called FEPS. You can get information about various programs from your local community based organization, elected officials office, union, 311, or Housing Court Answers at 212-962-4795.
- Seniors might qualify for rent freezes (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) which will allow you to catch up on the rent. Call 311 for the application or visit a senior center.
- Disabled tenants might qualify for the Disability Rent Increase Exemption which will freeze the rent and allow you to catch up on arrears. Call 311 for an application or call the Center for the Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY) at 646-442-1520.
- Local houses of worship and neighborhood community groups sometimes assist with back rent.