

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9 MANHATTAN
SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, 10027.

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

Public Members in Attendance: Bessie Davis; Margaret Collins; Ruther Miller; Sophie Johnson; Virginia Lee; Dothe Rudolph; Wanda Capan; Inez Woodhouse; Vannisha Taylor

Committee Member Excused: Georgiette Morgan-Thomas

Public Members Excused: G. Marilyn Alexander; Laenoria Conyers

Public Members Absent: Helen Marshall; Ruth Lewis

Other Attendees: Carmen Navarro, Ralph Lauren Cancer Center; Lucille Bordie; Sylmeta Donaldson, Hamilton Grange Senior Center; Bola Aribidesi, JPAC; Florence Rice, Tenants and Landlord Reconciliation; Gisele Guerre; Sarah Martin, Grant Houses Tenants Association; Shirley Saxton, Social Security Administration.

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

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:

Carmen Navarro, Ralph Lauren Cancer Center, stated that Ralph Lauren a well known designer born in the Bronx to a Jewish Family. His mom and friend died of cancer; donated 6 million to open the Harlem Cancer Center. The center provides the following:

- Tests and treatment for various cancers e.g Pap Smear; Colonoscopy; Endoscopy
- Accepts various insurances; payment plan arrangements and charges a minimum amount to patients who need financial assistance.
- Promotes awareness and prevention of cancer

The center received donations from Lebron James, Bill Clinton and Lance Armstrong and annually promotes cancer awareness in conjunction with National Basketball Association (NBA). For further information or to schedule an appointment you can call (866) 778-6827 or (212) 987-1777.

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Bola Aribidesi, JPAC, stated that her agency provides a ten week training course that sharpens the skills of longtime advocates and mobilizes new generation of senior leaders to effectively fight for seniors' rights in the following areas:

- Techniques for Social Action
- Writing Skills and Techniques
- Knowing Senior Entitlements
- Understanding the Legislative and Budget Process
- How to Run an Effective Meeting

Ms. Aribidesi also stated that Governor Paterson has proposed a ten (10%) deficit reduction plan for the SFY 2009-10 in the following local assistance programs. (see attached) She urged that seniors should call State Senator and Assemblymember to reject the governor's proposed cuts.

Florence Rice, Tenants and Landlord Reconciliation stated that there are 8 new bills for Tenants Rights that were passed by the Senate; bill S2493 increases civil penalties for violation of order and harassment of tenants to obtain vacancy of unit. She stated that three seniors were evicted from their homes and urged seniors to be proactive and stop to wait until something happens.

Martin Smith, District Leader stated that preventative medicine and communication are very vital in our community. The community should advocate our needs and concerns to our elected officials. Communicate to each other about health issues, share information, be active and target the right person(s) for the issues at hand.

Old Business:

Ernestine Welch stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee is still working on the Senior Reading Garden next to the George Bruce Library. The vegetable garden progress is moving slowly due to the insurance required by NYCHA.

Announcements:

- Carolyn Kent's memorial service was held November 6, 2009
- Lawana Robinson passed away and her funeral service was on October 26, 2009
- G. Marilyn Alexander is out sick and unable to attend the meeting.

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

Prepared by: Hlezphi Zita, Community Assistant