



# CB9M

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**COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN  
DRAFT  
SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, October 6, 2009**

Scott Stringer  
President, Borough of Manhattan

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Jane Arrendell  
Assistant Secretary

Eutha Prince  
District Manager

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Ernestine Welch; Chair; Cora Gilmore; Donitra Clemons

**Public Members in Attendance:** G. Marilyn Alexander; Laenoria Conyers; Bessie Davis; Ruther Miller; Virginia Lee; Helen Marshall; Dothe Rudolph; Ruth Lewis; Inez Woodhouse; Vannisha Taylor

**Committee Member (s) Excused:** Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Tiffany Alston

**Public Members Excused:** Sophie Johnson; Margaret Collins; Helen Marshall

**Other Attendees:** Wanda L. Capan; Effie Scott; Yvonne L. Hazel; Verna Arthur, DFTA; Sarah Martin; Gisele Guerre; Kenneth Boyd; Mary Boyd; Elizabeth Ortiz, St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospitals; India Blow, St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospitals.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, 10027.

**Ernestine Welch**, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M thanked and welcomes everyone for coming and assisting with setting up chairs and tables for the meeting.

The Agenda was adopted with an addition of Eutha Prince, District Manager, CB9M; minutes were adopted with any necessary corrections, which may be submitted to CB#9 district office at a later date.

**Commentary:**

**Ms. G. Marilyn Alexander**, stated that a young African American female graduated from High School with Honors and was granted a full scholarship by Harvard University due to her mother's encouragement who said "**Believe in yourself and don't give up**"

**Reports:**

**Eutha Prince, District Manager, CB9M** stated that she attended the Manhattan group budget consultations for various city agencies and one of them was the Department For The Aging (DFTA). The following are highlights from the budget consultations:

**Current funding for Senior Centers:**

- ✦ New York City Housing Authority senior centers will not be closed.
- ✦ DFTA is funding 283 full time and 22 part-time senior programs throughout the five boroughs.
- ✦ United Black Association (UBA) Senior Center is interested to relocate due to space limitation but has not identified a site.
- ✦ There are no current changes in these centers Grant Houses; Jackie Robinson; and Manhattanville.

**Verna Arthur, Department For The Aging reported the following;**

- ✦ DFTA's comprehensive assessment of its pressing services system is an ongoing effort to improve and strengthened services seniors receive.
- ✦ The agency has "modernized" three of its co-services; Case Management; Home Delivery Meals; and Senior Centers.

**Case Management Re-Designed Services Model:**

- ✦ It is a more unified, integrated and coordinated services, which will link senior to a wired range of community based services.
- ✦ Designated as the gate keeper for all of DFTA's in home services.
- ✦ Provides a more holistic assessment of clients needs in order to link them with a broader range of services.
- ✦ Established distinct services areas with clearer boundaries.
- ✦ Creates a stronger link between Case Management and Home Delivery Meals System.
- ✦ Consist of 23 service areas throughout the city.

**Mayor Bloomberg's 59 initiatives and will only speak on the following:**

- ✦ The Mayor initiated 50 new Senior Centers which will attract new talent, entrepreneurial energy and bring transparent innovation; competition to the entire senior services system.
- ✦ There will be accountability for producing vibrant programs, high participation rate, healthy meals, for better health outcome for seniors and an opportunity to socialize.

**Assigned Counsel Pilot Program:**

- ✦ DFTA will extend its partnership with New York City Housing Court to offer legal assistance and crisis intervention to seniors living in the Bronx and Staten Island who are at risk of eviction. The pilot program began in Brooklyn and Manhattan and has been extended to Queens Housing Court.
- ✦ Free legal representation will be provided including social services to address the cause of the financial distress that may have contributed to pending eviction.

**Taxi Vouchers for Seniors:**

- ✦ Is to ensure that seniors are able to maintain mobility.
- ✦ Taxi Limousine Commission; The Mayor's Office; and DFTA will work jointly with the MTA and Access-A-Ride to offer taxi and livery cab vouchers **only** to seniors who use Access-A-Ride.

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**Free Bus Transportation to Supermarkets:**

- ✦ The city will provide transportation for seniors from Senior Centers and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) to supermarkets throughout the five boroughs.
- ✦ The pilot program started in Brooklyn.

**Establishing a Residency (Artist) in Senior Centers:**

DFTA and the Department of Cultural Affairs are launching a pilot initiative in senior centers to offer space for virtually artist in return for services to teach art classes.

**Announcements:**

- ✦ Sophie Johnson is excused due to illness but sent a response letter from Access-A-Ride (see attached)
- ✦ Assemblyman, Keith Wright is hosting “2010 Census in our hands” October 8<sup>th</sup> at Adam Clayton State Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.

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

**Ms. Elizabeth Ortiz, St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospitals and staff members** conducted health screening for Hypertension and Diabetes.

We “**Thank**” St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospitals and their remarkable staff for providing free services and lunch to our seniors.

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