

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013**

***Committee Members:***

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Tiffany Alston, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Present**;  
Carole Singleton, **Excused**;

***Public Members:***

G. Marilyn Alexander, **Excused**; Wanda Capan, **Excused**; Laenoria Conyers, **Excused**;  
Bessie Davis, **Present**; Cora Gilmore, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Excused**;  
Inez Woodhouse, **Present**; Nazarene Robinson, **Excused**

***Other Attendees Present:***

Patricia Orr; Lucinda Blackwell; Ameenah Muhammad; Annie Payne; Dothe Rudolph;  
Lucille Brodie; Quentin Fletcher; Margaret Collins; Joyce Garrett; Florence Rice; Diane  
Davis; Gina Addo; Zonia Brucknor

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 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 11:30 a.m.

The agenda was adopted and the minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections.

**Comment:**

***The George Bruce Library***

Tiffany Alston, Branch Manager for the George Bruce Library addressed the situation of opening the library to seniors late. She stated that the library has shortage of staff and she had an interview with an applicant for a library job.

Ms. Welch, Chair of the committee apologized to all attendees about the delay in the opening of the library. After discussion, it was agreed that seniors should come no earlier than 11:00 a.m. because the library staff has to prepare the library before it opens.

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### *Reports/Reportes:*

The George Bruce Library Community Events:

Tiffany Alston, Branch Manager stated that the Senior Computer Class was filled successfully and there are seniors who attend the class periodically. The computer class meets every third Wednesday of every month. The library offers "free" financial workshops. Under the financial workshops there are different areas such as family planning and estate. On Thursday, January 3rd the library just had the Financial planning estate" family love letter" seminar and the seminar is 45 minutes long. The library offers three to four free financial programs every month; it also provides other free community events such as Reading Aloud; Film for Tots; Wii Fit for Adult; Tae Kwon Do; Teem Techies, etc. every month. A schedule of events for January was distributed.

### *Amsterdam Adult Day Health Program:*

Ellen Rice, Executive Director stated that she worked at the Amsterdam Adult Day Health Program and employed by the Amsterdam Nursing Home and Hospice. The Amsterdam Nursing Home is located at 112th street and Amsterdam Avenue. It consists of 409 beds; 36 short term rehab beds, and has a dementia unit. In the last two years the nursing home offers hospices care. It is a five star nursing home and worked diligently to provide quality care to everybody.

The Nursing Home has full time rehab staff; 3 full time and 2 part-time doctors in the building; 4 to 5 nurse practitioners. The emphasis is the health care provided in the facility. The nursing home admits eligible patients from the hospital or directly from home. Ms. Rice stated that home care is changing and advised seniors to consider the nursing home especially if they have been hospitalized for more than four days because the nursing home will provide them with a better option on their way to recoupment.

The requirement to be admitted in a nursing home using Medicare benefits it is a three day post hospitalization stay. Amsterdam Day Care program is open 7 days a week from 8:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a nurse, a social worker and a dietitian on staff. Clients are pick-up and drop off from their homes; the breakfast, lunch and snack are provided. The program assists clients with their doctor's appointments, prescription and other needs. She stated that the State will no longer be responsible for Medicaid and all Medicaid recipients will be under managed care program starting this January. If anyone has questions, concerns and need assistance with any Medicaid issue(s) should contact her at (212) 316-7700.

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### *Old Business:*

#### *Redistricting of New York City Council Lines:*

Dr. Gholson reported that redistricting is the process of drawing the electoral district boundaries and it is often in response to the population changes determined by the results of the decennial census. But in residents of Harlem are not happy with how the commission has drawn the electoral lines which will cause black representation in West and East Harlem.

Dr. Vicky Gholson stated she attended a public hearing regarding redistricting at Hunter College on Monday, January 7th and there were three important things which the residents spoke on:

1. The Commissioner has been manipulated by the Mayor.
2. Long term accomplishments of representatives of color will be eroded if the redistricting pass and urged the community elected officials to vote against the passing of the present proposed redistricting in our area.
3. There is a need to more community involvement in the process and more people need to know about the process.

Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> there is another public hearing which will be held at Hostos Community College in the Bronx. All are welcome to attend and participate.

### *Suggestions:*

1. Invite Board of Elections to explain the changes made on voting sites, non-working machines, and shortage of voting ballots which have caused problems in our community during the presidential election.
2. Invite Time Warner to explain excess fees and inadequate services.
3. The Board of Elections should be contacted regarding payments to seniors who were poll workers during the 2012 presidential elections.

Ms. Welch said she is pleading with Grant Houses, Manhattanville Houses and Morningside developments to come together and begin to take action regarding delivery of services in the community. She asked seniors to urge others to come to the meetings and call politicians about the poor delivery of services in the district.

### *Action taken:*

1. It was agreed that the senior meeting should start at 11:15 a.m. and library will open at 11:00 a.m.; all attendees are requested not to arrive before 11:00 a.m.
2. Anthony Fletcher, Esq., committee member agreed to Chair a sub-committee to prepare (a plan) an outline for a presentation on Senior Wills and Trusts for committee members. It is requested that such a presentation be prepared for presentation before June 2013.

**Adjournment:** 2:00 p.m.

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