



# Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

## SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013

### *Committee Members:*

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Present**;  
Carole Singleton, **Present**;

### *Public Members:*

Wanda Capan, **Present**; Laenoria Conyers, **Present**; Bessie Davis, **Present**; Lillian Doctor;  
**Present**; Cora Gilmore, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Excused**; Nazarene Robinson, **Present**;  
Inez Woodhouse, **Excused**

### *Other Attendees Present:*

Tiffany Alston, George Bruce Library Site Manager, Lucille Boddie, Chenele McLean,  
Ryan/Adair Community Health Center, Iretha Fletcher, Quentin Fletcher, Iris Miller-Smith,  
Verna Arthur, DFTA, Jim Little, Upper Manhattan Mental Health, Patricia Orl, Zonia Bucknor,  
Ameenah Muhammad, Florence Rice, Anne Burley, Marion Butler Mills, Ellen Rice, Amsterdam  
Adult Day Program

The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 4, 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 as stated.

Chair Ernestine Welch stated that due to new and changes on Medicare services, suggested that seniors should have a special meeting in July. Twelve seniors voted yes.

### **Announcements/ Anuncios:**

- Department For The Aging is offering jobs to seniors for the summer.
- Jim Little reported that the Mental Health Center located at West 145<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam has a new senior mental health program that provides mental health services to seniors in our community.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Ms. Iris Miller-Smith organized a three day Lancaster Show Trip and the Dutch Country. The cost of the trip is \$299.00 and for information and reservations contact Iris Miller-Smith at (646) 240-9294. See attached flyer for further information.
- 153<sup>rd</sup> Street Annual Block celebration will be Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, between Amsterdam & Convent Avenue at 2:00 p.m.

## **SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE**

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### **Reports/Reportes:**

**Anthony Fletcher, Senior Issues Committee Member and Community Board No. 9 Assistant Treasurer:**

A will is a portable document which provides the manner in which a person's property will be distributed after death. It must meet certain formal requirements as provided by the laws of each state. Anyone can make a will and one has to be in good health, free from emotional stress.

### **How a will is made?**

- It must not be verbal, but written.
- It must be signed.
- It must be witnessed in a special manner provided by the law, in New York State it has to be witnessed by two people.

### **Can a Will Be Changed? Yes**

- A will can be amended as often as one desire.
- Changes are made by either executing a new Will which revokes or replaces a prior Will.
- It can be done by executing a legal addition or amendment called a "Codicil"
- When a Codicil to a Will is made, certain legal and statutory requirements must be met for the document to be effective.
  - i. In New York State, the testator (a person who is making the Will) must be at least 18 years old.
  - ii. The Will and/or Codicil must be signed by the testator.
  - iii. The testator's signature must be at the end of the Will/Codicil.
  - iv. The testator must "publish" the Will/Codicil by declaring the document to be their last Will & Testament.
  - v. There must be at least two (2) witnesses attesting to testator's signature of the Will/Codicil.
  - vi. The execution ceremony must be completed within 30 days, which begins to toll when the first witness signs the document. This ceremony consists of getting all the signatures completed and having the testator attest and acknowledge that he/she is implementing their Will/Codicil.
  - vii. The testator must sign or acknowledge signature of Will/Codicil in the presence of each witness.

A properly drawn and executed Will is good until it is changed or revoked. A married person cannot completely exclude the spouse.

### **What Happens When Someone Dies Without a Will?**

When someone dies without a will, they have died intestate. It means that the New York State [if you live in NY] decides who will administer your estate, raise your minor children, and keep your assets. The New York statutory rules will be applied on how the estate should be divided up amongst the surviving relatives. The state will consider the spouse or civil partner as priority over any other relatives. If there is no spouse or civil partner the children will be considered as priority over any other relatives. Under New York State law half blood relatives are treated as if they were whole blood relatives. The state will make sure to search for relatives first, and if the deceased do not have any relatives, according to the laws regarding intestacy, their estate will go to the state in which they reside. In New York State the spouse will receive \$50,000 in property value, plus one-half of the estate; the children will receive the balance.

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### **Life Insurance/Individual Retirement Account and Bank Account:**

Life Insurances, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and Banks accounts are not subject to the Will unless noted by the testator in the Will.

### **Suggestions/ Sugerencias:**

- It is wise to consult a legal professional to create a proper Will to minimize confusion.
- Always have a copy of the Will in a safe place.

### **Old Business/ Asuntos Pendientes**

No report was given regarding the senior reading garden; the report will be given in September.

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

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