

Minutes for Community Board 9 Manhattan's Senior Issues Meeting Held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 6th, 2014

-1.) Call to order – Ms. Ernestine Welch, Chair, Presiding

-2.) Comments about last week's minutes –

Ms. Martin's name was not on the attendance list for the previous meeting.
Public Members must sign up for Senior Issues committee
Issue assigned to Secretary

-3.) Announcements

a.) Ms. Inez Woodhouse reports that Ms. Alexander is living with her son and daughter in law in San Diego California. Ms. Woodhouse has her address and phone numbers for those who are interested

b.) Ms. Conyers thanks everyone for their prayers and support during her time of illness.

c.) Zita was not able to attend

d.) Thanks to Ms. Eutha Prince for her support and welcome back

e.) Ms. Eutha Prince, Community Board 9 District Manager, thanks everyone for their assistance and reminds everyone that the board office 16-18 Old Broadway is open Monday thru Friday from 10am-6pm.

f.) Mr. Anthony Fletcher, Esq. and CB9 Treasurer presents a gift to welcome Ms. Prince back and in gratitude for her service to Community Board 9 as a steward for community activities.

g.) Senior Housing Forum in June – Co-Chair of the Housing, Landuse/ Zoning Committee, Ms. Tyler invites everyone to attend. The forum will be HPD, DOF, NYCHA, elected officials, Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, DFTA, The forum will be held on Saturday, June 14th at 3333 Broadway. From 10am-2pm. Ms. Welch asks for any suggestions for invitees, contacts, places to hang posters. The Senior Housing Forum is funded from a grant from community Board from CM Jackson and Dickens. Thanks to Mr. Fletcher for help in writing the grant proposal. There will be an attorney present to help attendees with. There will be contractors available for assistance with repairs for homeowners. Monday at CB7 Office Councilmember Richie Torres will be present to testify at the CB7 Housing Committee Meeting. NYCHA Forum to ensure that development of NYCHA land. Ms. Tyler stated she would personally help an individual who was unable to travel. Ms. Tyler states that specifics about HDFCs will not be addressed at the Senior Housing Forum. There will be a meeting for HDFCs at another time

-4.) Speaker: Ms. Alicia Barksdale 3333 Tenant Association Leader, Housing Coalition Against Downsizing (HCAD) Chair, NAACP Housing Coalition Co-Chair states that HCAD is filing an article 78 against HPD – Judge Alexander Hunter in Bronx Supreme Court Assemblyman Wright, Senator Hoylman, Senator Bill Perkins, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer are expected to attend. June 3rd at 9:30am. HPD is targeting low-income tenants for downsizing. HPD policy is placing single households into studios without consideration of live-in home health aides or medical. Landlords were given discretion in carrying out/implementing downsizing.

Congressman Rangel and Assemblyman Wright will provide buses to Washington in October. However, in the meantime, investors are buying 3333 Broadway's debts/mortgage. Multiple elevators in 3333 Broadway are not working. Shonberg is going on a rent strike. Ms. Barksdale believes that HPD should treat all tenants equally,

irrespective of their income. Ms. Barksdale may be reached by phone at 917-892-9197 or via email at cecejaz@gmail.com

-5.) Ms. Florence Rice reads "War on Seniors" a letter she sent out to elected officials citywide. Florence Rice is the founder of the Harlem consumer education council. Crisis in housing, Seniors forced out of homes into nursing homes. Seniors are victims of elder abuse. Seniors need dialogue with powers at be. Ms. Rice was locked out of her apartment in a "constructive eviction." Ms. Rice fought in the courts to get back into her apartment

-6.) Mr. Anthony Fletcher, Esq. CB9 Board Member, Senior Issues Committee Member and CB9 Treasurer, states that as soon as a tenant receives a notice from a landlord or a management company that she or he shall see a lawyer to read it, provide advice or a referral. Assemblyman Wright has a tenant clinic/ legal workshop which is free for seniors.

-7.) Ms. Barksdale states that in Housing Court, all tenants should be represented by attorneys. CB9 has a legal clinic the second week of each month from 1pm-5pm,. Additionally, Harlem Legal Services, Legal Aid, and Urban Justice Center also provide legal services.

-8) Q and A:

a.) Call 311 to report issues with landlords and managing companies so that they are documented.

b.) For issues with utility bills, call the AG's Office

c.) For water and Sewer Bills, note that New York City Municipal Water Authority influences the Water Board which influence the City Council to raise rates. NYCMWA issued bonds to investors and 42% of water revenue goes to NYCMWA debt service

d.) Please note that DEP will conduct an assessment of properties and identify leaks

e.) For nursing home complaints, call the AG's Office and the Better Business Bureau

f.) For help with utility bills consider applying for HEAP - the Home Energy Assistance Program.

g.) Some NYCHA buildings pay utilities

h.) Assemblyman Rodriguez supported sub-metering for utilities

i.) The New York City Multicultural Festival will take place on May 31st on St. Nicholas from 141st and 145th Streets. The New York African Choral Ensemble, the Community Board 9 Arts and Culture Committee, the Harlem School of the Arts and St. James Church are sponsoring the New York City Multicultural Festival. Dorothy Maynor will be honored. Community Board 9 and Council Members Dickens and Jackson provided grants to fund the New York City Multicultural Festival. Seniors are welcome to volunteer at the New York City Multicultural Festival.

j.) Old Business will be taken up at next month's meeting.

k.) The Jackie Robinson Center - Ms. Martin reports that there are activities at the Center and that Morningside Gardens Senior Center would like to create a partnership. PS 136 and PS 125 and other schools use the center for afterschool programs. DFTA should explain/ provide clarification about the shared space and resources

l.) In honor of Women's Month and Mother's Day, Mr. Anthony Fletcher, Esq. presents flowers to mothers and women of Community Board 9 on behalf of his fellow Senior Issues Committee Members.

-9.) Meeting adjourned