



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Eileen Miller
RE: Health Committee Meeting Report
DATE: October 28, 2014

The Health Committee met on Monday October 27, 2014. Members in attendance were: Eileen Miller, Committee Chair, Susan Cerezo, Steven Newman, Christine Haider, Board Chair, Ocelia Claro, 2nd Vice Chair and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager. Philip Konigsberg, a member of Community Board 7 also attended.

Eileen Miller, a member of the NYC Medical Reserve Corp, presented information about the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the precautions being taken in this country. Christine Haider attended a similar briefing at Borough Hall with the Dept. of Health. She presented information provided by the department and information from the Dept. of Education about precautions being taken in the schools. This information is to be sent to all board members.

Eileen Miller discussed her concern that the flowering plant “foxglove” from where the heart drug digitalis comes, is poisonous and being sold and grown in gardens. She had contacted the Dept. of Health and there was no concern because large amount must be ingested for it to be dangerous.

The committee discussed the Smoke-Free Housing Resolution presented at the last board meeting by Phil Konigsberg. He advised us that a large co-op complex in Hollis is now smoke-free and a large Manhattan condo. Currently, the law only prohibits smoking in common rooms. The purpose of this resolution is to encourage multi-family buildings to stop smoking in individual apartments. Smoke infiltrates apartments through ductwork, vents, doors etc. The members discussed the safety and health hazards of smoking in buildings. Mr. Konigsberg said that CB3 in Staten Island also passed a resolution. He said the CB 7 resolution was watered down due to opposition but passed by one vote.

Steven Newman discussed the NYC Coalition for a Smoke-Free City, a project of his employer, Public Health Solutions. The coalition is funded by the State. He stated that other large developers are encouraging smoke-free housing. There is legislation, pending in the City Council, requiring multi-family buildings to disclose the smoking policy in the building, the Smoking Policy Disclosure Law. In Queens, Council Members Elizabeth Crowley, Danny Drumm and Peter Koo have supported this legislation. The committee discussed getting more Council Members to support the legislation. It is hoped that, if passed, this law would encourage smoking bans in apartments and allow tenants to make informed choices. Steve provided several guides to smoke-free housing.

The Committee discussed the Smoke-Free Housing Resolution as presented and amended it to include wording based on the Smoking Policy Disclosure Law legislation. The committee unanimously agreed to present the Resolution to the board with changes.