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Patrick A. O'Brien
Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

January 11, 2016

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Moitri Chowdhury Savard
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres

Absentees:

Sandra Bigitschke
William Garrett
Rev. Joseph Jerome
Mohammed Choudhury Jewel

Moitri Chowdhury Savard, Chair, of the Health and Human Services Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The committee discussed the following issues:

Access-A-Ride

- Carol Terrano stated that she will get in touch with Patrick O'Brien, Chairman of Community Board 2 and ask who the contact people are for Access-A-Ride to resolve the many issues concerning this agency. Dr. Savard reported that there are many different layers concerning this issue and how to get a handle on each level of the problem.
- The committee discussed all issues that occur in all five-boroughs.
- The money used for Access-A-Ride is through the MTA budget.
- The committee discussed that an assessment is needed from the community to see what all the concerns are.
- A discussion was held to get in touch with the Elected Officials and let them know of these concerns and the problems within the system.
- The committee discussed that the Borden Avenue Shelter will be approached for feedback on this topic as they are frequently using Assess-A-Ride.

Discussion of Rat/Rodent Problem

- A committee member spoke about the rat problem in the community. She stated that the complaints concerning rats has dropped. This is basically due to the cold weather and less construction going on. Additionally, different baits were placed in the area which has helped. She discussed that signs are usually posted in connection with the baits when a demolition is taken place, and are displayed in plain sight. There is no harm to children or pets as they would physically have to go into the opening to get at the bait. An excessive amount would have to be eaten to cause harm.
- A discussion was held as to whose responsibility it is to take care of the increase of rats during construction in the Spring. Some rats are water rats along the waterfront and some are from construction.
- The committee stated they will report the complaints to Community Board 2 if there is an increase in rats.

Discussion of NYU opening new medical office in LIC

Dr. Savard sent several emails to the government affairs person at NYU as well as to the communications person asking to set up a meeting date to discuss their plans for the new medical facility. The new medical office will be located on 44th Drive in the Court Square area. The building will be renovated. NYU was not ready to meet early in the year and have asked for an April meeting date. There was a discussion that presently there are no independent lab or x-ray facilities in the Long Island City area, so the Health committee would like to meet with them to discuss their plans. There was also mention of an urgent care facility opening up in the Long Island City area. Dr. Savard stated that there are doctors with small operations who need access to lab facilities. She will ask NYU if they are open to allowing small operation doctors to send their patients for lab/x-rays to their facility. The committee discussed other questions for the new NYU medical office:

- What are their plans for addressing health concerns for the community?
- What specialists will be offered?
- Mental Health?
- What insurances will they take?
- X-rays / labs?

It was suggested to ask the entire Board what their concerns are regarding a new medical office coming to this area. And the questions they would have.

Sunnyside and Woodside has facilities for lab work and x-rays but presently there is none in Long Island City. Dr. Savard will reach out to the NYU medical office to schedule a meeting in April.

Veterans Services

A member discussed there are three veteran clubs in our area. It was stated one just recently moved to Jimmy Van Bramer's office building on Queens Blvd and 48th Street. It was mentioned a new VFW on 43rd Street off of 50th Avenue. Each Veterans club has a duty officer who does a lot of social services for the veterans. They communicate between each other and have meetings every month. When they have health needs there are buses that will transport the veterans every month from their clubs to the Bronx VA. In order to be a member you need a DD214 document. Regarding homeless shelters, it was discussed that you have the option of going to the Borden Avenue Shelter or the Doe Fund Shelter. Clothing/books are welcomed at the Borden Avenue Shelter for the Veterans. They are not sure about furniture. The Committee will look into the donation of furniture.

Dr. Savard stated that a committee member, had spoken to the 108 Police Precinct and reported there are four homeless encampment areas located at the following locations: 43rd Street near the BQE, the Maspeth area, Barnett Avenue and 65th Place, near the approach of the BQE. The Police Department are aware of these encampments. There are also smaller encampments, one is at the footbridge of Borden Avenue near the Pulaski Bridge.

Those living in these encampments are encouraged to go to a shelter and come into the system, especially on extremely cold nights.

Dr. Savard reported on the following:

- Planned Parenthood did open and will be invited to one of the Health meetings.
- A speaker will be invited from the Borden Avenue Veterans Shelter to attend a Health meeting.

The Health and Human Services Committee decided to start the meeting earlier from 4pm to 5pm on Monday, February 29th, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber