



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
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PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Seniors & Aging Services Committee Minutes

June 10th, 2026

Brenda Goodwin, Committee Chairperson

Introductions and Meeting Agenda

- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin thanks everyone for attending and introduces the meeting.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne introduces herself as the first vice chair of CB One.
- Member Argelia Ortiz introduces himself as a board member and committee member.
- Josue Melendez introduces himself as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs from New York City Department for the Aging.
- Patricia Simpson introduces herself as a board member and RA president for Patterson Houses.
- Beulah Merle introduces herself as a retired police officer.
- Brenda Goodwin introduces herself as the chair of the committee, and community board member.

Discussion on Meeting Agenda

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests amending the agenda to include a three-minute presentation from Kimberly Uell Pharm D on Medicare updates.
- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin discusses the importance of knowing who is coming to the meeting and suggests not allowing pop-ups.
- Member Herman Francis Jr. disagrees, emphasizing the need to address all issues during meetings.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne agrees with the need for order but suggests an exception for the last meeting before the summer.
- The motion to allow the presentation is seconded and carried.

Old Business: Updates from Department of Aging

- Josue Melendez thanks everyone for having him and mentions his delayed arrival.
- Discussion on lighting issues at Melrose between 156 and Portland, with no resolution reported.
- Issues with pipes in the dining area at Patterson OAC and co-location of youth programs in the senior center are discussed.

- Josue Melendez mentions the need for better communication and cooperation between programs and agencies.

Discussion on Program Issues and Co-location

- Member Patricia Simpson highlights the lack of variety in programming at Woodstock, with only bingo and dominos being offered.
- Josue Melendez suggests having a meeting with the commission to address these issues.
- Member Patricia Simpson mentions the loss of board games and arts and crafts supplies due to co-location.
- Herman Francis Jr. suggests using public school buildings for senior programs, which are often shut down.

NYPD Presentation on Crime Prevention and Scams

- Officer Escobar introduces himself as the crime prevention officer and older adult liaison for the 40th precinct.
- Discussion on common scams, including IRS scams and phone scams.
- Taina introduces herself as the crime victim advocate at Safe Horizon, providing resources for victims of crime.
- Member Patricia Simpson shares her experience with a bank scam and the difficulty in getting help from the bank.

Q&A and Additional Comments

- Officer Escobar emphasizes the importance of contacting the police for help with scams and other crimes.
- Member Patricia Simpson discusses her experience with a bank scam and the difficulty in getting her money back.
- Officer Escobar provides information on how to shut off credit cards and block them using mobile applications.
- Officer Escobar shares examples of jewelry scams and the importance of being aware of deception burglaries.

Final Remarks and Health Fair Announcement

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne announces a health fair on August 1 and requests assistance from the Department of Aging.
- Officer Escobar agrees to provide materials and support for the health fair.
- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin thanks everyone for their participation and contributions to the meeting.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder to keep the agenda on track and address issues in a timely manner.

Discussion on Safety and Fraud Prevention

- A resident recounts receiving fraudulent calls from the Unified Court System and advises on how to handle such situations calmly.
- Member Argelia Ortiz discusses a traumatic experience where police broke down their door due to a mistaken address on a suicidal call.
- Officer Escobar shares a recent incident where they responded to a call involving a person threatening to murder their father and themselves, highlighting the importance of not opening the door without verification.

Introduction of New Speakers and Community Support

- Officer Escobar offers to provide information on safety and fraud prevention at community centers and meetings.
- Michelle Benjamin introduces themselves as a support or assistance and mentions their mother's involvement in various boards and organizations.
- Michelle Benjamin expresses a desire to join a committee and mentions the upcoming Mission Day event to celebrate a community member's contributions.
- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin introduces Kimberly, a Health Outreach Specialist from CMS New York Local Engagement Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who discusses the importance of protecting Medicare cards and identifying fraud.

Health Insurance and Fraud Concerns

- Kimberly explains the importance of reporting any suspicious activities related to Medicare and provides a hotline for reporting fraud.
- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin shares their experience with health insurance issues, including medication being stopped mid-stream and the need for appeals.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses the challenges of getting pre-authorization for medical procedures and the advocacy efforts for women with dense breasts to get covered for sonograms.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne mentions Avon's efforts to provide private sponsorship programs for women with dense breasts.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin and Kimberly discuss the challenges of getting Medicare to cover certain procedures and the need for advocacy.
- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne mentions an upcoming forum by Avon to discuss advocacy for women with dense breasts.
- Committee Chair Brenda Goodwin emphasizes the importance of dealing with health insurance issues directly and not relying on doctors to handle appeals.

Action Items

- **Schedule and facilitate a follow-up meeting focused on Patterson Older Adult Center issues with center directors, program officers, NYCHA liaison and report back to the committee with an update at the September meeting**
- **Assemble Department for the Aging informational packet/materials and giveaways for the August 1 health fair table and coordinate delivery/coverage with the committee**
- **Coordinate logistics with Department for the Aging for the August 1 health fair (table presence, materials, and which staff will attend) and confirm details with the committee**
- **Attempt to arrange for the Department for the Aging commissioner to attend a future committee meeting (or facilitate a meeting) so older adult center members can provide direct feedback**
- **Provide a printable flyer and contact information for Safe Horizon crime victim services and distribute/provide copies to the committee for ongoing outreach**
- **Offer and provide the crime-prevention presentation (including scams, personal safety, and resources) to interested senior centers and committee events; supply contact details for scheduling/presentations**
- **Provide Medicare outreach workshops/information, share contact/email for the Local Engagement Center, and coordinate returning to present at the committee in September**