

**COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
YOUTH/HUMAN SERVICES/EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 23, 2011**

**PRESENT:**

Y. ROMAN	B. SOLOTAIRE	G. O'CONNELL
S. TURET		

**EXCUSED:**

J. BERNARD	L. CIRANDO	L. HILL
M. KOLMAN	M. SCHMIDT	

**ABSENT:**

E. FELDER	M. HEYER	L. HOROWITZ
C. MURRAY	M. RUIZ	D.C. VITO

**GUESTS:**

C. LAWRENCE – REP. FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING		
L. CAMPBELL	H. GUZMAN	E. LYLES
C. WELLINGTON	K. BLONDEL	M. ROPER
M. SQUARE	P. MORALES	J. MCGETTRICK
B. JONES	M. VASQUEZ	A. KNOX
R. GRADY	E. GRADY	A. RODRIGUEZ-CANIZARE
J. ORTIZ	L. PEREZ	B. PEREZ
L. WORTHROY	J. DIAZ	G. CASTRO
R. RODRIGUEZ	D. BYAM	B. SMITH
M. LARKIN	M. SCHIFF	G. STARKS
L. TUCKER	A. WILLIAMS	C. DELGADO
K. SEALS	G. MEADOWS	B. VILLANUEVA
M. GRABER	B. HAGGWOOD	A. STARK
F. BYERS	F. STEVENS	G. ALEXANDER
A. DOWNING	M. GREEN	

**\*\*\* MINUTES \*\*\***

**Presentation and discussion with a representative for the Department for the Aging on a citywide plan to close various senior centers, including Red Hook Senior Center at 6 Wolcott Street and Wyckoff Gardens Senior Center at 280 Wyckoff Street in our district.**

Suzanne Turet, chairperson introduced Charise K. Lawrence, a representative from the Department for the Aging – Brooklyn Community Outreach. There were 38 attendees. Suzanne asked the audience to remain civil.

Charise discussed the closing of two senior centers located at 6 Wolcott Street and at 280 Wyckoff Street.

Restoration of Title funds::

- \$25 million
- 105 total closings
- Which centers impact seniors the least in terms of meals?

- April 1<sup>st</sup> we will know
- Emphasis on meals – if closes there are no funds for transportation.

Q. Suzanne asked how did the DFTA come to the decision of closing these centers?

A. Will not close district with one senior center.

Q. The audience asked – Isn't there only one center in Red Hook? Want a map showing the centers and their distances from one another.

A. Charise said that senior center closing list is “30% across the board”. Looking at centers with fiscal issues.

Suzanne - Ask our questions first.

Charise – 256 total centers  
write city government.

Q. What are alternatives?

A. Basically wasn't done and investigated.

Suzanne said in letter to superiors include that Red Hook is not the same as other neighborhoods – isolation.

Suzanne turned to the Directors of the centers. They said that actually 132 centers are closing. They are not attacking Charise. Please advocate that over 150,000 meals will be lost to over 600 seniors. Not just the meals, they maintain socialization and other help for seniors. For seniors that is a death sentence. In Red Hook, infrastructure is not enough. Red Hook is especially hit. Senior services are not mandated, they are optional. Monies can be relocated. Begin advocacy at city level. Advocate at rallies that are set up.

Suzanne – private funding? Plan B alternative?

Directors: No. Budget is too low. They get a contract and they've been overserving meals. Private organizations can't give as much as they need. The private funding is deducted from their overall budget.

Lillian Marshall, President of the Red Hook West Tenants Association:

Audience: When are dates when the rallies are?

Director: Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April rally. Can confirm with the director of senior centers.

Audience: Bring goods, food as a community.

Director: No local sites have any fiscal problems.

Audience: The Red Hook Community Service Center has a petition. Red Hook East.

Suzanne: One thing – CB6 wants to know what the criteria was. A detailed description of why these particular centers.

Beverly Jones: People in wheelchairs and walkers how are they supposed to take 2 buses out of Red Hook? How many are in NYCHA facilities?

Audience: It's not only to eat. It's going to hurt younger people because once they close they will be closed for good.

Audience: Local center comes out and sees about seniors in their homes. Seniors will be changed. Friendship, a place to socialize. Inconsistent buses and transportation.

Charise: Can't answer what she doesn't.

Suzanne: At this point any questions?

Audience: How much money is saved if center is closed?

Audience: NYCHA – Does HUD have any provision for seniors?

Director: No funds from NYCHA that can support senior centers.

B: Acknowledges.

Audience: Can CB6 draft a letter and find out more how they chose closings?

A motion was made:

1. Call on the city to not close senior centers but especially Wyckoff and Red Hook.
2. Draft letter to DFTA – questions were not satisfactorily answered – we need answers to something. Offensive that more information was not provided.
3. Call on Mayor to enforce DFTA (all social service organizations) to inform Community Boards as to why these closings are occurring.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS (No quorum)**