

MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MINUTES

September 25, 2018

Directors in attendance:

- Alexis Blane
- Darren Bloch
- Matthew Klein
- Chirlane McCray
- Lincoln Restler

Officers in attendance:

- Matt Everett
- Maya Jakubowicz
- Toya Williford

Other participants

- Fred Begley
- Leah Prestamo

The Board Chair, First Lady Chirlane McCray, opened the meeting at 10:35 AM by welcoming the newest board members, Alexis Blane, Acting Counsel to the Mayor, and Darren Bloch, Senior Advisor to the Mayor.

The First Lady then noted the first anniversary of Hurricane Maria's impact on Puerto Rico and the work the Mayor's Fund did for those affected. She also highlighted the support of the Mayor's Fund for New York City attorneys who traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to assist separated immigrant families as an example of the power of public-private partnerships.

First Lady McCray congratulated Toya Williford on her appointment as the Executive Director of the Fund, as well as Darren Bloch on his appointment as Senior Advisor to the Mayor. Ms. Williford thanked the Board and expressed her excitement to support the First Lady's vision for the Mayor's Fund.

Ms. Williford asked for a motion to approve the meetings from the June 20th meeting. Mr. Restler moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Bloch seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Darren Bloch, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, to the Board of Directors. First Lady McCray moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Restler seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Alexis Blane, Acting Counsel to the Mayor, to the Board of Directors. Mr. Bloch moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Restler seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Darren Bloch to the Audit/Finance and Governance Committees. First Lady McCray moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Klein seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Lincoln Restler to the Governance Committee. Mr. Bloch moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Blane seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Alexis Blane to the Audit/Finance Committee. Mr. Bloch moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Klein seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Matt Everett to the vacant role of Secretary. First Lady McCray moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Bloch seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to appoint Darren Bloch as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. Ms. Blane moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Restler seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford noted that Fred Begley will be in touch with newly-appointed committee members to arrange an Audit/Finance committee meeting to review the draft audit.

Ms. Williford introduced a resolution to authorize a contract with the New York Legal Assistance Group to provide financial counseling services as part of the EmpoweredNYC initiative. She invited Leah Prestamo to join the meeting for questions.

Mr. Restler asked about the purpose of the financial counseling. Ms. Prestamo answered that this was a second phase of the EmpoweredNYC initiative, with the first being connection to employment services. She explained that the financial counseling is tailored to constituents' circumstances, with a specific emphasis on individuals looking to maintain benefits as they transition to employment.

Mr. Restler asked if the proposed contract is related to an existing contract with New York Legal Assistance Group for the NYCitizenship initiative. Ms. Prestamo answered that this contract is solely related to the EmpoweredNYC initiative.

Mr. Restler asked how financial counseling is provided. Ms. Prestamo answered that it is in-person counseling.

Ms. Williford noted that this program is an exciting new area for the Mayor's Fund to elevate their work on a national level.

Ms. Blane asked if there was a plan to expand the financial counseling model beyond New York City. Ms. Prestamo explained that there is potential to scale the model nationally or even internationally.

Mr. Bloch asked to confirm that New York Legal Assistance Group was designated by the funder, Citi Community Development. Ms. Williford confirmed that pre-planning work was coordinated with Citi Community Development and the Mayor's Fund to designate the vendor, as is typical with contracts of this type. Ms. Williford asked for a motion to approve the contract with the New York Legal Assistance Group. Mr. Bloch moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Lincoln seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford then introduced a resolution to renew the contract with New York Legal Assistance Group for the NYCitizenship initiative, which assists eligible New Yorkers in completing citizenship applications. She noted that this is the third amendment of this contract.

Mr. Restler asked about many people the initiative expects to serve. Ms. Prestamo answered that they expect to process 1,400 applications in year 3 of the program.

Mr. Bloch asked how big the eligible population is. Ms. Prestamo answered that she was unsure, but that the program planned to reach out to at least 10,000 New Yorkers. First Lady McCray asked if the number was known. Ms. Prestamo answered that it was, but that she did not have the information on hand.

Ms. Williford asked for a motion to approve the contract with the New York Legal Assistance Group. First Lady McCray moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Bloch seconded. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Williford then presented the Executive Director's report. She noted the Mayor's Fund mission is to put forward innovative public-private partnerships that are high-impact, invest private dollars strategically, and work in coordination with over 40 City agencies. She noted some recent activities, including a proposed partnership with the Altman Foundation, the New York State Health Foundation, and the van Ameringen Foundation to provide mental health services to immigrant communities. She also noted a recent press conference with MOIA Commissioner Bitta Mostofi and DSS Commissioner Steven Banks to highlight the Mayor's Fund's support of City workers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Ms. Williford noted a meeting with the Obama Foundation regarding an application with their My Brother's Keeper program to launch Mentors Rising in partnership with the Department of Probation and the Young Men's Initiative.

Ms. Williford noted that following feedback from the Mayor's Fund's annual interagency meeting, they will be offering a technical assistance workshop on "Getting Your Ideas on Paper" as a supplement to a previous workshop about procurement that was offered over the summer.

Ms. Williford asked if there was new business. Mr. Bloch congratulated Ms. Williford on her new role and spoke about the value of partnerships. Ms. Williford noted the press clips in the board's meeting book.

Mr. Bloch noted that Deputy Mayor Thompson had expected to join the meeting but was called into a meeting with the Mayor.

Ms. McCray moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bloch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Everett
Board Secretary