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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
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April 14th, 2025

Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter

Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Committee Member Attendees

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey, Vice Chair
Nellie Afshar
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Committee Member Absentees

Warren Davis
John Bahia
Danielle Brecker
Benjamin Lucas
Leticia Vasquez

Health and Human Services Public Members – Present

Robert Wohner
Andrea Thomas

Community Board Member Attendees:

Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee Chair
Pia Rahman

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

Guest

Chantel Cabrera, Senior Director Subways Coordination & Solutions
Christine Coulombe

Lauren Springer welcomed everyone to the joint Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee Meeting with the Transportation Committee.

Lauren Springer introduced Chantel Cabrera, the guest speaker for the committee meeting.

Chantel Cabrera gave a presentation using PowerPoint Slides on subway surfing. She shared the following points:

- Her background as a licensed social worker, experience working in the Community Education Council, working with State Senator Brian Kavanaugh as a Director of Community Affairs, often interacting with community boards and their committees.
- In late June 2023, subway surfing was identified as a growing concern. The MTA, DYCD, NYPD, and the Legal Department of NYPD meet weekly or bi-weekly to discuss a multi-prong approach to address and combat subway surfing.
- Social media, boredom, peer pressure, thrill-seeking, a need for social media attention, and impulsiveness make people susceptible to subway surfing.
- The MTA is working with social media platforms, including YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok, to scrub content that glamorizes subway surfing. More than 12,000 posts have been removed that promote or engage with subway surfing.
- Subway surfing was a dangerous activity that 17-18-year-olds would engage in; now, age trends have fallen where it's frequent for 14-year-old children to subway surf.
- The NYPD's intervention policy differs for minors and those 18 or older who subway surf. For minors, the NYPD intercepts the youth, takes them to the precinct, and calls family members to claim custody of their kids. With the NYPD's Drone program, they can track hotlines where subway surfing is frequent and show 4k footage to parents to confirm their children were surfing. Subway surfers who are 18 years or older can be arrested.
- Last year, there were 200 apprehensions due to subway surfing, and this year there are 40.
- There are other activities, career pathways, potential employment opportunities, and programs such as the NYPD Explorers program that elicit the adrenaline and thrill-seeking that people who pursue subway surfing seek.
- Ways to resist peer pressure to subway surf and how adults can identify if youth are subway surfing.

Chantel Cabrera explained that the NYPD Explorers program is application-based, where youth are taken to communities and take a deeper look at the role police officers play in policing.

Rosamond Gianutsos noted the importance of underscoring the plight people experience from injuries from subway surfing.

Chantel Cabrera noted that a new storytelling campaign will discuss the impact of subway surfing on everyone's lives. The campaign will be digital, and in collaboration with public schools and the NYPD, information related to subway surfing on the system kiosks and audio will also be refreshed.

Chantel Cabrera added that it's helpful to call 911 when people are subway surfing and indicate what direction the train is going, the train line, and the train car because it helps the police department identify trends. Additionally, if police officers were in the next station, they could intercept and apprehend the subway surfers.

There was a discussion on the NYC Retirees Bill – Intro 1096-2024. The following points were made:

- The bill concerns healthcare coverage for New York City Retirees, retirees are being pushed into a Medicare advantage plan that has high denial rates.
- The bill is a successor of Bill – Intro 1099-2023, and the Health Committee and the full board supported Bill – Intro 1099-2023 with no opposition.
- Lauren Springer noted that there are some differences between the 2023 and 2024 versions of the bill.

Rosamond Gianutsos made a motion to support the NYC Retirees Bill – Intro 1096-2024, and Lauren Springer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There was a discussion on AED machines:

- Andrea Thomas said that there are AED machines at Sunnyside Community Services in the Senior Center and the Social Adult Day Program.
- Rosamond Gianutsos said that buses could be a site where AED machines are placed since a lot of older people ride buses.
- Reilly Owens, Chair of the Transportation Committee, will check if there is an AED machine policy for MTA buses.

Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion to adjourn, and Rosamond Gianutsos seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava