



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

Seniors & Aging Services

May 8th, 2024

Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Bank accessibility and security issues.

- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne mentions that Chase representative Samantha Deliberti was pleasant and receptive during their conference call.
- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne highlights that banks must have an ADA accessible window, as it is a legal requirement.
- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne suggests combining ADA and senior hours to accommodate seniors on specific days.
- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne notes that police response time is unacceptable at the bank and suggests making an accommodation for wheelchair and walker users outside the door.

Bank security and accessibility for seniors.

- Bank of America addresses security concerns with additional staff.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of providing products friendly to seniors at the bank.

Banking issues and community reinvestment.

- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne discusses community outreach and fundraising efforts for local organizations.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the Community Reinvestment Act and its role in regulating banks' community involvement.

Community investment and banking practices in a NYC district.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests focusing on corporate division of banking for community investment.
- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne shares personal experience with banking issues in their neighborhood, highlighting lack of transparency and skepticism from bank representatives.

Bank closures and police policies in Philadelphia.

- Members discuss the challenges of living in a neighborhood with limited access to banking services, including the use of check cashing joints and the need for more financial institutions to serve the community.

Security concerns in a NYC neighborhood, including bank safety and elderly abuse.

- Member Argelia Ortiz raises concern about security communication between precincts and security contractors assigned to the bank.
- Member Brenda Goodwin adds to the bank issue, mentioning persistence is key in hearing back from banks.
- Member Brenda Goodwin expresses concern about seniors' safety when using banks, particularly at night, and mentions using ATMs located in a separate area within the bank.

Transportation safety for seniors attending night meetings.

- Residents express safety concerns about night meetings at a senior living community due to darkness and potential for intoxication.
- Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne expresses frustration with lack of transportation accessibility in the area, particularly at night.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests offering taxis for anyone with meetings in the area, and encourages a buddy system for safety.

Safety and commitment for community board meetings.

- Committee members discuss reappointment requirements and community involvement.
- Committee discusses appointment of vice chair, needing more public members to fulfill requirement.

Collaborative projects for seniors.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Committee Chairperson Josephine Fernandez-Byrne plan to reach out to education and youth services to collaborate on projects for seniors during the summer.
- Member Herman Francis Jr. suggests holding a tech workshop in a senior center to improve communication among seniors.

Action Items

Follow up further with banks that have not yet responded to letter

Reach out to president of Melrose Commons to set up next meeting there and discuss vice chair position

Plan one or two pilot activities between seniors and youth groups over the summer (Speaker 2, Education and Youth Services)