



Chairman Mohammed Mujumder - District Manager William Rivera

Social Services Committee Meeting Summary

February 6, 2024

Board Members Present: Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Linda Soto, Daniel Porro, Chandra Moore, Md Alauddin

I. Introduction

A. Committee Description: The social services committee represents the community's interests with regards to social services including senior services, disability, and veterans concerns and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Aging, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Seniors Connected Sub-Committee is under this committee.

II. Speakers

A. Reina Revina, NYC DCWP - Free Tax Prep

NYC Free Tax Prep is an annual campaign that services all 5 boroughs where the city pays tax preparers to help you file your taxes.

If you earned \$85,000 or less for families or \$59,000 for single filers in 2023 you can file for FREE with an IRS-certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer.

There are 4 ways to file: in person, drop-off service, virtual tax prep, or assisted self-prep. The deadline to file a tax return for your 2023 taxes is April 15, 2024.

Documents Required for Filing: Photo ID, Tax ID, Proof of Income, Child Care Expenses, Account and Routing Numbers, and Signatures. Additional documents may be needed on a case by case basis.

Year-Round Service for the Self-Employed small business owners, freelancers, gig workers.

Since the pandemic, there's been a dip in volunteer preparers, however, there's been a push to recruit additional sites.

Visit nyc.gov/taxprep for more information or call 311

Individuals without Social Security Numbers may be eligible to file for an ITIN (Individual Tax Payer Identification Number)

NYC Financial Empowerment Center provides FREE one-on-one professional financial counseling and coaching to support you in reaching your goals. Work with our counselors to: create a budget, establish or improve credit, set up a spending plan, open a safe and affordable bank account, contact lenders about debt, including student loans (learn more about student loans at nyc.gov/StudentLoans), develop a strategy to reduce debt or lower payments, access emergency government resources, separate personal and business finances, and more.

Potential to host Scam Awareness for seniors at an older adult center in CB9 along with CM Farias.

B. Natasha Bryant, Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America works with asylum seekers trying to obtain asylum status, they also conduct outreach for donations for the local family shelter. The family shelter in Parkchester run by Volunteers of America services only asylum seekers.

III. Old Business

A. Access-A-Ride Complaints

Outreach was conducted to local Elected Official Offices and based on replies the committee has decided to draft a cohesive letter to CM Farias to outline these concerns for further action, including the need for Access-Ride causing delays to Dr Appointments.

IV. New Business

A. Rogier Van Vlissingen

Rogier through his partnership organization, Plant Powered Metro New York, is working on an initiative regarding healthy pet food and shared the link to the following article:

<https://hippocratessays.com/cooking-wfpb-for-less/>

Rogier is also bringing attention to new test slowly being rolled out related to cardiology that tests a number of heart related concerns.

Rogier is working with St. Helena's to host a one day free test for a limited number of patients, up to 25. The test is simple and takes 10 minutes and does so by taking pictures to monitor what the heart is doing.

The test costs in the \$500 range which is significantly cheaper than the test in place currently which cost \$500 in just co-pays.

Volunteers are needed if anyone is interested in this initiative.

Flyer will be circulated upon completion.

B. March Agenda Items

National Council of Negro Women will be hosting a Senior Prom at Sonia Sotomayor on February, Friday the 23rd, 100 seniors is the target and assistance with outreach to seniors is requested.

BM Chandra Moore attended Climate Strong Communities Meeting in Soundview and the team would like to host a meeting in March to collect feedback from the community. More information will be shared once finalized.

OFFICE INFO

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