



Chairman Nicholas Himidian & District Manager William Rivera
Social Service & Housing Committee Meeting **Minutes**
September 5, 2017

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, Committee Co-Chair Justin Westbrook-Lowery, Danny Porro, Jaime Tynan, Chairperson Nicholas Himidian Jr.

Board Members Absent:

Board Members Excused:

Introduction

- A. Committee Chair, Board Members & Guest
- B. The social service & housing committee represents the community's interests with regards to social services including senior services, disability, veterans and housing concerns and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Aging, New York City Housing Authority, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Disability Sub-Committee is under this committee.

Speakers

- A. Melodine Williams from Bronx Neighborhood Housing Services was a scheduled speaker but was not present

New Business

A. Purpose of the Social Service Committee

Justin: The Social Service Committee is seen as a representative and supporter for the different city agencies that affect this community when it comes to issues such as housing and social services that are relating to seniors and healthcare. Anything that makes this area thrive is what the Social Service Committee is for. Most events are held with this committee, to make sure to focus on the issues of Social Services. Some events include: Health Fair every year, Senior Symposium which honors seniors who have a great impact on the community. The Senior Symposium is also to inform seniors about any Social Services that can aid them in their daily lives. The Social Service Committee also wants to start a Housing event for the next year. The Committee will do their best to help their community with anything needed.

B. Social Service Committee Attendance

Rosemary: If an actual Board Member is going to be absent it's very important to email the board office (Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo or William Rivera) and email Rosemary and Justin to let them know as well. The committee would also like members to share what they would like to get out of the committee. What

can the members do to help contribute to the committee as well as resources. It's important to think about growth for the new year.

Nicholas: A chair and vice chair committee meeting was held at the end of last month about an overview. A big problem that happens among members is excused absences. Moving forward, you're either absent or your present, there is no in between. If you are not present for the meeting that does not make it an excuse. An alternative for this is to attend another committee meeting. If you can't make it to the Social Services meeting then attend another one for a different committee. This is a way to show that you are still a part of the community despite not being able to attend certain meetings. Notify the chair first so it can be tracked. If you miss half of the committee meetings, you can be dismissed from the board. If you show up late you will be considered absent. Not including weather problems (Rain or snow), 30 minutes late is considered the cut off time. This will be repeated at other meetings to get the word across. If a member of a certain committee does not like the committee they are in, they will need to inform someone about it immediately.

C. Mental Health, Disability & Health Fair

Rosemary: The committee is planning for this event to take place on Saturday December 2nd from 12 to 5 pm. Location is the Promise Land Church (Old Lucille Roberts Gym).

Mariella, representative of Montefiore Hospital: Montefiore is an eleven hospital health system. Montefiore is based in the Bronx, Westchester County, Rockland County, Orange County, and also the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Several departments within Montefiore come out to fairs. Giveaways are also given out during events. If there is ever an event, aside from a health related fair, where the community wants to learn about a specific topic such as LGBT or Women's Health Services, talking to Mariella will be a good way to determine which Montefiore department should/can come out during the fair to give a presentation. An example: Stevenson's based Health Center provides primary care as well as dental, eye care, and also behavioral health. At Castle Hill they have the MMG or Montefiore Medical Group which also has primary care services. The department that Mariella belongs to acts as the liaison between the hospital and the community.

Rosemary suggested eye exams, blood pressure screenings and a psychotherapist present to give out information about mental health, possibly a panel for Mental Health and Disability. The Social Service Committee would also like to invite Thrive NYC.

Nicholas: Does Montefiore provide any services for the homeless?

Mariella: We do the connection. Example: If a homeless person came through the emergency department, they will have to safely discharge if they do not have somewhere to go, Montefiore will find a safe place for them.

Nicholas: How do you guys handle veterans?

Mariella: I do not know if there is a specific division for them. I know that they will be treated like any other patient.

CB9 is looking to gather information for the Veterans SubCommittee, as a result, Nicholas would like more information about this.

Veronica from Stevenson Fresh Food Box: talked about the Stevenson Family Center's Fresh Food Box Initiative every Tuesday. For \$14 you get \$20 worth of fresh food. It will only be running until November if you can pay in advance to secure your food. This is open to everyone. The program is working to start again in Spring and spread the message more.

Suggestions about the Mental Health Fair are to incorporate a sign translator as well as discussing obesity. A guest also pointed out that Thrive NYC is doing training for adults. The Social Service Committee is aware of this although a date for confirmation has not been received.

The third Saturday of September is the 10th Anniversary Parkchester Health Fair in conjunction with Lincoln Hospital.

District Manager Update

William: Distributed a flyer from Senator Klein's office for a Public Hearing on September 7, 2017 at 3pm at 1695 Seward Ave. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the community about what's coming into the district.

Chairman Mr. Himidian requested that in the future proposed shelter project meetings are held in the evening so that all parties can attend and provide feedback.

Justin: A meeting was held in late July about a new shelter. Homelife, a new provider will be opening a facility at 1792 Lafayette Ave which will have 44 units for 44 families. Assemblyman Crespo pointed out a few concerns because Monroe Houses just across the street has a lot of crime and safety issues in the area. If children are brought into the community it may cause turf issues. Crespo says there needs to be more community meetings to discuss this problem and include community concerns. Another issues is security. There will be one guard who will be patrolling the 44 unit building and also surveillance cameras will be on premises. The children coming in will be around the ages 6 to 8 which is preferable because they are still young.

Rogier: on September 23 will be Healthy Saturday. Location: NYPL Parkchester. A combination of events that starts 12 pm, to see the movie 'Forks over Knives'. After the movie there will be sampling of plant based food at Packson restaurant that is down the street from Castle Hill station. Then after that will be an early dinner also at Packson Restaurant.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 PM

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

OFFICE INFO

District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov

Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9

Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM