



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10027

T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

Website: <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb10/>

Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson
Minah Whyte
District Manager

Resolution to Safeguard Essential Services and Dignified Aging for Older Adults in Manhattan Community Board 10

WHEREAS The United States Executive branch under the administration of President Donald J. Trump is implementing a wide array of legislative changes that will impact the senior population of Manhattan CB 10 and seniors throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS 12.2% percent of the 138,953 Central Harlem population is 65+^[1]; and

WHEREAS The U.S. is witnessing an unprecedented wave of Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) retirements, with approximately 10,000 Boomers turning 65 each day. Around 3.2 million and 3.5 million people retired in 2022 and 2023 respectively, with 3.6 million expected by 2024. By 2030, the entire Boomer generation – comprising around 73 million people – will have reached retirement age, significantly reshaping the U.S. workforce. Between 2024 and 2030, 30.4 million baby boomers will turn 65. This demographic shift is expected to decrease the labor force participation rate from 62% in 2023 to roughly 58% by 2030. While fewer job seekers will push the unemployment rate down, potentially below 3%, the resulting labor shortages will present wage pressures and skill mismatch challenges for key industries like healthcare, education, and manufacturing^[2]; and

WHEREAS Cuts to Medicare/Medicaid or shifts in eligibility standards could preclude seniors from qualifying for Medicaid services. The Medicaid/Medicare services are helping seniors to maintain such quality-of-life issues as: (1) living in the community/in their own homes and aging in place, (2) getting preventative healthcare services, (3) seeing their medical provider regularly, (4) receiving life-sustaining medications, and (5) staying out of the hospital; and

WHEREAS The current administration has made major cuts to federal programs, including the Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (including Medicare and Medicaid) and Veterans Administration (VA); and

WHEREAS The current administration, acting with Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has fired over 25,000 federal workers, including at the SSA, HHS and VA; and

WHEREAS Retirees rely on critical services provided by the SSA, HHS and VA; and

WHEREAS Lower staffing levels are already disrupting the administration of these agencies and their ability to serve our communities; and

WHEREAS Labor unions have long struggled against arbitrary cuts and dismissals in our workplaces; and

WHEREAS Many supportive medical devices and supplies that seniors depend upon are produced abroad and will be impacted by the Trump tariff activities through increased costs and decreased access; and

WHEREAS Since January, 2025 and 12 weeks into the year, Donald J. Trump has signed 129 Executive orders (from EO 14147 through EO 14275)^[3]; and

WHEREAS Aging should be experienced with dignity, regardless of financial circumstances—free from the worry, harm, and injustice caused by lack of health care, food insecurity, or a safe place to sleep. Our seniors should all be able to access the resources, services, and programs needed to thrive as they grow older, no

matter their financial circumstances, where they come from, their race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or language^[4]; and

WHEREAS Older adults anchor our families and communities and connect our families through the generations. But after working all their lives, nearly half of our nation's older adults living alone struggle to pay for food, rent, and medical care, and rely on Social Security, SSI, Medicare and Medicaid to survive; and

WHEREAS The Medicare and Medicaid programs are crucial for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families. 67 million people are enrolled in Medicare, with 12.5 million enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. We must continue to ensure everyone can access the comprehensive, high quality, affordable health and long-term care needed to age in dignity. If lawmakers seek to reduce funding for programs, restrict eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid or limit the type or scope of services available, the Community will need to work together to stop them; and

WHEREAS Access to long-term care should be strengthened and extended with respect to Medicare and Medicaid so older adults can age in their homes and communities and ensure that nursing facilities provide high quality care and dignity for residents. Lawmakers who seek to make changes that result in reduced access to home care or endanger nursing facility residents must be opposed; and

WHEREAS Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are the backbone of economic security for older adults, lifting over 16.5 million older adults out of poverty. With nearly five million older Americans living on less than \$1,000 a month, these programs are crucial. Work should be continued to improve these vital programs and make benefits easier to access; and

WHEREAS Vigilance must be maintained in order to oppose proposals that undermine the effectiveness of Social Security for low-income older adults, whether through changing how benefits are calculated, raising the retirement age, or implementing tax cuts that would jeopardize the programs' overall financial stability; and

WHEREAS Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a crucial program for low-income older adults and people with disabilities who are not able to work enough to make ends meet. However, its outdated rules and requirements exclude many of the people it is supposed to help^[5]; and

WHEREAS Regardless of economic status or where we live, we should all be able to live and age in accessible, affordable, and age-friendly housing in our communities. Yet, older adults are the fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness. Nationally, almost one in three older renter households pays more than half of their monthly income in rent, leaving them just one surprise medical bill away from being pushed into the streets; and

WHEREAS Housing support advocacy should be available to address older adult homelessness so older adults can have the housing stability they need and a place to receive home care. Reducing federal housing programs and supports would harm older adults with the greatest economic needs^[6]; and

WHEREAS All of us are aging, and all of us have a stake in how older adults live and thrive in our families and communities. The Biden-Harris Administration passed rules that protect older adults from discrimination and ensure access to services. These crucial rules, such as the Health Care Rights Rule (Sec. 1557), the Nondiscrimination in Health Care on the Basis of Disability Rule (Sec. 504), the Medicaid Access Rule, and Nursing Facility Staffing Rules, are under attack through litigation and may be subject to rollbacks; and

WHEREAS historically, programs that rely upon SNAP benefits, Medicare, and Medicaid will be the first to suffer under federal funding cuts, severely impacting their ability to provide critical services, support, and resources to seniors and other vulnerable populations who depend on them in Central Harlem and beyond; and

WHEREAS Seniors are increasingly targeted by fraud, with benefits often stolen through scams and identity theft. Many rely on the fair hearing process to challenge fraudulent activity and recover stolen benefits, but

proposed staffing and administrative cuts will further delay or prevent access to these essential legal remedies, leaving seniors without crucial support for extended periods.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 strongly urges the protection and strengthening of essential federal programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—that are critical to the health, housing, and economic security of older adults in our community and across the nation, and firmly condemns any efforts to reduce, restrict, or dismantle these life-sustaining programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 calls for increased investment in the agencies and systems that serve older adults, including adequate staffing, infrastructure, and oversight at the Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and housing support services, to ensure timely and equitable access to care, benefits, and resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 calls upon all of our federal elected officials to actively defend and advance the rights, dignity, and well-being of older adults, and to use every tool available to prevent any policy changes that would reduce access to healthcare, housing, or income security for seniors in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 urges specific safeguards and immediate attention to the stability and responsiveness of SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid-supported programs, including systems for fraud resolution and benefit recovery, so that seniors are not left without recourse or support in times of vulnerability.

[1] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/central-harlem>

[2] <https://leowealth.com/insights/what-is-the-impact-of-accelerating-baby-boomer-retirements/#:~:text=By%202030%2C%20the%20entire%20Boomer,baby%20boomers%20will%20turn%2065.>

[3] <https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025>

[4] <https://justiceinaging.org/four-areas-where-older-adults-need-our-advocacy-in-2025/#:~:text=Justice%20in%20Aging%20will%20defend,abuse%2C%20neglect%2C%20and%20discrimination.>

[5] <https://www.npr.org/2024/06/26/nx-s1-5013951/social-security-commissioner-martin-omalley-agrees-ssi-program-is-outdated#:~:text=To%20qualify%20for%20SSI%2C%20you,assets%20that%20they%20might%20have.>

[6] <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cidi/projects/aging-homeless-study.page#:~:text=Findings,during%20the%20same%20time%20period.>