

**Manhattan Community Board 12**  
**Housing and Human Services Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 3, 2022 7:00 pm**

**Present Committee Members:** Daryl Cochrane, Bruce Robertson, Marielle Ali, Edda Santiago, Ayisha Oglivie, Richard Allman, Marshall Vanderpool (Public Member)

**Public:** Dr. Gary Altheim, Phil Zablocki, Maria Perez, Zena Sawaged, and anonymous public member

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. Seconded by Bruce Robertson with revised agenda noting that Senator Cleare's presentation was not confirmed.

**2. Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves.

**3. Presentation from Senator Cordell Cleare (NY Senate District 30) TBC**

Acting Chair, Marielle, noted that the presentation was not confirmed in time for the meeting. Committee will seek to confirm Senator Cleare's participation at a later meeting in the future.

**4. Community Resource Document**

Committee revisited agenda item from January HHS Committee meeting. In January, Committee agreed to revise and update current CB12 Resource Document and making it more accessible to the public and linked to other social media platforms.

Daryl shared examples of similar initiatives amongst Manhattan Community Boards. Some best practices included resource documents that categorized types of resources i.e. housing, food, etc. Other resource documents also included links to community resources outside of housing and human services such as for licensing and variance. Some Community Boards rely on PDFs and others rely on hyperlinks.

Richard raised creating a process to ensure sufficient due diligence for included resources. Richard also encouraged committee to review existing resource lists from elected officials, NYC Comptroller's office, etc.

Committee members discussed logistics of maintaining and updating the document on a regular basis. Members also discussed division of labor between committee members and staff. Bruce raised that there does not seem to be uniformity between the different Community Boards. Bruce suggested if this initiative can be lead by the MBPO as they have more resources than CB12M. Ayisha shared that MBPO has discretionary funds available for different projects such as a MBPO or all city website such as BoardStat that can filter through city resources by Community Boards.

A public member suggested the resources should include categories such as food assistance, mental health programs, crime prevention programs and more.

Daryl shared that the MBPO resolution is a longer-term initiative but also stressed the importance of a more immediate update of the CB12 resource document.

Bruce motioned that HHS Committee considers a resolution that the MBPO coordinate a project that will standardize how each community board collates and recommends resources. The initiative should take the form of a website or an app where community members can filter and find relevant resources in their respective communities. Community Boards can recommend resources to be included on the website. Seconded by Ayisha.

Committee also addressed updating the current CB12M resource document. Shinelle agreed to ask Ebenezer on how the committee can update the existing document. Committee members will begin collating existing resources to update CB12 document.

## **5. Discussion on Homeless Shelters**

Committee began a discussion on Mayor Adams' proposal to increase the number of homeless shelters in the city. Committee inquired whether there will be a community input process. Committee talked about some of the alternatives to shelter and some of the concerns around current shelters such as safety for homeless individuals. Members acknowledged that city agencies often work in silos, and people fall through the cracks.

The conversation broadened to talk about the bureaucratic process of seeking social services and difficult process for people to seek these resources. Agencies need to meet the people and be proactive.

Richard raised if there is an opportunity for the committee to do some advocacy as the current city administration reorganizes itself.

Committee Member, Marshall, shared that there is a large number of homeless individuals sleep in the Dyckman Houses. Dyckman House residents are experiencing issues dealing with the homeless population.

Edda suggested sponsoring and working with elected officials with mobile units or the creation of a taskforce that helps residents apply for social services.

Marielle suggested that the committee work with elected officials to host a spring resource fair possibly near the United Palace Plaza. Next steps include brainstorming what agencies should be present and involved. The focus is on homeless prevention and housing security.

Committee members suggested outreach to DHS and Veteran Affairs and possibly inviting them to a panel event.

#### **6. New Business**

None

#### **7. Old Business**

Phil, community member, asked for an update on whether the new City Council members need to be updated with the resolution. Phil also asked about

Ayisha asked if Committee should reshare the resolution with all city agencies and offices as many of the positions have changed. Ayisha asked if we can share with Department of Law.

Gary, community member, shared that DHS and HRA was not copied on the resolution. Gary asked whether the Committee has direct contact with DHS on the issue.

Gary commended the committee's work on updating the resource document and asked if Growth and Development Services could be included in the future.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Committee action points include working on the MBPO resolution, updates to the CB12 resource document, working to plan the community fair, and Armory Foundation resolution follow up.

Daryl motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Edda Santiago at 9:00 pm.