

CB 12 COMMITTEE ON AGING
September 8, 2022
MINUTES

CHAIR: Mary Anderson,

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: James Bosley, Asst. Chair Yosef Kalinsky, Maria Luna Richard Allman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Hector Bonilla

PUBLIC MEMBERS: Dory Garcia, Carol Weeks,

GUESTS: Verna Arthur, Diane Ashley, Marie Garcon, Shuli Gutmann, Katherine Martinez, Cheryl Miller, Kimberly Moore, Leidy Jorge Pena, Shirley Saxton, Ashton Stewart,

STAFF: Ebenezer Smith

Chair Mary Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.

Social Security Administration, Shirley Saxton

Ms. Saxton presented key SSA information and updates.

As of 4/8/22, in-person services began to be provided again by appointment. Additional services are now also in person. Call 8007721213 for information.

She reminded us of the frequency of scams in the name of SSA and IRS and the need to be alert. SSA does NOT do any transactions by phone, no matter how a caller represents themselves. Scams can be reported online at the SSA website.

Recipients can now voluntarily make an Advance Designation of Representative Payee for legal responsibility and/or future contact information.

There is also a new online system for getting a replacement card @ www.ssa.gov/number. A call back will come from SSA, and the SSA rep, will provide name, title, phone#, and will not make any threats re: immediate response, etc.

The upcoming COLA increase will be announced, likely in October, by the US Department of Labor.

SSA is celebrating its 87th Anniversary this year. Trustees report solvency to be set through 2035.

Budget FY 2023

Chair Anderson presented the Aging Committee Budget Rankings for FY 22.

CAPITAL:	Rankings
312201920C: System-wide upgrade of CB12M area to improve access to connectivity and WiFi	1
(New) Renovate as necessary specifically STAR Senior Center and RAIN-Inwood Senior Center to comply with safety, ADA and DFTA regulations	2
312201906C: Provide funding to construct affordable, accessible senior housing	CS

EXPENSE:	
New – Funding for free Wifi access for seniors in CB12	1
312201918E Increase access and outreach to healthy, culturally appropriate food for seniors with medical needs	CS
312201905E: Increase the expansion in the program “Expanded In Home Services For Elderly Persons” (EISEP) funding to provide affordable home care including sliding scale reimbursement	CS
312201924E: Increase funding for senior transportation programs by restoring prior City Council Funding and expanding access and outreach	CS
Increase OTPS funding for replacement furnishings in senior centers as needed	CS

DM Ebenezer Smith will provide the Committee with responses from the City re: WiFi and other FY 22 Rankings.

It was the sense of the Committee that these rankings should be submitted for FY 23.

Announcements

In-person/virtual meetings have been the subject of multiple Executive Orders and their extensions. For the foreseeable future, meetings will be hybrid, with Board Members required to be in person for quorum. Committee Members strongly expressed concerns about impact of in-person meetings on Seniors; time constraints re: travel to daytime meetings; and the increased participation of Senior Centers, Aging professionals, and community members

Diane Ashley, MJHS, said that Isabella is hoping to host meetings in person again soon, and is doing the max to offer community support for other issues.

Verna Arthur, DFTA, announced that DFTA is providing \$3.8M for vans for home-delivered meals.

Dory Garcia announced the Summer move of ARC’s Fort Washington Senior Center to 516 West 181st Street. Temporary entrance is on 181st; permanent entrance will be on Audubon.

James Bosley asked about how the Committee gets out the information that is presented to the Committee. Discussion focused on: a) word of mouth and Committee Member roles, and b) the need for an overall CB 12 outreach strategy. Chair Anderson will bring this to the attention of the Executive Committee.

The next Committee meeting will be October 6, 10:30 AM.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.