



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES AGING COMMITTEE (Pending Committee Approval)

Date	November 9, 2023	START TIME	4:00 PM	END TIME	4:26 PM
Location	BXC8 Office Conference Room (Hybrid)				
Address	5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100, Bronx, New York 10471-2194				

Present	Mary Ellen Gibbs, Lee Chong, Rita Pochter- Lowe
Absent	Oscar Martinez, Barbara Kail, Ramdat Singh
Extraordinary Circumstances	Georgia Santiago
Guest	Lisa Daub, Sue Ellen Dodell, Miryam Rabner, Julie Reyes (Bx8 Chair)

Chairperson's Report

Mary Ellen began her chair's report with welcoming everyone to the November Aging Committee meeting. The committee will determine guest speakers and issues they would like to address. Many seniors are unaware of the rent freeze program and would like to have education on that program. We are heading into the holiday season, and there are scam calls targeting our seniors.

Approval of Committee Minutes for October 12, 2023

October committee minutes will be voted on at the December committee meeting.

Unfinished Business – Resolution Intro 1099

The resolution supporting Intro. 1099- 2023 was passed unanimously at the October meeting of the Aging committee. The committee finetuned the language to bring to the November meeting of the full board meeting. Resolution is on the second page of this document.

New Business

Ramdat mentioned he would like the committee to take a "field trip" and visit the W Assisted Living Center.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Prepared by Ramdat Singh

Minutes Reviewed by Mary Ellen Gibbs, Vice Chair

AGING COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INTRO. 1099-2023

Bronx Community Board 8 Resolution to support and advocate on behalf of the New York City (NYC) Municipal Retirees and urging the New York City Council to pass Intro. 1099-2023, which will preserve retiree health care choices by mandating the City to offer Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, so many constituents have served the New York City (City) and are now enjoying the retirement benefits they earned, and;

WHEREAS, the issue of healthcare is extremely important and must be protected for the 250,000 NYC retirees who worked for their healthcare rights, and;

WHEREAS, Intro. 1099-2023 is in the Civil Service and Labor Committee in the New York City Council (Council) and awaits a hearing so it can move forward in the Council, and;

WHEREAS, the NYC retirees are being forced into a Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) with no alternative option provided, and;

WHEREAS, this plan threatens retirees' access to the level of health care they have received in the past, in that retirees would be forced into a MAP with limited medical providers and would also be at the MAP's whims for preauthorization decisions that may be based - at least in part - on Artificial Intelligence -instead of the medical decisions from their current regular medical providers, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan would draw millions of dollars away from traditional Medicare into a privatized MAP, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan sets a harmful precedent for the rest of the Nation, and;

WHEREAS, the NYC Retirees have testified in various forums, including at the January 11, 2023, NYC Council Civil Service and the Labor Committee public hearing, that they have been subjected to

unconscionable stress due to this violation of their earned healthcare benefits, and;

WHEREAS, the Bronx Community Board Aging Committee unanimously supported this draft resolution at its October 12, 2023, meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 urges all of its elected officials to publicly support the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees' efforts to enact Intro. 1099-2023. We request that the City maintain the choice of the original Medicare plan and a Medigap plan provided at the time of employees' hiring, and not force retirees into a private, profit-driven healthcare plan, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge Council Members Eric Dinowitz, Carmen De La Rosa, and Pierina Ana Sanchez to uphold the City's obligations to its retirees, including its obligations set forth in New York Administrative Code §12-126. Consistent with these obligations, the City has for several decades (since 1967) paid the out-of-pocket cost of the GHI Senior Care plan, a Medigap plan which the majority of NYC Retirees have chosen; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we urge the New York City Council to exercise leadership by bringing the vote to the floor for membership to vote to enact Intro. 1099-2023.