

Aging Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on October 24, 2019 at the Atria, Riverdale, [3718 Riverdale Avenue](#), Board Room, Second Floor.

Committee Members Present:

Eric Dinowitz, --Committee Chair
Marvin Goodman-Assistant Committee Chair
Karen Pesce-Committee Member
Lisa Daub-Committee Member

1. The meeting began at 4:10 PM. The minutes of the September meeting were not voted on, due to the lack of a quorum.
2. Eric Dinowitz, chair of the Aging Committee, introduced the guest speaker, Ellen Kolodney, whose topic is "Elder Abuse". She is from The Bronx D.A.'s Office. (Rob Johnson and Darcel Clarke created this position. They reached out to all senior centers before affirming this position.)

Ellen Kolodney pointed out that October is Domestic Violence Month. No one is excused. Elder abuse is mostly from family members. It is much harder to prevent than other abuses, since police are not usually called for such elder abuse. For every case reported, there are at least 23 cases not reported.

Ms. Kolodney distributed materials to attendees that show the varieties of elder abuse. She noted that statistics show that the elders hold the greater wealth and are therefore more likely to be targeted. She discussed a number of situations involving possible elder abuse. Undue influence on elders is a civil matter and usually not a crime. There is no consensus on this. Only a civil suite is possible. New York State Department of Social Services defines elder abuse and neglect by another individual when the older adult is physically or mentally impaired and is unable to provide self care. Intentional mistreatment involves a conscious, deliberate attempt to inflict harm or injury, such as through verbal abuse or battering. Unintentional mistreatment is due to ignorance, inexperience or lack of ability or desire to provide proper care. Physical abuse involves the use of physical force, force feeding, unwarranted administration of drugs or use of physical restraints. Sexual abuse is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person, often with devastating results. Emotional or psychological abuse of elders can result in verbal assaults, treating the elderly person like an infant, isolating the elderly from family, friends, or social activities. Neglect is the refusal of a person to fulfill obligations to provide an elderly person with proper home care or with life necessities, such as food, clothing, medicine and personal safety, among others. Financial or material exploitation is the illegal use of an elder person's funds, property, or assets. These include misusing, or stealing, an older person's money or assets. These include misusing or stealing an older person's money or possessions, forging an older person's signature, or coercing the older person to sign a document, such as a contract or a will, and the improper use of power-of-attorney.

Ms. Kolodney also distributed materials about the many scams of elderly. These include imposter scams, where someone claims to be a close relative in sudden need of money. Others include romance frauds, bogus loans in need of repayment, and fake sweepstakes wins or prizes. These, and others are detailed in the materials given to attendees of this meeting.

Ms. Kolodney Offered tips to prevent elders from ATM thieves. These too were given to attendees.

Ms. Kolodney suggested senior obtain annual credit reports from leading consumer credit reporting companies, such as Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union.

Ms. Kolodney also distributed an FBI fraud alert, involving many questions about internet, bank checks, lottery wins, and others. It seems that banks and notaries should try to ask if a signer really understands what is being signed.

Ms. Kolodney noted that it is not known how elder abuse is reported in may different communities. Some cultures, such as Asian, show reverence for elders. Home health aides are important to be checked. Senior center officials should note if there is any changing, pervasive pattern of behavior. If there is an adult child who has substance abuse and is living with a parent, the parents too may feel guilty. This is a double abuse, by the child or by self-infliction. Nothing justifies being harassed or creating emotional abuse. These are not conditions which are arrestable. Adult protective services are nationwide and should be utilized.

Ms.Kolodney answered questions asked by attendees at the meeting.

3. Eric Dinowitz brought up new business. Early voting starts next week. Early voting sites were noted. Only one is in The Bronx. Issues such as voting on charter revisions were noted. He mentioned a website where more information can be secured. He distributed absentee ballot applications.
4. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M. The next meeting is November 14th at 4PM at RSS (Riverdale Senior Center) at [2600 Netherland Avenue](#). Our December meeting is tentatively set for December 12th.

Minutes prepared by Marvin Goodman, Assistant Chair of the Aging Committee

Minutes approved by Eric Dinowitz, Chair of the Aging Committee