

**MINUTES OF HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2007
AT THE COMMUNITY BOARD 8 OFFICE
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Martin Katzenstein
Philip Friedman
Beverly Fettman
Martin Wolpoff
Tony Mahler
Jacob Perlman
Helen Sieger

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair CB #8
Committee Vice Chair CB #8
CB #8
CB #8
Committee member
Kingsbridge Heights Nursing Home
Kingsbridge Heights Nursing Home

Introductions:

Chairperson's Report:

- Chairperson mentions that a follow-up with Atria should be scheduled to confirm facility has complied with commitments to the Community Board.

Agenda Items:

Medical Senior Centers:

Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Center (2 representatives present):

- Center consists of (2) buildings, 400 beds.
- Recently rated 'Best-Of-The-Best' rehabilitation centers.
- Recently approved to provide dialysis treatments.
- Facility has a very successful wound care treatment program.
- Facility may wish to host committee and/or full board meetings.

Discussion on Improving Committee Attendance:

- Meeting attendees discuss ideas for improving committee attendance.
- Chairperson mentioned that he has rotated meeting location to several of the local care facilities but still has not been able to gain consistent attendance among representatives of the care facilities or from community residents.
- Chairperson to continue to write letters to local facilities to encourage attendance at future meetings.

EMS - Where do we go from here?:

- It is mentioned that it appears some construction has begun at the decommissioned fire house/new EMS station site and adjacent vacant

(florist) building. It was questioned but unclear if adjacent vacant building to decommissioned fire house was city owned or just being used as a staging area.

- Question is posed whether to fight the placement of the new EMS station
- Chairperson considers if litigation would be an option to obtain an EMS station within CB8.
- The number of ambulances in the area is discussed. The committee requires clarification from EMS whether additional ambulances will be provided with the new station.
- Chairperson mentions that he has not yet received CB8 statistics from EMS.
- Chairperson considers requesting additional ambulance coverage from Montefiore and Allen Pavilion Hospitals.
- It is mentioned that the elected officials did not appear supportive of efforts to obtain new EMS station within CB8. Since the new station will be built in an adjacent Community Board within Councilman Koppell's district replacing a former firehouse, Councilman Koppell may not wish to assist efforts to move station within CB8. Committee will attempt to contact Councilman Koppell and State Assemblyman Dinowitz regarding the issue.

Smoking Cessation:

- Committee will attempt to identify programs within the CB8 area.
- It is noted that many smoking cessation programs are free to participants.

Old Business:

Defibrillator Training:

- Chairperson to arrange for another defibrillator training session (a training session was given approximately 2 years prior.)
- It is noted that the CB8 defibrillator is very simple to use and self-prompts each required step for use.

New Business:

Letter from Bronx Community Board 4 regarding a proposal for a community facility at 1401-1405 Teller Avenue within CB4:

- The letter requests support to prevent installation of the community facility. Committee decides more information would be required to formulate an opinion.

Accommodations for People with Disabilities:

- A committee member requests that future meetings start to address more 'Social Service' issues; specifically mentioned is investigating accommodations for hard-of-hearing individuals on public transportation

(i.e. buses should perhaps be equipped with LED displays indicating the street/avenue of the next stop similar to new subway cars.)

- Specific issue regarding additional accommodations for people with disabilities on public transportation to be referred to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.
- H&H committee will put more emphasis on 'Social Service' aspect of committee charter.

Miscellaneous:

No miscellaneous items.

Meeting Adjourns 8:00 PM.

Submitted by,

Philip Friedman
Vice Chairman
Health, Hospitals and Social
Services Committee

PF:db