

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX**

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2011  
AT HUDSON POINTE AT RIVERDALE**

**PRESENT**

Karen Pesce  
Marvin Goodman  
Bob Abbott  
Anthony Creaney  
Beverly Fettman  
Irving Ladimer  
Georgia Santiago  
Robert Ackersen  
Harry Bien  
Dereck Frederick  
  
Melissa Prieto  
Manfred Segal  
Alvin Shatkin  
Linda Storfer

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chairperson, CB #8  
Committee Vice Chair  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Riverdale Senior Services  
  
Division of Housing & Community Renewal  
HCR,  
Hudson Pointe Rehab Center  
Riverdale AARP  
Riverdale Senior Center  
Riverdale YMHA

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker: Dereck Frederick, Director of the Bronx Office of Rent Administration at Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR):

The agency oversees laws governing rent stabilization and rent control, explaining one's rights. The office is located across from Fordham University. Contact Dereck at 718 563-5678, 9-5, Monday thru Friday. The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption program (SCRIE) for those who are rent stabilized or rent controlled is now under the Department of Finance. The program allows rent reduction based on household income.

Rent stabilization is based on rent guidelines which are set annually for rent increases 10/1 – 9/30. Deregulation occurs when the rent is \$2500/mo and household income is \$200,000 or more. The tenant must receive notice and reply. The landlord is allowed to charge for fuel cost increases; when fuel decreases, the change must be refunded to the tenant. If the apartment building has capital improvements, the landlord must have written consent of the tenant to pay for it; for buildings 35 units or more, 1/60<sup>th</sup> of improvement costs can be added to the rent. If the apartment is vacant and improvements are made, the landlord can charge market rate. The expiration of J51 financing allows deregulation of the building. One can't move into rent controlled apartment unless moving in with someone who is eligible. Renter's rights are the same under rent stabilization and rent control. If a renter is challenging a rent increase, the disputed amount should be placed in a separate account; if the landlord brings the renter to court for nonpayment, the renter has a better chance of reducing the new rent if he has shown good faith by having set aside the amount needed to cover the increase.

3. Old Business: none

4. New Business

- a. DFTA Budget Hearing: Ft. Independence Senior Center has closed its programs for seniors and childcare. The entire portfolio of senior centers is coming up for RFP this year. NORCs have no additional funding. Senior Centers received additional monies for vehicle gas and maintenance. Elderly Crimes Resource Center is operated by DFTA for those who don't meet APS criteria. High prevalence of abuse, especially financial. Safe streets for seniors have identified pedestrian safety issues in 25 neighborhoods. Corrective work is being done. There were ten awardees for innovation services, LGBT and visually impaired, one in the Bronx. A voucher program funded by a two year federal grant will provide transportation for aging and disabled. No wheelchair lift and unavailable in the Bronx.
- b. Upcoming events calendars were distributed by Riverdale Senior Services and JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center.
- c. Jewish Lifecare is having a groundbreaking 10/27, 3-5 pm for its new 72 unit assisted living facility for low income seniors. We've been asked to submit a letter of support/proclamation. Unanimously supported. K. Pesce to draft letter.
- d. Riverdale Neighborhood House is seeking volunteers to contact homebound seniors: 718 549-8100, ext. 128.
- e. NGO Committee on Aging, United Nations, New York is sponsoring the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, Thursday, October 6, 2011, 10-5, no charge. Register by Thursday, 9/29: 646-260-5401.

5. Agency/Individual Reports

- a. I. Ladimer: Paul Herron is developing a Senior to Senior program for people to help each other formally/informally. Irving will invite him to present. I. Ladimer presented a program at RSS on the Constitution, election, immigration; he noted education on these subjects for youth is important. He suggested developing materials for schools. Sandra Day O'Connor is a supporter.
  - b. Riverdale Senior Services: the annual bazaar will be held 11/6. Donations will be accepted until 11/4. Flu shots will be available 10/11 by CVS. Bring insurance information. Assemblyman Dinowitz is sponsoring free flu shots at the YMHA 10/3. A computer user group is being established.
  - c. Hudson Pointe: Seniors living at HP will be encouraged to participate in area senior centers, including after discharge to home.
  - d. Association of retired Superintendants and Principals are looking for a meeting site.
  - e. YMHA Simon Center is focusing on art, including a visit to High Line Park with free lectures.
6. Other: a discussion of Medicare changes was suggested. The status of healthcare legislation is unclear.

Next meeting Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdale YMHA Simon Center at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce  
Chair, Aging Committee