

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 24TH, 2010
AT THE BOARD OFFICE
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Thomas C. Durham
Anthony Creaney
Sergio Marquez
Daniel Padernacht
Sharon Frey
Andrew Sandler
Lynn Schwarz

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
BJCC
rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
Community Committee Member

Meeting started at 7:30 PM, Chaired by Chairman Mr. Thomas C. Durham.

Introduction of those in attendance.

Approving the minutes of the April 2010 meeting.

The Minutes of the April 29, 2010 meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report

1. New Stand Pipe & Sprinklers Paint Codes.
The Department of Buildings (DOB) and the NYC Fire Department (FDNY) will start enforcing the fire system plumbing on June 2, 2010. Although this law was placed on the books in January 2010, the city and the above agencies did a lousy job of informing the public. Violations will be issued to every building that have an exposed Stand Pipe or Sprinklers that are not painted to the new color code. A Certificate of Compliance must be posted once fire systems pipes are painted and it must be signed off by either a holder of a Master Plumbing License, a Licensed Fire System Contractor or a holder of a valid FDNY Certificate of Fitness, holders. Signatures must be notarized or embossed with seal of licensee. The new code information and compliance Application will be attached to the minutes.
2. City announced a new law that will outlaw the use of incandescent bulbs in public areas over a five year period. All government buildings will have to comply by the end of 2011. The window for commercial buildings compliance is December 31, 2013 and residential buildings by December 31, 2015.
3. After putting in numerous requests to the city agencies that governs the housing industry, CB8 has not heard back from any of them in regards to budget requests. Since this is the case, the Housing Committee will resubmit the FY2011 items.
4. The Chairman will be attending Councilman Ydandis Rodriguez's Town Hall Meeting in Marble Hill. The agenda is targeting housing issues in this neighborhood. This will be the newly elected Councilman's first town meeting since he has taken office so I feel that it is in the best interest of the community and CB8 to attend this meeting.

Agenda

1. Bronx Jewish Community Council Inc. (BJCC)

Guest speaker, Ms. Sharon Frey, will discuss the BJCC Emergency Card Program Outreach to the Isolated Elderly.

- A. The BJCC mission statement and program are attached to the minutes and can be found on our website.
- B. The BJCC has a grant from the UJA-Federation and small percentages funded by the Department of the Aging (DFTA) that is trying to bring the many services and information to the isolated (shut ins).
Although the word Elderly is embedded in their title, this outreach program will help those as young as age 50. The program targets people who are physically unable to egress from their buildings without aid or those with social malfunctions such as hoarding, drinking and gambling.
- C. Why the Housing Committee? Ms. Frey explained that the biggest dilemma in bringing this program to the North West Bronx is gaining access to the many co-op and condo properties. Ms. Frey came before the Housing Committee to gather ideas to help solve this problem of being denied access from property managers and landlords.
- D. This is a two sided problem for Community Boards. We rarely interfere with lawfully run businesses, yet we are obligated to provide and inform the residents of our community about the many programs and opportunities that are available to them to improve their quality of life.
- E. The problem for landlords and large management companies is the adjective “new” which translate into “budget deficit”! A “new” program that targets the elderly and shut inns means spending money on widening doors, upgrading elevators, security, communication and other systems not forgetting a ramp or two. This also means increasing their liability insurance which will surely be passed onto the building residents through increased rent or maintenance charges. This is their fear and why they shy away from great programs like the ones BJCC is trying to introduce here.
- F. The members of the Housing Committee felt that there is a need for programs and services that helps the isolated residents in our community. The Housing Committee suggested that BJCC reach out to the Association of Riverdale Co-op & Condos (ARC) and to Local 32BJ, the union for building maintenance workers for assistance in gaining access to these buildings. The committee will ask the CB8 Executive Committee to draft a letter of support for this Out Reach Program to management companies’ hesitant to assist BJCC implement this outstanding program.

2. Budget Priorities FY 2012.

As reported in the Chairman’s Report, the agencies that govern housing have not responded to our request for directions of budget priorities.

The Housing Committee agreed to resubmit FY 2011 priorities for FY 2012.

3. New Business

- A. Housing Committee agreed to hold a June 16, 2010 meeting.
- B. Agenda items - will be a discussion on Department of Homeless (DHS) “Housing First” policy.
- C. An update on the status 3882 Cannon Place.

Next Housing Committee Meeting Wednesday, June 16th, 2010.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting ended at 9PM

Submitted by,

Thomas C. Durham, Chairman
Housing Committee

TDC/db
Attachments

BRONX JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.
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- BJCC Emergency Card Program
- Outreach to the Isolated Elderly

The Emergency Card Program provided by the Bronx Jewish Community Council is the only Bronx outreach initiative that has been able to both locate and serve older adults in the manner of door-to-door visits and building-to-building workshops/group meetings. In many instances, the trust we earn while enrolling new clients is their only link between themselves and available resources. This introduction to available resources often signifies a first time acquaintance with programs and services for which the older adult both qualifies and demonstrates need. The program is funded through a grant from UJA Federation of New York.

Program Summary _____:

The Bronx Jewish Community Council's Emergency Card Program offers a viable, proactive strategy to identify underserved, frail elderly and engage them in a process that will secure timely access to emergency services that they may need. The primary outcome is an emergency card listing an elderly adult's pertinent information, to include health/medical status, and available emergency contacts. A program social worker conducts a brief assessment interview to help gather this information. Upon completion, the cards are distributed to: residents (to be posted on their refrigerators) and with the resident's permission, the appropriate housing office.

Over the years, this outreach model has served as a liaison project, bridging Bronx residents to regional health providers, case management and crises intervention units throughout the borough. As a result, elderly adults are, at the very least, given the advantage of knowing that certain emergency procedures are available to them. The system continues to be instituted building-by-building and neighborhood-by-neighborhood. We continue to reach out to, and cultivate relationships with, building superintendents, managing agents, building owners, board members, members of the NY City Council, and emergency responders. In so doing, this collaborative effort averts emergencies otherwise unnoticed, and premature deaths that, in some cases, could have been prevented.

During the two and half year lifespan of this outreach initiative, more than 65 buildings have been visited. Nearly 1300 older adults have filled out emergency cards and attached health care proxy forms to their refrigerator doors. A consistent 26% have been referred for short-term assistance, including help with benefits and entitlements at various local service providers. More than 7% have been referred to long-term case management with ongoing support provided by the Bronx's Aging Network of both healthcare and social service agencies.

In collaboration with various police precincts and local council members, the Bronx Jewish Community Council offers our Emergency Card Outreach Program to the Community.

The following are the key features of our outreach activities:

1. Crime prevention/senior safety and emergency preparedness.
2. Case assistance, food and cash relief and referral services.
3. Emergency cards and Health care proxy forms
4. A free blood pressure screening
5. Brochures and information about local supportive programs and regional centers made available to all tenants in the building, including older adults, disabled adults and their caregivers.
6. Medicare Part D, EPIC, SCRIE and information on all senior benefits & entitlements.
7. Health, nutrition/exercise and fall prevention tips.

Representatives and guest speakers available from the following organizations:

- a Community Affairs officers from your local police precinct.
- a Your local NYC Council Member and/or other elected representatives.
- a Representative from the NYC Department for the Aging.

- a Spokesperson from EPIC prescription drug coverage for seniors.
- a Elder law Attorney
- a Spokesperson for Voice Care Emergency Response System
- a Representative from Social Security Administration
- a Nurse from Beth Abraham Health Services and Francis Schervier Home and Hospital a Trained staff on Disaster Planning and Emergency relief from NIDC and West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center a Social worker and Outreach Coordinator from Bronx Jewish Community Council.

Sharon Frey
Community Outreach Coordinator, BSW
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The Bronx Jewish Community Relations Council (BJCRC) division of BJCC represents the combined communal interests of the Local Jewish community councils: Concourse North Bronx JCC, Parkchester Unionport JCC, JCC of Pelham Parkway, and Riverdale JCC. The Bronx Jewish Community Services Division of BJCC an anti-poverty program serving all residents of the Bronx since 1972.

For Immediate Release:

BRONX JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL REACHES ITS 50th BUILDING in its OUTREACH EFFORTS TO THE COMMUNITY.



Through the Emergency Card Program, BJCC staff extend their expertise from building to building, neighborhood to neighborhood, educating the public about emergency preparedness and local supportive services.

Community Organizer, Sallie Caldwell from the office of Assemblywoman, Naomi Rivera, comments: "Very informative program, assisting retirees and workers alike!

This program serves as a liaison project, bridging Bronx residents, housing management and council members to regional health providers, case management and crises intervention units throughout the borough.

Robert Belsky, Chairman of the Board at Orloff Towers, adds: "Superb! Today, so many people are unaware of how to safeguard themselves in emergencies. They simply do not know how to gain access to neighborhood resources. I found this workshop especially empowering!"

**To have your building included in this ongoing program call: 718-548-4990 Or contact:
Sharon Frey, Community Outreach Coordinator 80 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx New
York 10463**

This program is funded in part by the UJA-Federation of New York and NYC Department of the Aging