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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee Meeting
New York Blood Center
310 East 67th Street
Conference Room 1 & 2
July 26, 2012

Community Board members in attendance: Molly Blayney, Mary Pike, Ellen Polivy,

Public member in attendance: Jeffrey Ascherman

Community Board members excused: Jacqueline Ludorf, Hattie Quarnstrom, Barbara Rudder

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

At the July meeting, the committee discussed revisiting the topic of a public forum it sponsored in June 2010. The topic was: Help In Hard Times: When Food Is Scarce - Where You Can Go To Get Help/What You Can Do To Help.

The subject was felt to be an important one to reexamine at this particular point in time. Since June 2010, the number of New York City homeless has climbed steadily and is at a record-breaking high; in addition, the number of those presently housed in New York City shelters and those seeking admission to them is also increasing; and, finally, too many NYC residents remain unable to find any employment that pays even a modest living wage. This combination of factors means more and more individuals and families are experiencing difficulty in obtaining adequate amounts of food.

The purpose of the forum being planned is to explore the combined effects of these various factors on established food programs in our community, to get a sense of if and how the demographics of those in need of food has changed since June 2010, and to provide people with information about sources of assistance to those who need help in obtaining food.

After a discussion regarding whom the speakers should be, the names of those the committee will invite to speak was agreed upon. Based on the excellence of their prior presentations, it was agreed invitations would be extended to all of the organizational representatives who spoke at the 2010 forum. In addition, a representative from the New York City Hunger Free Communities Consortium would also be invited to participate.

There was also a significant amount of discussion regarding how to publicize the meeting most effectively.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:14 pm.

Ellen Polivy and Mary Pike Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee