

Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, NY 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail
www.cb8m.com – Website

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

HEALTH, SENIORS, AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 21, 2018, 6:30 PM
Knickerbocker Plaza, Community Room
1751 2nd Avenue

MINUTES

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Manhattan Community Board 8.

Community Board Members in Attendance: Barbara Chocky, William Freeland, Lorraine Johnson, David Liston, Jackie Ludorf, Peter Patch, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder

Excused Absence: Alexandra Harrington, Peggy Price

1. Continued Discussion of WIN Supportive Housing On-Site Security Personnel

In April 2017, Women in Need (WIN) presented to Community Board 8 Manhattan's Health, Seniors, Social Services (HSSS) committee their plans to open next winter a 17-unit permanent supportive housing residence on E. 91 Street for women with children. These families were previously homeless, but currently live in WIN's scatter housing. WIN is currently moving from their scatter housing model to supportive housing. In April 2017, Community Board 8 Manhattan unanimously passed a resolution approving their program, with a request to provide full-time security. Recently, several members of the community expressed concern that security will not be provided, and so the HSSS committee invited WIN to address their concerns.

At this meeting, the committee reaffirmed the Community Board's wholehearted support for the program, and assured that the new residents will be warmly welcomed to the community. However, since these women are vulnerable, particularly as many of them have been victims of domestic violence, members of the committee and the public emphasized that security for their protection is important.

WIN presented an overview of the project. The families have been with WN for many years, and currently live in scattered housing. The average stay for the families is 8 years, and some stay indefinitely. There is an on-site support staff during normal working hours, and a live-in super who is on duty during the day. The case workers have been counseling these residents for a while. Residents pay rent according to their ability, and are responsible for their own bills. WIN's aim is to provide independent living with support. WIN currently runs three other residences, two with security staff on site 24/7. There have been some security issues at these sites.

Although WIN will not have full-time security personnel at this site, this residence will have a buzzer system accessed only by the tenant, and cameras. WIN will not restrict any guest from visiting, but counsels the women to make good choices. A roving security guard will visit once or twice a week to be certain the building is secure. Although the super will live in the building he/she is not required to be available when off-duty. If there is an emergency, the tenant will be counseled to call 911.

Members of the board and the community expressed their concerns about security. Suggestions included a part-time security guard, resident monitor at the desk, remote security systems monitored by police or off-site security, and a video camera attached to the buzzer system so tenants will view the visitors before buzzing them in.

WIN stressed that the building is too small to make additional security feasible, and since this project was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), they did not get any additional funding for security. They also stressed the model for these families is to live independently and so if additional funding was secured, they would need to use it for programming and not security. They promised to check with the developer to see if there is wiring for a video system attached to the buzzer, and promised to revisit if there is a security issue. Several members expressed confidence in WIN's judgement, and are certain WIN will be a good neighbor. WIN promised to come back to the Community Board six months after opening to give us an update.

2. Continued Discussion from the April 12, 2018 Homelessness Forum

Community Board 8 Manhattan's Health Seniors Social Services committee hosted a forum on "Homelessness in New York City: What is Being Done and How Can We Help?" After the forum, several attendees reached out with questions about changes in how the drop in centers contracted by DHS send their clients to faith-based shelters. The Department of Homeless Services was invited, but not able to attend. The committee passed the following resolution, asking the department to attend our meeting to address the questions and to explain their process sending their clients to the shelters.

WHEREAS: The Community Board 8 Manhattan district has a long history of welcoming guests to faith-based shelters; and

WHEREAS: Volunteers reported that in the past beds were filled, the guests were polite, and paper work sent from the drop in center was correct; and

WHEREAS: Volunteers report a negative change, and volunteers have questions concerning changes in the process of sending guests to the faith-based shelters; and

WHEREAS: The volunteers expressed strong desire to continue providing their services if the process improves; and

WHEREAS: Community Board 8M invited the Department of Homeless Services to a meeting to discuss the process to send guests to faith-based institutions; and

WHEREAS: DHS declined the invitation; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: Community Board 8M strongly urges knowledgeable representatives from the Department of Homeless Services attend a future committee meeting to discuss the process of sending guests from drop in centers to faith-based shelters.

ADOPTED by a vote of 8-0-0

YES: Barbara Chocky, William Freeland, Lorraine Johnson, David Liston, Jackie Ludorf, Peter Patch, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder

Submitted by,

David Liston, Jacqueline Ludorf, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs

Addendum: Following the meeting, on July 15, 2018, Jerry Mascuch from WIN confirmed “that a video intercom system is included in the building design.” Jerry also shared floor plans for 316 East 91st Street with the board office.