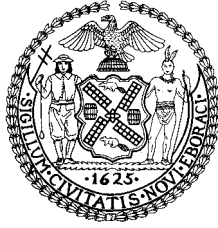


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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Women & Families Committee
Thursday, July 25, 2019 - 6:30PM
The Ramaz School
125 East 85th Street**

Minutes

CB8 Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Ashby, Gayle Baron, Lori Bores, Rebecca Dangoor, Peggy Price

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Discussion centered on the personal and financial issues women and their families face at various times during their life.

At its July meeting, the committee identified key issues, segmented by age groups, to address for the remainder of 2019. This session followed the committee's June forum on combatting sexual harassment and assault.

Attendees each cited top issues from their perspective in the categories of:

- issues facing younger women (20s and 30s) and their families;
- issues facing women aged 40-60; and,
- issues of women aged 60 and older, and their families.

As each attendee cited her list of top issues, finance emerged as the common theme.

Among the oft-cited concerns for younger women were: the difficulty repaying student loans; the high cost of housing; equal opportunity in obtaining jobs and receiving fair pay; cost and availability of child care.

For women aged 40-60, most often-cited concerns included: fair hiring and pay practices; work-life balance; providing benefits for stay-at-home parents; kids' education; saving for retirement and children's education, while paying daily expenses; and finding reliable day care for children.

Among the top issues for women aged 60-plus: paying for reliable long-term care; paying for medical expenses, generally; the availability (or lack of it) of affordable housing; and mobility issues, including accessible transportation.

The committee determined that the top 3 issues of concern—to be addressed this year—included the costs and availability of reliable child care, elder care costs and educational costs. Where these issues overlap with those of other committees, the W&F Committee will seek to pursue them as joint issues with the other involved committees.

The committee will begin addressing the issue of child care by obtaining a list of after-school programs. It will determine which, if any, are free or low-cost and reliable. In addition, the committee will explore whether the CB8 district has enough pre-K accommodations to meet the demand.

On the issue of paying for long-term care, the committee will be exploring options for people who cannot afford this expensive care. As a start, the committee will examine the state of Washington's new legislation that provides state coverage for long-term care. The committee will determine whether the long term care provision should be carved out of the proposed New York State single payer health care bill and be addressed separately.

Concerning tuition and student loan repayment, the committee discussed the benefits of using New York State's tax-advantaged 529 savings plan to help pay tuition. On the issue of student loans, the committee agreed to explore ways to ease the years-long burden on New Yorkers saddled with this debt.

For women, an issue crossing all ages is the Pink Tax (in which women pay higher prices than men for similar products and services).

As a first step in addressing this, the committee will begin an educational campaign. This summer the committee will create a digitally produced flyer that identifies the problem and cites various ways to avoid this penalty. Once created, this educational flyer will be distributed throughout the community.

At the request of a CB8 member, the committee will seek official approval to allow children at community board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Gayle Baron and Margaret Price, Co-Chairs