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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
May 13, 2021 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

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 Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes

Present: Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Greg Morris, Ellen Polivy*, Barara Rudder

* Public Member

Resolutions for Approval:

Items 1A – Approval

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:02 PM.

Item 1 - Discussion on Re-Opening our Senior Centers

The Health, Seniors, Social Services committee held a meeting to discuss the importance of opening senior centers, and how to do so safely and responsibly. Speakers included Greg Morris, Executive Director and Aline Da Fonseca, Aging Services Coordinator at Stanley Isaacs Senior Center, and Bonnie Lumagui, Assistant Executive Director of Senior Services at Hamilton House. It is hoped that Senior Centers can open by July 1. It is important for seniors to have human interaction. The year-long period of isolation has caused emotional and physical stress, and once they reunite, they will have to deal with the sorrow for those who have been lost. Although the City has reinstated the Grab-an- Go meal program, seniors benefit from dining with theirs. In addition, the Centers can provide other care such as cooling and health exams.

But the agencies are asking for guidance. and standards from the city, dealing with ventilation, room capacity, and PPE's. The City may determine which centers can open depending on the number of personnel are vaccinated, but at this time it is illegal to demand staff divulges the information.

Agencies are starting to prepare for opening of their centers by training personnel, performing deep cleaning, and updating ventilation. They ask that the City, including DFTA, DOHMH, Health + Hospitals, NYCHA and the elected officials to meet with a consortium of agencies to define guideline to make certain the center is open as safely as possible, for the seniors and staff.

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer has been advocating to re-open our senior centers and has reached out to Community Boards about this issue. Pending approval at the Full Board meeting, the HSSS Committee plans to send the resolution to other Community Boards in the hopes that they will take action on this item.

1A:

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has left many of our seniors in physical and emotional isolation;

WHEREAS, it has been projected that senior centers may open by July 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, seniors and staff are eager for centers to re-open because they provide emotional and medical health as well as meals, technological assistance, and other services; and

WHEREAS, New York City has a responsibility to re-open our senior centers safely and promptly and to restore these vital services and physical company to seniors after more than a year of isolation;

WHEREAS, our City's senior centers remain closed in stark contrast to other surrounding businesses;

WHEREAS, proposals to re-open our senior centers lack specificity in clear safety measures and official timelines;

WHEREAS, agencies know how to safely prepare their centers and have begun servicing them but will need time to implement any required changes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on the relevant agencies and stake holders such as DFTA, DOHMH, NYCHA, Health + Hospitals to work with our senior centers directly as partners in creating the safety guidelines necessary to be able to open the centers as quickly as possible.

PASSED by a vote of 3(+2)-0-0-1

In Favor:

Brotsky (Public Member), Dangoor, Johnson, Polivy (Public Member), Rudder

Not Voting for Cause:

Greg Morris

Item 2 – Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item 3 – New Business

There was no New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs