

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Monday, July 10, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Addeson Lehv, Barbara Rudder, Judith Schneider, Russell Squire.

*Public Member

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Discussion with Hyland Park and the Department of Homeless Services regarding their operation of the Bentley Hotel, 500 East 62nd Street, as an emergency sanctuary shelter for families with children.

The Bentley Hotel, 500 East 62nd Street, is currently housing immigrants as an emergency sanctuary shelter. Representatives from the Department of Homeless Services and Hyland Park were present to discuss the program. Hyland Park is the organization that provides supportive services to the asylum seekers. William Ruiz, Executive Director, explained their programs. They are partnering with the National Guard, which helps with administrative needs, as well as with the Department of Homeless Services, Department of Education, and other city departments.

Hyland Park has been around since 1998 and currently manages five sanctuary and three regular shelters in New York City. It provides 24/7 security. There are 100 families and 170 individuals living at the shelter. Case workers, pro bono attorneys, and the Department of Social Services help the asylum seekers with the intake process, incident reports, and help with medical issues, including help for the shelter's several pregnant women, vaccinations, and children's wellbeing. They arrange for schooling in partnership with the Department of Education, which tries to make sure certain children stay in the same school, as per family wishes.

A representative from Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright's office stated that the asylum seekers have the legal right to apply for food stamps and be provided with social work services. Pro bono attorneys must be provided to help with applications for asylum.

Community Board 8M members discussed ways to help the immigrants. Judy Schneider, Vice-President of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association is organizing a drive to provide gently-used clothing, baby needs, toiletries, and other necessities to the residents. Wilma Johnson spoke about her work with school children, teaching artwork to those who do not speak English. She emphasized that schools need support.

Item 2: Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 3: New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

The committee adjourned at approximately 7:37 PM.

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