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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 6:30pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Wilma Johnson, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider, Dayne Slay

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 30

Item 1: Presentation by the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), Department of Social Services (DSS), and Housing Solutions of New York (HSNY) regarding a proposed Manhattan Welcome Center at 419 East 91st Street (Between First Avenue and York Avenue)

Representatives Jennifer Wilcox from the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), Jamar Hooks, and Marsha Horne from the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Chief Executive Officer Seth Muraskin, Chief of Staff Brandon Gooden, and Dr. Xellex Rivera from Housing Solutions of New York (HSNY) presented on the proposed Manhattan Welcome Center at 419 East 91st Street. The agency operating this welcome center is HSNY, which gave details on how they would serve the homeless population and achieve their mission to end homelessness. This welcome center will be a low-barrier facility that will house residents for up to thirty days. The program's aim is to help residents adjust to the housing environment until it is determined whether the clients should be moved to a safe haven, supportive housing, or some type of shelter. There will be up to 88 men, women, and couples living in the facility, with each room having a maximum of five beds and one bathroom. In addition, there will also be 24/7 contracted uniformed security, with roaming guards around the facility. The center will be designed for people who are coming directly off the street. On site, there will be 24-hour residential aides, social workers, case managers, and maintenance staff. The building will also have two community rooms, one used for the cafeteria and pantry, and another room for relaxation and entertainment, as well as a rooftop area for outdoor use. Residents are encouraged to maintain a good neighbor policy and not to loiter in the community. Animals are also not allowed in the facility unless they have certified support pets. Finally, the facility will also be offering three meals a day to residents, with snacks being provided as well.

Item 2: Old Business – None discussed.

Item 3: New Business – None discussed.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:10 pm.

Wilma Johnson and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs