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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
P.O. BOX 1672  
NEW YORK, NY 10159-1672

## **HOUSING, HOMELESS, HUMAN RIGHTS CB6 Monthly Committee Meeting**

January 9, 2018

433 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, NYC, Room 210 (NYU School of Dentistry)

### **Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM**

#### **Present:**

Rajesh Nayar, Acting Chair  
Aissata Camara  
Aaron Humphrey  
Carin van der Donk  
Pamela Vassil  
Claude L. Winfield

#### **Public Member:**

Claire Brennan

#### **Excused:**

Sondra Leftoff

#### **Absent:**

Mary Silver

#### **Guests:**

Ryan DuBois, CCHR  
Ben Jacobs, CM Keith Powers  
Michelle D. Winfield, Tilden Housing Committee  
Sasha Fisher  
David L. Tsin CB 6 Member  
Molly Hollister Chair of CB 6  
Kevin – Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (Bronx Division)

## **MINUTES**

### **Agenda:**

1. Presentation from Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence:  
Representative from Bronx Division, Kevin spoke to Committee about the

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division and its mission statement. Background: Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior that occurs between family members and/or intimate partners to gain power and control. Intimate partners include your current or former husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend, your child's mother/father, or a partner that you live with or used to live with. Domestic violence can take the form of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse. Domestic violence occurs in every country, in every neighborhood, among people of all races, cultures, religions, or income levels. It can happen to you whatever your age, gender, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence is a crime.

#### How to Help a Person Experiencing Abuse

1. Start by believing the person being abused. Listen without judgment or giving advice.
2. Do not pressure the person being abused to break up with their abusive partner. This may put the person being abused in more danger.
3. Do not put the abusive partner down. This may make the person being abused reluctant to speak with you again.
4. Recognize and accept the feelings of the person being abused without telling them how they should feel.
5. Avoid victim-blaming statements such as, "Why do you stay with them?" "How could you love someone like that?" or "Why do you let them treat you like that?"
6. Do not place conditions on your support, such as by making statements like, "I can only help you if you leave."
7. Respect the decisions made by the person being abused, even if you do not agree.
8. Do not confront or attack the abusive partner. This may increase the risk for the person experiencing abuse.
9. Encourage the person experiencing abuse to get help when they are ready. Let them know about the Family Justice Center where they can go to receive free and confidential information and services.

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10. Get information on relationship abuse and share it with the person being abused, if they want it. View our Programs page to learn more about available resources.

11. Call 311 to be connected to the New York City 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline anonymously to find out what you can do to help and to learn more about resources available. Call 911 if you witness physical violence.

Non-Governmental Organizations who work with survivors of domestic violence include Safe Horizon and Sanctuary for Families.

Manhattan Director of OCDV is Indhira Castro (212) 602-2857

Attached at end of minutes are tips to working with survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IVP) – Exhibit A.

2. Discussion re: New York City Council legislation (Int. No. 1641-2017): Committee discussed in further detail and decided to move forward on drafting a resolution. Committee voted in favor 7-0. Committee members Aissata, Carin and Pam along with CB6 member David will draft resolution for Committee to review at February meeting.

3. Old/New Business. Michelle D. Winfield, from Tilden Housing Committee, brought to Committee's attention the issue of NYCHA needing to advertise and notify residents of NYCHA who could be hired as contractors to fix the various issues plaguing NYCHA units instead of solely seeking outside contractors. Committee to discuss in detail in February.

**Meeting Concluded at 8:30 PM**  
**Minutes submitted by Rajesh Nayar**

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## EXHIBITA



Mayor's Office to

# FOR WORKING WITH SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

1

### ACKNOWLEDGE POTENTIAL PAST AND/OR ONGOING TRAUMA

- Recognize that trauma can affect an individual in many ways.
- Remember that people may express the same emotions in different ways.
- Make the person experiencing the abuse feel they are in control.
- Be mindful of body language and verbal communication.

2

### LISTEN ACTIVELY

- Start by believing the person experiencing the abuse.
- Validate the person's feelings and their experiences.
- Ask open-ended, non-judgmental questions.
- Mirror the person's language, when referring to the abuse, abusive partner or the relationship.

3

### RESPECT PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- Provide a private space for discussion.
- Do not leave any documents with identifying information about the abuse where other people can view them.
- If you are a mandated reporter make sure to inform the person of the limits on confidentiality.

4

### RESPECT THE PERSON'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

- Remember, disclosing the abuse does not mean the person experiencing the abuse is ready to take action.
- People are experts on their lives; let the person experiencing abuse decide what is best for them, even if you disagree.
- Manage expectations, know your resources and provide appropriate information.

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- Offer options and support, not your opinion on what they should or shouldn't do.



### USE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS

- "It's not your fault; anyone could find themselves in this situation."
- "What can I do to support you today?"
- "It must be very painful when someone you care about is frightening you."
- "I am worried about your safety; what do you think would help you feel safe?"



### DEFINE YOUR ROLE

- Remind the person experiencing abuse of your role and what you are able to do to help.
- Ask the person experiencing abuse what kind of help they are looking for, don't assume you know.
- Be aware of your limitations and ability to act in certain situations.
- Maintain the boundaries of the helping role throughout your work with the person experiencing abuse.



### CHECK YOUR BIASES

- Use gender neutral language; don't assume that all gender identities are visible.
- Be mindful of your facial expressions and other non-verbal cues.
- Avoid judging or criticizing the person's behavior or their abusive partner's behavior.
- Avoid blaming or defending the person's culture.



### AVOID THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF QUESTIONS

- "Why would you let your partner treat you that way?"
- "What did you do to make your partner angry?"
- "Why are you still with your partner?"
- "How can you love someone like that?"
- "Why don't you just leave?"

To learn more or request a training please contact the OCDV Training Institute at:  
[OCDVTraining@ocdv.nyc.gov](mailto:OCDVTraining@ocdv.nyc.gov)