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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Manhattan Community Board Six  
Housing, Homeless, & Human Rights Committee  
April 30, 2019 – 6:30 PM  
CB6 Board Office – 211 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1404**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Carin Van der Donk (Chair), Aaron Humphrey, Rich Mintz, Rajesh Nayar,

Excused: Kyle Athayde, Claire Brennan, Andrew Gross, Abigail Krusemark, Joseph Parrish, Matt Roberts, Claude L. Winfield

Guests: Diala Morgan, Representative for Center for Court Innovations; Jeffrey Zellan, Resident of Community District 6; Elsie Otero, Resident of Community District 6 (Straus Houses Tenant Association); Wilfredo Sepulveda, Resident of Community District 6 (Straus Houses Tenant Association); Miriam Rubinton, Representative of Phipps Houses Asher Baumrin, Representative of State Senator Hoylman; Maria Trinidad, Resident of Community District 6 (344 East 28th Street Tenant Association); Sandra Tapia, Resident of Community District 6; Daliah Farrar, Resident of Community District 6; Teresita Rivera, Resident of Community District 6 (344 East 28th Street Tenant Association)

**Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Carin called the meeting to order at 6:41pm.

Carin made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Rich and passed.

Carin made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich and passed.

**Committee Business**

**Scoping Discussion of District Needs/Budget Requests for 28th Street Area**

Stakeholders from Straus Houses, Phipps Houses and 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> presented the Committee with concerns along the 28<sup>th</sup> street corridor. Brainstorming session was held to address the issue of transient population utilizing the various social services provided by the hospitals and clinics in the area. A growing number of individuals tend to loiter in

the courtyards of 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Straus Housing causing quality of life concerns. Phipps spokesperson explained their use of security services led by retired NYPD officers. The knowledge of the community and ability to coordinate and interact with local precincts affords tenants in those residences 24/7 security and safety. Phipps Houses security program head to provide contact information to 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> to consider security on site utilizing retired NYPD officers. Currently 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> has security but lax in comparison to Phipps. Other ideas for securing buildings is key fobs which is utilized at Phipps Housing. Cameras and a command center within Phipps to review camera footage. 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> and Straus Housing plagued with inadequate cameras and review and access to camera footage off-site in outer borough. Layered access considered for 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> and Straus Housing. Also discussed was securing gates at Straus Housing and 344 East 28<sup>th</sup> to ensure only residents have access to public spaces intended for the residences. Other considerations was requesting Bellevue to open the park adjacent to Bellevue entrance for patients using services at Bellevue as a place for respite in lieu of loitering at the residences on 28<sup>th</sup> street. Chair requested Committee to do a study to count the number of social service programs and providers in the area between 26<sup>th</sup> street and 34<sup>th</sup> streets between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> avenues. Rich to research.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair reminded Committee and audience of May 20<sup>th</sup> Education on Combatting Hate Crimes forum to be held at Baruch College. Jeff Zellan to write short bios on the panelists.

Chair notifies Committee and audience Rent Laws expire June 15th

### **Old/New Business**

Aaron Humphrey went to Tenant Association meeting at Straus Houses. Discussed getting access to computers for tenants use but also to provide assistance to tenants not computer savvy. Also discussed issues around obtaining information from NYCHA. Reported NYCHA stated that FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) could be made to receive information from NYCHA. NYCHA has been reluctant to share information and data on finances and other issues concerning tenants. Chair had contacted a non-profit to donate previously used computers to Straus Houses and delivery of such computers slated within the next week.

### **Adjournment**

Carin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Rajesh and passed. Carin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Minutes submitted by: Rajesh C. Nayar.