

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING
Office of Management Analysis and Planning
Summary of the Staten Island Public Hearing
October 28, 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

Number Attending: 150

On the Podium: Edwin Méndez-Santiago, Commissioner
Karen Shaffer, Assistant Commissioner
Linda Whitaker, Assistant Commissioner
Karen Taylor, Director of Senior Centers
Carol Dunn, DFTA Senior Advisory Council Member
Bertha Mandel, DFTA Senior Advisory Council Member
Leonora Vaccaro, DFTA Senior Advisory Council Member

Number Testifying: 16

Location: Sea View Hospital
460 Brielle Ave.

SUMMARY OF TOPIC AREAS (Speaker list is attached)

DFTA SERVICES/SERVICE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY

Transportation

Staten Island does not have the expansive public transportation network found in the other boroughs. Seniors depend on DFTA funded transportation services to remain independent. The speakers requested an increase in funding to expand transportation services and to alleviate rising operational costs. (1, 5, 8, 15, 16)

Recommendation:

- DFTA needs to provide additional funding for senior transportation.

Senior Centers

It is important that senior centers stay open. They provide nutritional meals, health and exercise, walking clubs, art projects and socialization.

(1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15)

Recommendation:

- DFTA must continue to fund community-based senior centers.

Home delivered meals

The speaker believes that having the home delivered meals program is an effective way to keep seniors living at home. (1, 11, 15)

Recommendation:

- DFTA must continue to fund the home delivered meals program.

Family Caregiver Program

The program assists grandparents age 50 and over who are the caregivers for minor children. This is an important program that provides information, referral and support. (14)

Recommendation:

- DFTA must continue to fund the Family Caregiver Program.

HEAP

The speaker believes that the HEAP Program is necessary to meet the needs of older adults who are facing rising energy costs. (2)

Recommendation:

- The HEAP program must continue to receive government funding.

Adult Day Health Care

This is an important service that enables individuals to remain at home. (16)

Recommendation:

- DFTA needs to continue to fund Adult Day Care.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

Affordable Housing

The need for affordable housing is increasing on Staten Island. It was suggested that the city should provide subsidies, renovations, and services to seniors to enable them to remain in their homes. (11, 15)

Sea View Housing Proposal

DFTA was asked to review the development plan to ensure it remains consistent with the original plan for affordable housing. (11)

Recommendation:

- DFTA needs to continue to advocate for senior housing.

FUNDING/FISCAL

Borough President's funding

DFTA needs to restore the borough president's funding for services including senior centers, transportation, homecare programs, adult day care programs, the inter-agency council, minor home repair programs, and assistance to people with Alzheimer's disease. (1, 5, 12, 13, 15)

Senior centers

More funds are needed to keep centers open and staffed, to cover rising operational costs at senior centers, to provide capital improvements for senior centers. (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15)

Home Delivered Meals

More funds are needed to support home delivered meals because the cost of food has increased. (11)

Seniors are a priority

There should not be funding cuts for senior services. (2, 3, 15)

Recommendation:

- DFTA should restore the Borough President's Discretionary funds.
- DFTA should not close senior centers and should not eliminate funding.
- DFTA should provide additional funding for home delivered meals.

OTHER

Program needed for the visually impaired:

DFTA should make a long term commitment to the NYC Coalition on Aging and Vision project.
(13)

Recommendation:

- DFTA should support the NYC Coalition on Aging and Vision project.

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SPEAKERS

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. Lee Covino | Office of S.I. Borough President |
| 2. Matthew Titone | NYS Assembly |
| 3. Michael Cusick | NYS Assembly |
| 4. Anna Edvin | New Dorp Beach Friendship club |
| 5. Rose Marino | New Dorp Beach Friendship club |
| 6. Joan Gugliucci | Arrochar Friendship Club |
| 7. Jean Russo | Mount Loretto Friendship Club |
| 8. Rocco Valenti | Great Kills Friendship Club |
| 9. Gerry Nicoletti | Berry Houses Friendship Club |
| 10. Marie McManus | Todt Hill Friendship Club |
| 11. Joseph Tornello | Staten Island Meals on Wheels CB #2 –Aging Committee |
| 12. Beverly Neuhaus | Richmond Senior Services |
| 13. Teddy Kern | VISIONS/ Services for the Blind |
| 14. Marya Gilborn | The Family Center |
| 15. Carol Dunn | S.I. Interagency Council |
| 16. Angelo Mascia | Sea View Hospital |

