



Committee on Seniors & Constituencies

~AGENDA~

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

1:00 PM

Committee Chair: David J. Tubiolo

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is joint with the Committee on Environment, Health & Energy.

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **(ID # 10821) Resolution – LEGISLATORS TUBIOLO, BORGIA, BOYKIN, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY, JOHNSON, MAHER, L. WILLIAMS, PEREZ, BARR, KAPLOWITZ, PARKER: Proposed Resolution - Safe Staffing for Nurses:**

A proposed Resolution supporting the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act (S03330/A01532) by the New York Legislature.

Guests: Jayne Cammisa, Hudson Valley Regional Board Member, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA)

Mike Hertz, Area Director, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA)

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT



Committee on Seniors & Constituencies

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

10:00 AM

DRAFT

Committee Chair: David J. Tubiolo

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

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CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
David J. Tubiolo	Chair	Present	
Damon Maher	D10 Legislator	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Whip)	Present	
Alfreda Williams	D8 Legislator (Vice Chair)	Present	
Lyndon Williams	D13 Legislator	Present	
Benjamin Boykin	D5 Legislator (Chairman)	Present	

Others In Attendance: CEO: B. Lopez PLANNING: N. Drummond SENIOR PROGRAMS: Comm. M. Carpenter, R. Cox(Consultant) BOL: Leg. C. Parker D. Linhardt GUESTS: K. Schleimer.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chair Tubiolo announced that the Committee will organize for the 2018-19 term.

The Committee voted:

to set a meeting quorum at 2

to set a voting quorum at 2

to select a Committee Vice-Chair-MaryJane Shimsky

Set meeting day and time - there was some discussion about changing the time to 9:00am and the Chair said we would get back to that issue later.

Guests: Commissioner Mae Carpenter, Dept. of Senior Services

Acting Commissioner Drummond, Dept. of Planning

Blanca Lopez, Assistant to the County Executive

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 27, 2018 10:00 AM (MINUTES APPROVAL)

Chair Tubiolo spoke about the issues that we are tackling again for seniors. Westchester County is an aging community and we need to take care of our elders. He stated that we will be discussing not only senior citizens now, but in the future as well and how we can help them to get the care and housing they deserve. Other topics to be discussed are: the Chairman's Youth Recognition Awards, and Item #10732 - the Resolution to support the FAIR Drug Act-that would help reduce the price of prescription drugs. This resolution would send a message to Congress that we will not accept price gouging in Westchester County.

On that point, Leg. L. Williams stated that he wanted to bring to the Chair's attention that we had a request in the last session to sponsor a State bill along these lines. The request came in to Chair Kaplowitz and was referred to Committee. It had not materialized into legislation because the session ended before it could be vetted by the Committee. Leg. Williams suggested that we perhaps consider that as well as this piece of legislation in a joint committee meeting with whichever committees have jurisdiction so we don't have duplication. Staff will look into it.

Chair Tubiolo invited the Acting Commissioner of Planning, Norma Drummond and Commissioner Mae Carpenter of Senior Programs and Services to the table to discuss housing issues for senior citizens. Comm. Carpenter began the discussion by stating that a recent study showed that the chance of getting senior housing in Westchester was 1 in 83,000. She referred to a chart given to members that showed that most people were struggling to have their physiological needs met. That would include: 1st-food, warmth and water, then housing & social, social isolation, self-esteem among others.

There are currently about 194,000 seniors living in Westchester; about 15% at poverty level using federal guidelines which is irrelevant in terms of the cost of living here. She discussed a NYS Elder Economic Security Index that showed income compared to rent or mortgage for people over 65. In addition you need to count in health care especially in case of cuts to Medicaid or Medicare. We don't know how we are going to handle the increased costs of home health care. This will get worse in 2018 with the limit on deductions of State & local taxes.

There was a discussion of whether the County has been providing affordable housing for seniors. Leg. Tubiolo noted that the last budget cut funds for senior programs which the legislators were able to restore.

Acting Comm. Drummond discussed senior housing under the stipulation. She listed the developments that had been approved for seniors. Only one development had been completed. Leg. L. Williams noted that none of the other developments were completed for one reason or another. Chair Tubiolo asked where in Westchester had the most need for senior housing. Comm. Drummond answered that the cities have the most need.

Comm. Carpenter explained a new program they were starting called Matched-up Housing. In April, they will be meeting with the collaborative reforming for national housing which includes agencies, houses of worship, community action agencies, hospitals, home care agencies. On May 2, at the Salute to Seniors, they will roll this program out county-wide. It will be a full service program, not just housing. A long discussion followed. Leg. L. Williams stated that he supports wholeheartedly the program the Commissioner just described. Commissioner Carpenter noted that the clock is ticking; seniors are losing their homes. Ms. Cox elaborated on this problem. Comm. Carpenter said they need to raise money to pay someone to do the match-ups. They have already begun their fundraising.

Acting Comm. Drummond gave an overview of all the senior buildings and apartments that had been completed over the last few year-66 units in Mt. Vernon, 72 units in Somers, 75 additional units in Somers, 4 friendships suites in Scarsdale. On March 9, 41 units opening in the City of Rye, In the late Spring as additional 52 units will open in Somers. Leg. Tubiolo

asked if there were any units in Southern Westchester. Comm. Drummond said she didn't know of any. These developments take a long time due to approvals and rezoning for large scale developments.

There was a discussion of Section 8, who controlled it and how it works. Chair Tubiolo asked Staff to communicate with HUD about Section 8 and if we could get more vouchers, specifically for seniors.

Comm. Carpenter pointed out that Westchester County has the highest out migration of any county in the country.

Chair Tubiolo noted several issues that he wants to discuss this session. These include prescription drugs, senior transportation, frauds and scams, senior isolationism, affordability, eviction. Also some youth issues such as student loans which is crippling both young and old. Also, Chairman youth awards. Please look at the brochure and see what you would like to do about this.

1. **(ID # 10732) Resolution – Proposed-FAIR Drug Act:**

Proposed Resolution - FAIR Drug Act

RESULT:	PENDING
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II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the Committee adjourned at 11:05 AM.

David J. TubioloLegislator, 14th District

Chair, Committee on Seniors & Constituencies

*Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years***Committee Assignments:**

Budget & Appropriations

Public Works

Social Services

Parks, Planning & Economic Development

To: Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators

FROM: David Tubiolo, Legislator, District 14
Catherine Borgia, Legislator, District 9

Date: April 4, 2018

RE: Safe Staffing for Nurses

Please place the attached Resolution regarding Safe Staffing for Nurses on the April 9th, 2018 Board of Legislators agenda for proper Committee referral.

Thank you.

Attachment: RESO - Proposed Resolution - Safe Staffing for Nurses - DRAFT (10821 : Proposed Resolution - Safe Staffing for Nurses)



BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER,
STATE OF NEW YORK

INTRODUCED BY:
TUBIOLO & BORGIA

RESOLUTION NO. - 2018

WHEREAS, nursing care requires continuous patient assessment, critical thinking, expert judgment, advocacy on behalf of patients, and educating patients and their families – all of which are essential factors for nursing care and critical to avoid preventable complications, injuries and avoidable deaths; and

WHEREAS, substantial and growing numbers of research studies link patient safety to the number of nursing staff available to provide inpatient nursing care; and

WHEREAS, adverse patient outcomes are directly related to ineffective nurse staffing and include upper gastrointestinal bleeding, urinary tract infections, longer hospital stays, shock, failure to rescue, and mortality within 30-days of admission; and

WHEREAS, healthcare organizations and professional registered nurses are accountable for promoting the health and safety of those in their care, and it is in the best interest of patients, nurses and healthcare facilities that there be sufficient numbers of qualified nursing staff to meet the nursing care needs of the patient; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act (S03330 Hannon/A01532 Gunther) would authorize the New York State Department of Health to set minimum staffing requirements and enforce appropriate ratios of nursing and unlicensed direct care staff for all acute care facilities and nursing homes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators supports the enactment of the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act by the New York Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the New York State Department of Health to explore ways to ensure there are safe staffing levels that support nursing quality of care, patient safety, and positive work environments for nurses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators forward copies of this Resolution to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, members of the Westchester delegation to the New York Legislature, New York State Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, and members of the Westchester County Board of Health, so that the intent of this Honorable Board be widely known.

Dated: , 2018
White Plains, NY

COMMITTEE ON