



Committee on Seniors & Constituencies

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

10:00 AM

Committee Chair: David J. Tubiolo

DRAFT

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

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CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is joint with the Committee on Social Services.

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

Others In Attendance: CONSUMER PROTECTION: J. Gaccione SENIOR PROGRAMS & SERVICES: J. Pici LAW: D. Chen BOL: Leg. N. Bass, Leg. K. Covill, D. Linhardt, T. Limengo, M. Jackson, M. Clark, Leg. D. Mahon(phone) GUESTS: F. Green, G. Brown, M. Capriolo.

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 10:00 AM

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator A. Williams, the minutes were approved 4 - 0.

2. Monday, April 23, 2018 at 10:01 AM

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator A. Williams, the minutes were approved 4 - 0.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion on scams aimed at seniors.

Guests: Gary Brown, Asst. Attorney, Office of the New York State Attorney General

Fredric Green, 2nd Deputy District Attorney

Mae Carpenter, Commissioner, Dept. of Senior Programs and Services

Chair Tubiolo stated that at this meeting, the committee will be discussing scams aimed at seniors. Gary Brown from the Office of the NYS Attorney General began the discussion. He explained how scams are operated. They use many methods to get information, including spoofing. The perpetrators can make caller ID say anything they want so that people will believe they are getting calls from a particular agency. Mr. Brown noted that the worst

scam he has seen is the grandchild scam, where they pose as a grandchild and call the grandparents saying they are in trouble and need money and not to tell their parents. Most people are too ashamed of being victimized to report it.

Fred Green of the District Attorney's Office noted that the problem with enforcement was that there are many layers to the scams and it is hard to find who is actually responsible. Also, only 1 in 44 victims report it to the authorities. Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable. Over the last few years, scams have become more sophisticated. For example, instead of wiring money, they now ask people to buy gift cards at a CVS or similar store, where it is less likely to be picked up by employees. Mr. Gaccione said that employee training to spot scams is important.

Mr. Brown noted that in New York there is \$1.5 billion lost to fraud. He recommended not answering the phone if you do not know who it is and have a very strong password. He suggested using an acronym so as not to forget it.

Most of these scams originate in other countries-India, Jamaica, Ukraine, Spain. Ms. Pici from the Dept. of Senior Programs & Services noted that there is a product called call blocker which costs about \$80 and can block entire area codes.

Deputy Director Gaccione of the Department of Consumer Protection said that they get phone calls about scams from seniors everyday. When they see a pattern, they notify the Attorney General's office. They are currently working on a new brochure and they will send it when it is finished. He also noted that employee training to spot scams is very important.

Mr. Brown stated that the Attorney General's office had started a program to try to stop the grandparent scam. They have been going to school to educate 11th & 12th grade students about the scam, so they can bring the information home and tell their parents and grandparents.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

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

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator A. Williams, the Committee adjourned at 10:55AM.