



The New York Academy of Medicine

At the heart of urban health since 1847

**Age-friendly New York City Community Forum Notes
Corsi Senior Center
Council Member Mark Viverito
March 24, 2008**

Approximate number of attendees: 60

Safety and Security

- Difficult to go out at night because of crime
- Need more police and protection
- Security is bad in buildings; need cameras installed, etc.
- Homelessness and prostitution are problems in the community
- The selling of drugs is a big problem in the community
- Lots of noise and fighting in the elderly building (Section 202?) nearby because people bring in unruly guests

Housing

- No respect for people moving in with Section 8
- Lack of affordable housing; Need lower rents
- Should let disabled people stay on the first floor in NYCHA facilities; An older gentleman said, “How can I get outside if I can’t even get out of my apartment?” If his elevator is not working he is stuck in the house; he put in an application for a first-floor apartment but didn’t get it; another woman said she applied for a first-floor apartment three times but did not get it
- Need elevators in apartment buildings for those with wheelchairs or difficulty walking
- Everyone in a wheelchair is stuck at home

Outdoor spaces and buildings / transportation

- Crossing lights and traffic are dangerous – “cars are flying by and don’t stop for seniors” said one older woman
- Holes in the street are never repaired
- Need for 3-way lights at intersections
- People are falling in streets
- When it’s raining at 117th Street lots of water accumulates on the street
- Need timer on sidewalk crossing to show how much time is left to get across; and the time should be extended because people don’t have enough time now
- There are no park benches but there was overwhelming support for some to be installed
- Very sunny in the area so there’s a need for more trees and shade (the Go Green Project will add more trees soon?)
- People do not curb their dogs which is nasty and makes it difficult to walk around the neighborhood
- Need more buses

Social inclusion / dynamics

- The changing neighborhood scares them about the future: the renovated and new buildings going up are for the rich but nothing for them – “Where are we going?” asked one older woman
- Once children get married they leave the community because they want a better life and there’s nothing for them here (most of the seniors have children who have moved away)
- There’s nothing for older people here; no jobs or anything. But once you’re here you have to stay.
- People need to look after each other and check-in with one another more

Health

- Health is a major problem in the community such as asthma (linked to pollution in the community) and the prevalence of diabetes caused by the concentration of fast food options but few healthy choices; the closing of supermarkets in the neighborhood, and the high cost of healthy foods
- Need a better system for when people are discharged from the hospital so that people are alerted and can keep tabs on their peers

What do you like to do?

- Pool, Bingo, dominoes, theater, laughing, trips, going to parks, singing, etc.

How do you get information?

- Television such as channel 41, C-SPAN
- Radio such as NY1 and 1010 WINS