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Age-friendly New York City Community Forum Notes
VISIONS at Selis Manor – Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Speaker of the City Council Christine Quinn
April 21, 2008

VISIONS at Selis Manor is an adapted learning environment and meeting place for youth, adults and seniors who are blind or visually impaired.

OUTDOOR SPACES

- Difficulties with the condition of streets and sidewalks - :”I cannot go for a walk in my neighborhood” – because repairs are needed on sidewalks and streets, and need for more time to cross the streets. (Timing on traffic lights needs to be extended.) “I age every time I have to cross the street.”

SAFETY

- “Where are the police officers to assist us?”

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Public education on behalf of the blind, the deaf, and handicapped is needed.
- “ How to help and to assist seems unknown .”
- Education of service people through their unions - ongoing , continuing education - education should include representation from the impaired community itself on “What is it is like to be blind and handicapped.”
- It is a question of attitude and behavior on the part of service personnel.

HOUSING

- Need for ramps.
- Special Section 8 for the aged, blind and disabled should be established and available. Special housing facilities for the blind should be planned .

- Expanded and more visible NORC services for the frail elderly who are both disabled, blind and poor.

EMPLOYMENT

- “ 75% of the blind population is not working”; this could be changed through careful planning and resources.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

- Some action requested on containing the ever-increasing cost of care; seniors fear bankruptcy.