

Westchester County Board of Legislators
COMMITTEE OF GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY
Minutes: December 11, 2007

MEMBERS: **Chair:** Bernice Spreckman; Legislators: Jose Alvarado, Lois Bronz, William Burton, Ken Jenkins, George Oros, Clinton Young and William Ryan.

ATTENDANCE: (See attached sign-in sheet) **STAFF:** RVinci, NRentz.

Meeting called to order at 10:10 pm.

Westchester County Corrections/Probation Commissioner Rocco Pozzi was invited to discuss the issue of Gang/Youth Violence. Commissioner Pozzi, along with Rod Quinn – Director of Program Development, spoke about current programs for young offenders at the Westchester County jail and the statistics about their success. Local elected officials have also been invited to participate in this meeting about exploring solutions to help combat gang/youth violence.

Handouts and presentation materials are attached.

White Plains has a transitional program (re-entry) run by WP Police and a panel of support personnel (once inmates are released from jail they are made aware of programs and services they can receive from WP).

Legislator Spreckman asks how we can get other cities to participate and is told they need the support of the local police. White Plains Police approached corrections/probation.

Commissioner Pozzi states that the three biggest problems facing those who are released from jail are housing, treatment and employment.

The Westchester County Department of Social Services has been active in helping provide services to individuals before they are released.

Legislator Burton asks for a checklist from Commissioner Pozzi to outline the impediments that inmates face when being released from jail.

Sen. Oppenheimer and Thompson vow to work together in getting the state to provide more aid and help remove obstacles like getting State ID and licenses.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm. Motion made by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Spreckman.

-AUDIO MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST-