

# WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

## MINUTES

January 15, 2019

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Mary Reilly, Donna Sterling, Philip Walker  
Absent: Rosemary Cleary, Ray Guenter, Ellen Phillips  
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Gina Marino, Keren Paquette  
Guests: Sheila Diamond, Kevin Farmer, Pamela Hilborn, Nikia Newkirk, Rep. Derek Slap

Chairman Phil Walker called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

The Minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

### ***Chairman's Report***

Phil Walker welcomed the guests: Rep. Derek Slap and Nikia Newkirk, the new social worker at West Hartford Social Services. Phil attended the meeting on the opioid crisis. The drop box at the police station is now in place.

### ***Rep. Derek Slap***

Rep. Slap spoke about the new dynamic at the Capitol; there is a new bipartisanship tone. Items for the new session: tax revenues, money in the rainy-day fund; \$700 million hole in the budget. On the table are: tolls, sports gaming, minimum wage, earned family leave, marijuana, early voting, vaping, teachers' retirement, regionalization, etc. Slap has introduced a bill (supported by the Seniors Job Bank and AARP) prohibiting dates of birth and graduation on job applications.

### ***West Hartford Social Services***

Keren Paquette introduced Nikia Newkirk, the new social worker, who will work with elderly and adult clients. The holiday initiatives were successful: over 40 families served for Thanksgiving and more than 300 families and homebound for Christmas. Because the Dial-A-Ride contract is out for bid, surveys have been sent to users for feedback. Energy Assistance is in full swing.

### ***Transportation***

Kevin Farmer noted that there are 4 new volunteers including 2 drivers and 2 Board members. The annual appeal is at 60% of goal. Outreach to towns other than West Hartford continues.

### ***Seniors Job Bank***

Sheila Diamond reported that in 2018 there were 1300 requests, an 8% increase over 2017. 80% of the requests come from West Hartford. 115 requests have come from businesses non-profits and towns. A new website is coming. There is a change in the way matches are made – more customizing.

### ***Senior Centers***

Reports attached.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lynn Silverman, Volunteer Recording Secretary