

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

Ms. Julie Dent is serving as the Community Board #4 Chairperson for the 2016-2017 year. Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, January 20, 2016 monthly Community Board meeting.

Ms. Julie Dent introduced the first public hearing item

- Public Hearing Item -

1) Rheingold Project – All Year Management, Mr. Mike Altman: Evergreen Avenue between Melrose & Noll Streets

Mr. Joel Greenfield presented due the absence of Mr. Mike Altman. They have started preparing the site for construction as they acquired the property in October 2015. Mr. Greenfield stated that he and his associates have met with Councilman Antonio Reynoso's office on more than one occasion, meeting with Kevin and Daniel who work for the Councilman. Mr. Greenfield stated that he is interested in meeting the needs of the community.

Questions:

Ms. Whitted: What is the plan & location of the project?

Mr. Greenfield stated that the final plans are not final as of yet and it is still in the approval process. There will be two buildings with approximately 900 units on 160,000 sq. ft. The buildings will be located on Melrose Street/Evergreen Avenue and Noll Street. There will be parking for cars and bicycles on the site.

As discussed with the Rheingold Coalition the company Mr. Greenfield said is committed to allocate 20% of the units to affordable housing.

Ms. Anne Guiney: The Community Board voted on having at least 30% of the units to go for affordable housing and the board feels very strongly about that. That is the only reason why the board voted in favor of the zoning change.

Mr. Robert Camacho: Stated that the Community Board will not accept anything less than 30% of the housing to be given for affordable housing, not the 20% that the city is already giving.

Ms. Martha Brown: Instructed Mr. Greenfield to come back to the Community Board when he has something in writing and when he has prepared what he is going to say to the board. You are here before the board with no paperwork. You have nothing to let the board know what he is planning to do with this project. We are intelligent people here Ms. Brown stated, I am sure you would not be able to do this to another Community Board.

Mr. Greenfield said that he will come back before the board with whatever they would like for him to bring back to the next meeting.

District Manager: Stated that he should bring back information regarding the affordability, sizes, and the AMI and the 30%.

The board and some in attendance had a problem with the parking of trucks on Stanwix Street where the trucks are there 4:00am idling until 7:00am when they start to work. This has caused the crosswalk by PS 145 on Noll Street to not be safe for the children to cross the street. Big trucks are blocking the view for the children to cross safely.

Mr. Joel Greenfield: Stated that this issue was brought to his attention last night and this morning and they are working on it.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent in addressing Mr. Greenfield: We whole hearted embrace housing in our community. Moreover we embrace respect. I do not think that you would do this in other communities. I am asking you that if you would like to continue doing business in our community that you have to respect the residents. Showing up 4am in the morning is very disrespectful. We have a lot of working people in Bushwick. We have children. If you have a big trucks blocking corners this is a safety hazard. Then you also have truck blocking driveways, which causes people to be late for work or from taking their children to school. Again we have children, these big trucks cannot see our children. This will block our children from getting to school because education is the key and we want our children to be educated.

I do not think that you would get away with this in another community. Respect Bushwick, just like any other community!! Please do not come here 4:00am in the morning. We are watching you. Not only are we watching you, but anyone that comes to Bushwick. Anyone that comes to Bushwick will have to come the right way. They must come with dignity and respect. Let's do it the right way. You indicated that you were getting complaints. I think you should have addressed these complaints already. You should not come here to hear it at the Community Board's meeting. Tonight you should have indicated to us how you are progressing to address the concerns that you have heard. You should be telling us, 1) How many complaints have you received, 2) when did they start and 3) when are you going to put things into action to correct the problem.

Mr. Joel Greenfield: It is difficult to tell you what we are going to do to solve the problem because we have not come to a final conclusion yet. Since these trucks come from Pennsylvania they have to get here early because they are coming from a distance. We are trying to change from where they leave from to a local location so that they would not have to get here so early. They are here early because they are trying to beat the traffic. The truckers are not our employees they are subcontractors.

The District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted in addressing Mr. Greenfield: I take offense to this. I am sure that this is not your first project. I know that in order for you to have a construction site you must get permits. Your permits allocate the time you should begin working. Now if you have trucks at any site idling at 4:00am to me that is the start of your work day. Therefore, you are in opposition and you are illegally doing that. So rather than you and your subcontractor, which you hired and who you are responsible for, you should have someone their stopping that job that early in the morning. That is the way it works at most jobs and we are going to make sure that it works that way on this job. Because we are not going to allow this to set the precedence for the next job. This is enough!!!

We want the problem to be solved by tomorrow morning. Ms. Whitted instructed anyone seeing the trucks still there in the morning at 4am to call 311 and to call her at 9am. She will make sure that the right agencies are there to address the problem if they are there.

Mr. Greenfield: "Thank you for your constructive words, I am looking forward to be able to work closely and to address all your issues and I am confident in our team and I know the willingness of the company is to be working closely with the community and I want to address all of the boards concerns, Thank you".

- 2) NYC Department of Consumer Affairs: New Commuter Benefits Law: Artee Seemanagel
www.nyc.gov/commuterbenefits

NYC's Commuter Benefits Law took effect on January 1, 2016. Under the law, for-profit and non-profit employers with 20 or more full-time non-union employees in New York City must offer their full-time employees the opportunity to use pre-tax income to purchase qualified transportation fringe benefits. The law is based on the Internal Revenue Code that authorizes pre-tax commuter programs, which benefits employers and employees.

By taking advantage of the commuter benefits program employers can save by reducing their payroll taxes. The more employees who sign up for transportation benefits, the more the employers can save. Employers can also attract and retain employees by offering transportation benefits. Employees can lower their monthly expenses by using pre-tax income to pay for their commute.

You can also call 311 if you have questions concerning the program.

The Chairperson, Ms. J. Dent concluded the Public Hearing and introduced the Community Board meeting. She asked the District Manager, Ms. N. Whitted to conduct the first roll call.

First Roll Call, 7:05PM: 27 Members Present this constitute a quorum.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. Ms. Annette Spellen motioned to accept the agenda as written. It was second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor. Motion moved.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month minutes with any necessary corrections. Mr. Robert Camacho motioned to accept the previous minutes with any necessary corrections. It was second by Ms. Gladys Puglla. All members present were in favor. Motion moved.

Chairperson's Report, Ms. Julie Dent, 7:08PM:

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent thanked all in attendance for coming to the Community Board #4's January 20, 2016 Public monthly meeting.

Ms. Dent asked that the Elected Officials and / or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Jaclyn Reyes Representing Assemblyman Eric Martin Dilan, 366 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-386-4576
- 2) Celeste Loen Representing Councilman Rafael Espinal, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
- 3) Tahirah Moore Representing Mayor Bill de Blasio, Brooklyn Borough Director CAU, 253 Broadway, NY 212-788-1369 office #, 646-830-8035 Cell
Announcement: 1) City workers and Non-for-profit workers can now receive \$15.00 per hour minimum wage. 2) Paid Parental Leave (PPL) if you have adopted a child or have given birth to a child you can now receive 6 weeks of pay. This will allow you time to bond with the child.
- 4) Ana Chireno, Community Liaison, Representing The City of New York Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, One Centre Street, NY, NY 10007, 212-669-3568
- 5) Yamilky Crisostomo Representing the Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3809
- 6) Daniel Langenbucher Representing Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, 718-443-1205

City, State or Federal Agency representatives introduced themselves and stated their respective contact information such as your address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Deputy Inspector Max Tolentino, 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue
- 2) Det. Damarys Franco, 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 3) PO Prezzano, 83rd Pct.

- 4) Maggie Mangual, Program Manager - Wyckoff Heights Hospital, Sexual Health Behavior, 718-508-4669
- 5) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch, 360 Irving Ave., 718-628-8378
- 6) Connie Melendez, Puerto Rican Bar Assoc. Attorney

On January Fourth Ms. Dent and Ms. Whitted attended a birthday celebration for board member Ms. A. Hansley. It was her 90th birthday.

Ms. Dent welcomed back Mr. Robert Camacho who had surgery.

On January 16th our very own Ms. Nadine Whitted was honored by the Triumphed Full Gospel Assembly Inc. The fund raiser was held at the Glen Tower Terrace. It was an all-white affair. Our Deputy Inspector Tolentino was there along with Detective Franco.

Membership Information: Applications for appointment and re-appointment

Applications for appointment and re-appointment for the community board are now available. Applications can now be submitted online for the first time in the borough's history. The application deadline for those interested in being re-appointed or appointed this year is Monday, February 15th.

Mayor Bill De Blasio's affordable housing plan has financed 40,000 apartments so far, enough for 100,000 New Yorkers.

Notably features:

- Most new affordable housing ever built in one year
- New homes for low-income households, seniors, homeless families
- Preservation to keep tenants in affordable-homes in fast-changing neighborhoods

To meet the goals of Housing New York, the Mayor doubled the capital funding for HPD, and most recently, in the ten-year capital plan included nearly \$7.5 billion for affordable housing, and more than \$1 billion in funding for the parks, libraries, road construction and other infrastructure necessary to support neighborhood growth and new housing opportunities.

Progress in 2015 included:

More apartments for the formerly homeless: Through new programs such as: HomeStretch" that created a pathway from shelter to permanently affordable housing, HPD, HDC and the Department of Homeless Services [partnered to help stem the homelessness crisis and return families to stable housing.. 1,618 apartments for the formerly homeless were financed in 2015, bringing the two-year total to 2,462.

More housing for seniors on fixed incomes: New programs, including the senior affordable rental Apartments (SARA) program increased the new construction and renovation of affordable housing for very low-income senior citizens. 1,087 such apartment were financed last year, bring the two-year total to 2,722.

More apartments for the very lowest families: HPD and HDC's new Extremely Low and Low income Affordability (ELLA) program kicked into high gear, creating more housing opportunities for families with the lowest incomes – those making less than \$23,000 for a family of three. 1,081 such units were financed last year, bringing the two-year total to 2,000.

The first-ever M/WBE Affordable Housing Pipeline: To ensure an increase role for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) firms building affordable housing, the City launched its first ever M/WBE request for proposals, soliciting bids on six new projects across the city. Learn more at nyc.gov/housing.

Brooklyn District Attorney – Ken Thompson – Office of Public Engagement

Brooklyn Man Sentenced to 20 years in prison for hate crime against transgendered woman in Bushwick.

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson announced on 1-13-2016 that a 26 year old man (Mashawn Sonds) was sentenced to 20 years in prison following his conviction last month on charges of first-degree assault as a hate crime for striking a 29 years old transgendered woman in the head with a two by four piece of Plexiglas, causing severe injuries. The defendant was convicted on December 18, 2015, a following a jury trial. This was the first trial conviction secured by the DA’s Hate Crimes Unit, which was created last year and is part of the District Attorney’s Civil Rights Bureau.

The crime took place on Bushwick Avenue, near Halsey Street when the 29 year old transgendered woman was walking with a gay male friend when she was approached by the defendant and others, with one of them yelling anti-gay epithets. As she tried to get away he threw the Plexiglas and struck her in the head. The victim was knocked unconscious, began seizing and suffered profuse bleeding from the back of her head. She sustained a traumatic brain injury, underwent surgery to her skull and will likely suffer permanent injuries.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Funding has been approved for the construction of a comfort station at Green Central Knoll Park. Funding has been approved for the reconstruction of Thomas Boyland Park.

City of New York

The City of New York wat to celebrate you and your baby. Join First Lady Chirlane McCray and Deputy Mayor Richard Buery for a NYC Baby Shower on Sunday, February 6, 2016 at 10am to 1pm. Location: New York Public Library – Celeste Bartos Room, 5th Avenue at 42nd Street, New York, NY Please RSVP. There will be food, entertainment and activities for you and your family to enjoy. There will also be information on how your baby can experience all the best that NYC has to offer!!!

The District Manager, 7:26PM

Meetings that the District Manager attended:

January 11, 2016

Mayor De Blasio’s affordable Housing Plan Financing of 40,000 – Apartments thus far, that is enough for 100,000 New Yorkers.

Borough	New Construction HNY Starts to Date	Preservation HNY Starts To Date	HNY Starts To Date
Manhattan	3,201	11,159	14,360
Bronx	4,628	6,385	11,013
Brooklyn	4,958	6,888	11,846
Queens	883	823	1,706
Staten Island	259	1,020	1,279
Total Plan to Date	13,929	26,275	40,204

Affordability	AMI%	Income Range 3-Person Household	Calendar Year 2015 Starts	HNY Starts since January 2014
Extremely Low	0-30%	= or - or \$23,300	1,116	2,000
Very Low	31-50%	\$23,301-\$38,850	2,381	4,223
Low	51-80%	\$38,851-\$62,150	10,528	24,538
Moderate	81-120%	\$62,151-\$93,250	1,721	2,396

Middle	121-165%	\$93,251-\$128,200	5,197	6,830
Other	Super	N/A	88	218
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Total			21,041	40,204

January 12, 2016

Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee

Discussed the result of the Bushwick Community Bicycle Planning that took place during the past year. Planning involved Community Outreach and Engagement, Data Collection and Evaluation, Street Network Limitations and Opportunities and Potential Routes and Facility type. A presentation will be made at the February meeting and the 2016 Proposed Bicycle Routes will be presented.

January 19, 2016

83rd Precinct Community Council General Meeting: UJIMA CWT, BCPP, & 83rd PCT. School Team Chat & Chew – January 28th 5-7, 484 Knickerbocker Avenue. All teens are welcomed.

Other Issues

2016 list of Block off dates for street events

Committee Meetings:

Environmental Protection/Transportation (EPT), Eliseo Ruiz, Committee Chairperson: Meeting held January 12, 2016, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 6PM

Met with the NYC Department of Transportation - Bushwick Community Bicycle Planning and they will make a presentation at the next board meeting in February.

Announcements: 7:50PM

Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Borough Presidents in Partnership with the NYC Department of Finance and NYC Tax Commission Invite You to a Notice of Property Value Workshop Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 6-8PM, Brooklyn Borough Hall Courtroom, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. At the workshop you can:

- Consult with the Department of Finance or Tax Commission to discuss your property
- Ask questions about your property’s market and assessed values
- Learn how to dispute your property’s assessed value
- Learn how to get your property description changed, e.g. number of units in your building or square footage
- Learn about exemptions and how to apply for them

To RSVP, call 718-802-3700 or email: cassistance@brooklynbp.nyc.gov

Join Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams as he toasts Couples Together 50 Years or more. Honoring their commitment to love and longevity. An afternoon of Jazz, Tapsnap Photos, Dancing and Lunch. Friday, February 12, 2016, 11am to 3pm, Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. You must RSVP no later than January 29, 2016. RSVP 718-802-3530 or on the website at www.Brooklyn-usa.org/golden-couples. Seating will not be available for early arrivals. Buses: B25, B26, B38, B41, B52 and B103. Brooklyn Borough Hall is ADA accessible

BP President Eric L Adams invites you to attend a free workshop series on: Youth Organization Capacity Building. Learn about writing a business plan, grant writing, technology, social media, and other tools that will help your organization reach and service Brooklyn’s youth. Thursday, February 18, 2016, 6-8PM. Brooklyn Borough Hall Community Room, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Future workshop dates: Thursday – 5/12/16 and 8/18/2016. RSVP at 718-802-3531 or email: programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov

Presidents Eric L. Adams and the Weeksville Heritage Center Present: A Walk In History Clergy Tour & Breakfast. Thursday. February 25, 2016, 11am Program 11:45am Tour
Weeksville Heritage Center, 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11233, www.weeksvillesociety.org
The Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn's largest African-American cultural institution, is a multidisciplinary museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 19th century African-American community of Weeksville, Brooklyn – one of America's first free black communities.
RSVP: gmonrose@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or 718-802-4488, www.Brooklyn-us.org

Eric L. Adams presents Black History Month 2016 – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6-9PM. Honoring African-Americans Born, raised and growing up in Brooklyn. RSVP: 718-802-4042

Access to Legal Service 2016: Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams In partnership with Legal Services NYC (Brooklyn Branch) and the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. will offer free legal service.

2nd Wednesday of every month between 2pm and 5pm. Foreclosure Intervention/Prevention by Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyer's Project, Inc.

Every Thursday between 2pm and 5pm, housing matters and elder law by Legal Services NYC (Brooklyn Branch)

At Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Room G-80, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment to get free legal assistance. Appointments are requires. Walk-ins will only be seen based on availability. The last appointment for the day is at 4:15pm. www.brooklyn-usa.org

DeKalb Library: Save Money, E-File Your Taxes for Free!!! Our online filing program is the free, safe and accurate way to file your tax return. E-file to get your refund faster! If your income is under \$62,000 you qualify to receive FREE ONLINE TAX RETURN FILING ASSISTANCE. In cooperation with the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) volunteers from the New York State Tax Department will be on site to guide you through tax preparation software as you prepare and electronically file your federal and state income tax returns at no charge. Assistance is available at the following Brooklyn Public Library location:

DeKalb Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221. Mondays, February 1st through April 11th 10am-4pm. There will be no Tax Assistance on Monday, March, 25, 2016.

Visit <http://www.bklynlibrary.org/> or www.tax.ny.gov or call 311 to learn more.

Hope Gardens Community Outreach – Answer the Community Survey! Share your opinions on Hope Gardens Moving Forward

Learn about local services, resources & city-wide changes in NYCHA & affordable housing. Answer the survey online at www.hopegardenscommunity.org

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer cordially invites you to attend a Faith Based Tax Workshop. Come and hear from: The U.S. Internal Revenue Service, New York City Department of Buildings, NYC Department of Finance and New York City Department of Environmental Protection Presentations will address the following: NYC property taxes and exemptions and NYC DEP exemptions

Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street North, Mezzanine Level, NY, NY 10007, Thursday, February 4, 2016. Doors open 8:30am. Please RSVP by January 28, 2016, call 212-669-4466

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer cordially invites you to Trailblazers, Program & Award Ceremony in honor of African American History Month, Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:30-8:30pm.

Medgar Ever College, AB1 Dining Hall, 2nd Floor, 1638 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225 at the corner of Crown Street.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting Adjourned 8:05PM