

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

Ms. Julie Dent called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, June 16, 2010 Community Board meeting at 7:01pm.

The Chairperson then asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted call the first roll.

Roll Call: 26 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Saundria Simmons and second by Ms. Martha Brown. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month's minutes will be laid over until September.

Chairperson's Report:

Although this is the last meeting prior to the board's summer break the chairperson assured those in attendance that if necessary the board will be called in to convene on urgent matters.

The Chairperson then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and give out their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz' Office, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 2) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Dilan, 786 Knickerbocker Ave., 718-573-1726
- 3) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 4) William Harris – Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, 53rd Assembly District, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 5) Alejandro Echeverri – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141

Ms. Dent thanked Community Board's #4's Executive Officers and the Committee Chairpersons who are actually community leaders who have taken up controversial issues, hosts neighborhood parades, work with baseball organizations, travel to senior citizens centers, discuss and work with NYS Liquor Authority Applications and much more. Ms. Dent acknowledged that their role as Chairperson has not been an easy one. The Chairperson handed out to each Committee Chairperson a Certificate of Appreciation as a small token of her appreciation for the work that they have performed over the past year.

- 1) Elvena Davis – Civic and Religious Committee Chairperson
- 2) Odolph Wright – Economic Development Committee Chairperson and Parliamentarian
- 3) Eliseo Ruiz – Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee Chairperson
- 4) Deborah Brown – Health Hospitals & Human Services Committee Chairperson
- 5) Martha Brown – Housing and Land Use Committee Chairperson and 1st Vice-Chairperson
- 6) Austen Martinez – Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson and 2nd Vice-Chairperson
- 7) Barbara Smith – Public Safety Committee Chairperson
- 8) Raymond Yarally – Sanitation Committee Chairperson
- 9) Victoria Fernandez – Senior Citizens Committee Chairperson
- 10) Virgie Jones – Youth and Education Committee Chairperson and Corresponding Secretary

The Chairperson congratulated PO Damarys Franco who was honored at the 83rd Precinct Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2010. The Chairperson stated that the Board love and appreciate her for all of the hard work that she is doing for the people of Bushwick.

Ms. Italia Guerrero from the Brooklyn Borough President's Office representing the Honorable Marty Markowitz presented Board Members who had excellent meeting attendance last year with a Perfect Attendance Award:

1. Deborah Brown
2. Martha Brown
3. Ms. Avellar Hansley
4. Mr. Cyril Joseph
5. Raul Rubio
6. Ms. Barbara Smith
7. Odolph Wright

Mayor M. Bloomberg and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz will have the Community Board Orientation – Swearing in ceremony for all Brooklyn Community Board Members on Monday, June 28, 2010. Registration: 5:30pm; Program: 6:00pm Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

The Community Board has been assigned the following new board members:

Illuminda (Lucy) Belardo
Sharlene Moore
Angelina Rodriguez
Luisa Jose – Olea

Each member of the board received a set of Community Board #4 By-laws attached to the chairpersons report. Each board was asked to familiarize themselves with the operational procedures of the board. The board member contact information has been updated for the board members to have. Board members were asked to return their committee selection form to the District Manager or her staff. This information will not only determine which committee the board member will be assign to but it will also allow the district office to update contact information.

The Chairperson attended a meeting at the Brooklyn Borough Board on June 1, 2010

Items Discussed:

- The opening of the Brooklyn Sheraton Hotel at 228 Duffield Street between Fulton and Willoughby Streets located in the downtown Brooklyn area. The 25 story building will have 321 guest rooms and adds another hotel to a growing trend of accommodation options in Downtown Brooklyn.
- Brooklyn Bridge Park has opened a beautiful multi-use park area, the first of several to be enjoyed by residents from all over Brooklyn. The park between Atlantic Avenue and the Manhattan Bridge features tree lined paths and grass-covered rolling hills. It is a nice place for families to take their children or just to enjoy some fresh air.
- Brooklyn Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Inc. is a Brooklyn based cultural organization founded in 1954 and is Brooklyn's sole professional orchestra. Their mission is to integrate; multi-faceted music education, performance and community engagement to service the needs of the diverse neighborhoods of Brooklyn. In May of 2007 the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Create, their partner was selected by New York City to renovate a de-commissioned firehouse at 299 Degraw Street in Brooklyn Community Board #6 district. The firehouse is a 3600 square feet facility which will be leased by the Brooklyn Philharmonic for the NYC-Economic Development Corporation. This project will be constructed in phases. Once renovated it will house two street performance/community event spaces and administrative offices.

June 4, 2010- Brooklyn Borough Hall hosted an Auction for the Soul Tigers Marching Band. The Soul Tigers are from the East New York section of Brooklyn and they march in the Community Board #4's Parade every year. The Soul Tigers will be the entertainment for National Night-Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 3rd 2010 at the Maria Hernandez Park. The Soul Tigers would like to go to Africa and they needed money to get there. Marty Markowitz took on the project, and donations were made by different organizations. The Soul Tigers will now have the opportunity to visit children and adults in Africa.

June 10, 2010 – Community Board #4's Civic and Religious/Youth and Education Committees hosted their 5th Annual Parade which was well attended by the community. Ms. Dent commended Ms. Elvena Davis, the Chairperson of the Civic and Religious Committee for her leadership and organization in help making the Parade a success. She also thanked her for her commitment and devotion to the community and most of all for caring for the people of the community.

The Chairperson also thanked Ms. Virgie Jones the Chairperson of the Youth and Education Committee for her outstanding leadership in making the parade a success.

Pictures were taken which depict the wonderful youngster being honored, community participants and the volunteers who have supported the event over the years. The Board is looking forward to next year's event.

The Chairperson thanked and commended the Grand Marshal of the Parade Steven Ochoa who at a young age is already devoted to the community. Mr. Ochoa was neatly dressed for the parade wearing a very nice suit. Ms. Dent thanked him for his professionalism in the work he performed at the monthly board meeting this past year. Steven will be going to Casanova College located Upstate New York. The Chairperson and the District Manager together with the board members wished Mr. Steven Ochoa the best as he goes off to college and in all of his future endeavors.

Ms. Dent thanked the team members of the Civic and Religious & the Youth and Education Committees for their support and hard work in making the 5th Annual Parade a success. She thanked each donor for their support.

Thanks also went to Mr. Odolph Wright for his hard work cooking the food on the grill for the parade.

Ms. Dent thanked all of the Elected Officials from the Assembly, Council, Congress and State for kindly giving certificates to the parade's honorees.

The children at Audrey Johnson Daycare Learning Center drew and painted pictures that were shown at the STROREFRONT Gallery in Bushwick. Ms. Dent thanked Ms. Deborah Brown for allowing the children to have an enjoyable time and for allowing them the opportunity to show their work.

District Managers Report:

Meetings Attended:

May 20, 2010 – Youth & Education / Civic & Religious Committee

May 21, 2010 – Attended an event sponsored by the 83rd Pct. Community Council, "Mother and Fathers Celebration at 218 Wyckoff Avenue

June 1, 2010 – Restructuring of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Mr. DeCosta Headly and Ms. Donna Jones spoke of the creation of opportunities for the community at the Hospital. They are attempting to restructure the Community Advisory Board and they are interested in identifying with community concerns about health care and the growth of the hospital. The new board President is Gary Goffner-Pharmacist of Kraupner's Pharmacy on Knickerbocker Avenue.

The newly redesigned emergency room grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on July, 8, 2010.

June 1, 2010 – Met with Sam Massol of the NYC Coalition Against Tobacco Sales concerning involving organizations in the campaign to reduce tobacco smoke and sales. He indicated that his agency is targeting communities that can help with get the word out. He is looking to partner with groups in the community.

June 1, 2010 – Parks and Recreation & Public Safety Committees

June 2, 2010 - Executive Committee Meeting

June 3, 2010 – Civic and Religious & Youth and Education Committee Meeting

June 4, 2010 – Auction sponsored by the Brooklyn Borough Presidents Office

June 7, 2010 – Preparing/Shopping for the Parade

June 10, 2010 - The 5th Annual parade sponsored by Community Board #4's Civic and Religious Committee & the Youth and Education Committee. The parade was a success all the planning and preparation yielded a very organized and orderly event.

A special debt of thanks goes to all of the sponsors:

- Bogopa
- State Farm Insurance Agency
- CEB Realty
- Kikiriki Live Poultry

The Community Board also thanked the Soul Tigers Marching Band, NYPD 83rd PCT., Elected Official for providing the marvelous citations and proclamations for the honorees.

June 11, 2010 – RBSC Inc. sponsored a Community Charette concerning the design features of the planned Knickerbocker Plaza and the Streetscape and Façade design along Knickerbocker Avenue.

Key items for the Plaza:

Construction to start summer 2010, Due to sewer/utility issues the DEP most likely will not allow trees to be planted on the Knickerbocker Plaza site, and a public work of art will be placed at the plaza.

June 14, 2010 – Economic Development Committee Meeting

June 15, 2010 – The 83rd Pct. Community Council Meeting: The Council awarded citation for appreciation to PO Damarys Franco the Community Affairs Officer. Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes and Chief Nelson of Patrol Bureau Brooklyn North were also present.

Other issues:

MTA - Due to maintenance work the L Subway line will not be operating from Brooklyn to Manhattan on Monday July 5, 2010 from 5am through 5am on Tuesday, July 6, 2010. Alternative service will be available.

MTA has a schedule of subway station closings, booths reductions hours and the elimination of station customer assistance locations. Fortunately, the Bushwick community district has no locations listed; however other nearby areas will be affected. The MTA will soon post the location on their website at www.mta.info. There will be public hearings on the proposed booth and kiosk closures next month. Notices of the times and locations for the hearing will be advertised.

The Community Board has processed 83 street activity applications to date. All are advised to adhere to the rules of the permit in order to avoid not having an event in the future.

Street Closure for crane operations on:

Willoughby Avenue from Wilson to Central Avenues on Thursday June 24 and Friday June 25

Linden Street from Central to Wilson Avenues on Wednesday and Thursday June 23 & 24 for 9:00am to 5:00pm

Halsey Street from Knickerbocker to Wilson Avenues on Saturday June 19 from 9:00AM to 7:00PM

Health Bulletin: Protect Against West Nile Virus – West Nile virus is spread to people by infected mosquitoes. West Nile Virus can cause serious or even fatal illness, especially in people older than 50. Protect yourself against WNV by limiting exposure to mosquitoes and control mosquitoes near your home. For more information: www.nyc.gov/health/wnv or contact 311 and ask for information on West Nile Virus

Bleecker Street – A vacant house that sits between two senior citizens homes has caught on fire. The board has received several complaints about this house and has tried to get the house sealed. The seniors that are located adjacent to this house are terrified of the danger that it possess. The house has been referred to HPD, however the District offices is going to ask the District Attorney's Office to get involved under their elder abuse/elder concern program that they have.

Committee Reports:

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Odolph Wright - Chairperson: Meeting held Monday, June 14, 2010 at 6:00pm, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

1) Financial Institution: Bank of America will have a site on Knickerbocker Avenue. The committee would like to invite them to a future meeting.

2) Illegal Vendors: The Merchant representatives in attendance indicated that the illegal vendors along the commercial strip are hurting their business and the food vendor's food could be putting the public at risk.

In order to make vendors legal they are required to be licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs and/or the Department of Health.

The committee will look into getting a list of legal vendors from the Department of Consumer Affairs.

The Committee Chairperson asked the board members to fill out a street vendor questionnaire and return it to him by the end of the meeting.

Joint Meeting: Parks & Recreation Committee, Mr. Austen Martinez – Chairperson

Public Safety Committee, Ms. Barbara Smith - Chairperson: Meeting held Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:00pm, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Items Discussed:

The two committees met with Mr. Tony Rosa from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Deputy Inspector Stephen Capasso, Police Officer Damarys Franco, Custodian of Bushwick Campus, Mr. Andrew Samburg and Bushwick Campus Safety Officer, Mr. Dye.

The Board's office is in receipt of a petition from residents surrounding the Bushwick Campus and Bushwick Playground regarding the allege complaint that the Soccer Players are using the park as a urinal and garbage dump. Other complaints are that the players are very loud and are conducting illegal activities on the premises. The petition requests that the park is locked at dusk.

The representatives of the Bushwick Campus stated that they were under the impression that the problem associated there had ceased. They noted that the school has issued permits to three leagues:

1. American Junior Soccer League – for adults 18 years & over
Friday – 7:30PM – 11:30PM (indoors)
Saturday – 6:00PM – 12 Midnight
Sunday – 12 Noon – 5:00PM
2. 2nd League (Name not given at the time) Adults
3:00PM – 11:00PM
3. 3rd League – Children Soccer
Tuesday & Thursday 7:00PM – 9:00PM

The NYPD noted that they have received many complaints after the specified times noted. After several conversations concerning noise, drinking and lewd behavior it was stated by Mr. Dye that the permit times will be adjusted to end at the following times:

Sunday through Thursday ending time will be 10:00PM

Friday and Saturday ending time will be 11:00PM

It was also recommended that each permit holder meet with the 83rd Pct. Community Affairs Office so that it can be explained to them what is expected of them.

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation noted that the actual Bushwick Playground will be locked after dusk. NYPD and Community Board #4 will receive copies of permits issued by the school so that if any further complaints are received we will know which league held the permit at the given time.

Election of Officers

Members of the nomination committee are: Nomination Chairperson, Barbara Smith assisted by Victoria Fernandez, Elvena Davis and Mary McClellan

The term for those elected to office will commence on July 1, 2010.

Roll Call: 29 members are present

Nomination results are as follows for service year July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

- 1) For the position of Chairperson: Julie Dent
- 2) For the position of 1st Vice Chairperson: Martha Brown
- 3) For the position of 2nd Vice Chairperson: Austen Martinez
- 4) For the position of Recording Secretary: Saundria Simmons
- 5) For the position of Financial Secretary: Eliseo Ruiz
- 6) For the position of Correspondence Secretary: Virgie Jones
- 7) For the position of Treasurer: Avellar Hansley
- 8) For the position of Parliamentarian: Odolph Wright

Ms. Dent thanked members for having the faith in her to elect her to continue as their leader of Community Board #4. She vows to do her best to represent all the people and members of the community.

Old Business:

William Harris, Representative from Assemblyman Vito Lopez: Several months ago residents from Willoughby Avenue came before the board because they were concern about what they believed to be a halfway house located at 979 Willoughby Avenue. All of the Elected Officials had a hand in trying to get this issued resolved. Mr. Harris was happy to announce that the owner of the property is currently looking for a realtor in order to rent what had become a Sober House. Mr. Harris in behalf of Assemblyman Vito Lopez's Office thanked Community Board #4, Ms. Julie Dent, Ms. Nadine Whitted, and the community residents for working diligently on this problem issue and taking the necessary action. He also thanked Mr. Aaron Short for his help in spreading the word and reporting on this.

New Business:

The District Manager asked that all board members return the committee assignment sheet to her so that the new committee structure could be set up.

Announcements:

United Revival Services, Inc.: Presents - Summer Mentoring Learning Program, reading, math and writing. Call for a registration packet at 917-202-6630

Public Health Solutions: WIC is a Special Supplemental nutrition Program for women, infants and children. Women who have children under the age of 5, pregnant or breast feeding are eligible. Requirement: Proof of Income and proof of address. Applicant must live in New York State.

William Harris: Assemblyman Vito Lopez's Annual Seniors Picnic, July 22, 2010 for seniors 60 years of age and older. The free bus will be leaving from several locations in the Bushwick, Greenpoint and Williamsburg area and will be going to Sunken Meadow Park in Long Island. The bus will be leaving at 7:00am and returning at 4:00pm. For more information please call 718-963-7029.

Steven Ochoa: CEC 32, Award Ceremony meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 6:00pm. Location: PS 274

Buena Vida Annual Health Fair: June 19, 2010, 48 Cedar Street between Evergreen & Myrtle Avenue from 11am to 3pm.

Bushwick Academy of Urban Planning Fundraiser: All donations go to the scholarship fund for seniors, Tandem Bar, 236 Troutman Street, Friday, June 18, 4pm to 11pm. They had T-shirts available for \$15.00, shoes for \$30.00 and buttons for \$1.00 each

Ms. Doris McEldry: Free Math & Reading Program located at 66 Weirfield Street for children ages 1-6. The program will start June 30 to July 30, 2010 for more information and registration call 718-453-0151

Ridgewood Bushwick –Long Island University College Program invites you to their Education Awareness Day on Saturday, June 26, 2010 from 12:00Pm – 5:00PM. Location: Gates Avenue between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues.

Patrol Borough Brooklyn North Harmony Day Picnic: Police and Community coming together to share a day of food and fun! The 81st and 83rd Precincts invite you to Maria Hernandez Park on Thursday, July 8, 2010 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Contact Community Affairs for Information: P.O. Franco / Detective Diaz – 718-574-1697

Barbara Smith, 83rd Precinct Council President: Learn how to use the New Election Machine on July 20, 2010, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue at the precinct parking lot. Time: 1pm-6pm

National Night Out Against Crime, Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at the Maria Hernandez Park (Knickerbocker Avenue & Suydam Street) National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness,
- Generate support for and participation in, local anticrime programs,
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnership
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Giveaways courtesy of Health Plus and free or low cost New York State sponsored Health Insurance for Children & Adults.

NYPD 83rd Precinct Blood Drive, Thursday, June 24, 2010, 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue – Bus Mobile. For more information please contact NYBC at 800-933-2566.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. ID with photo or signature
2. Minimum weight 110 lbs
3. Between 16-75 years of age

King Production in Association with Panache Multi-Service Group proudly Presents A Blast from the past – Coming to Brooklyn Bushwick Community An Evening of Nostalgia performing the music of: The Jacksons, Mary Wells, Wilson Pickett and others, Saturday, June 26, 2010 at Roland Hayes Auditorium - IS 291
Doors open at 6:00pm Tickets in advance: \$20.00, no tickets will be available at the door
For more Information contact Al King at 718-942-2216 or 917-647-8558 / Fred Thompson 718-778-6063

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm