

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, September 15, 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, September 15, 2010 Community Board meeting at 6:40pm.

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

**Roll Call:** 37 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Robert Camacho 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 was accepted by Ms. Elvena Davis and second by Rev. Grace Aytes.

- Correction on May 19, 2010 Minutes agenda Item #1:  
Representatives: Ms. Valerie Vasquez – Director of Public Relations  
Mr. Polanco – HAVA  
Ms. Ellen Giwa – HAVA

These representatives are all employed by the New York City Board of Elections

**Chairperson's Report:**

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all on behalf of Community Board #4 to the 2010-2011 year. She is looking forward to the upcoming year and assured all that the work ahead will prove to be fruitful and beneficial for the community.

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) Avi Siegel – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz' Office, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 2) William Harris – Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, 434 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 718-963-7029
- 3) Sam Pierre – Office of the Mayor – CAU, 212-788-7446

The Chairperson asked that any representatives from any city agency including the NYPD and FDNY, schools, libraries, community based organizations to introduce themselves and give out their respective organization and contact information.

Several representatives from various agencies from community based organization gave their name, organization and telephone #s.

Each board member present received a letter from the chairperson regarding the committee function as well as a list as to which committee each board member is assign to. Committee meetings are open to the public however only committee members are allowed to vote on issues at these meetings. The committee chairpersons were encouraged to establish a set date so that the meetings can be advertised to the public. The public is invited to bring issues to the attention of the board.

**The Chairperson & the Standing Committees consist of the following:**

- 1) Elvena Davis – Civic and Religious Committee Chairperson
- 2) Odolph Wright – Economic Development Committee Chairperson
- 3) Eliseo Ruiz – Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee Chairperson
- 4) Mary McClellan – Health Hospitals & Human Services Committee Chairperson

- 5) Martha Brown – Housing and Land Use Committee Chairperson
- 6) Austen Martinez – Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson
- 7) Barbara Smith – Public Safety Committee Chairperson
- 8) Raul Rubio – Sanitation Committee Chairperson
- 9) Saundria Simmons – Senior Citizens Committee Chairperson
- 10) Virgie Jones – Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

The District host many standing meeting outside of the Community Board #4 meeting, they are:

- The Community Education Council (CEC) for District #32 which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month
- The 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Council Meeting meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month
- The Bushwick Residents Association (BRA) for meeting date and time call (718) 366-3800
- The South Bushwick Residents Association for meeting date and time call (718) 963-3141
- Hope Gardens Residents Association – usually meet the last Monday of the month for further information call (718) 443-8022
- The 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Clergy Council meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10:00am for further information call (718) 574-1697
- Bushwick/Broadway Community Coalition Association meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 871 Bushwick Avenue for further information please contact community board member Ms. Mary McClellan.

The Chairperson encouraged the audience to get in involved, so that knowledge can be exchanged:

Join your block association or start a block association.

Get involved with your child's school.

Help your child with their homework, do not rely solely on the after school programs. Communicate with your child to make sure that they have done their homework because other activities take place at these programs.

This is our community; it is up to us to make it better.

### **District Managers Report:**

The District Manager welcomed all back from a very short summer recess. The fall season is upon us which ushers in much work for the Community Board. Over the summer's recess the Community / City experienced a few items worth mentioning:

NYC – Council Member Dilan committed capital funds for the reconstruction of Bushwick Playground which includes new play ground equipment for toddlers and pre-teens, benches and an adult sitting area. A new colorful spray shower and garden areas with flowering shrubs and ground cover throughout the park will also be included. The project also includes the reconstruction of the basketball courts with new pavement, color seal coat, backboards and a misting station. There will be a new exercise area with new equipment for pull-ups, sit-ups and stretching, as well as new fencing, paving and park lighting.

Council Member Erik Dilan allocated an additional \$200K to reconstruct the playground's comfort station. The project will include a new rood, stalls, windows, the restoration of bricks and accessibility improvements. Over four years ago, the board voted to rename the Bushwick Playground ball field in honor of Mr. Barry Morrow. The renaming is supposed to be a part of that ribbon cutting ceremony. The board will stay close to Council Member Dilan in order to make sure that the renaming becomes a reality.

Council Member Diana Reyna has allocated funds to purchase an Anti-Graffiti Truck for Community Board #1 and #4 in Brooklyn and Community Board #5 in Queens for the Fiscal Year 2011. In the near future a meeting will be scheduled to discuss how this allocation will be best used in the community.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has finally responded to the boards request regarding repairing streets within the district. The following list of locations have been or soon will be milled and paved. (Mill is the process of shaving down the pavement in preparation for paving)

1. George Street Between Evergreen & Knickerbocker Avenues
2. Forrest Street Bet. Central to Flushing Avenues
3. Noll Street between Evergreen to Flushing Avenues
4. Putnam Avenue from Broadway to Wyckoff Avenue
5. Linden Street from Broadway to St. Nicholas Avenue
6. Broadway from Flushing Avenue to Hart Street
7. Cornelia Street from Broadway to Wyckoff Avenue
8. Moffat Street from Broadway to Irving Avenue
9. Jefferson Avenue from Broadway to Wyckoff Avenue
10. Covert Street from Broadway to Irving Avenue

Many other locations have been submitted for paving, however due to the underground conditions, for example trench restoration and DEP problems has prevented the DOT from addressing the roadbed.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – (DOHMH) announced that voluntary HIV testing is now part of routine medical care in the state of New York. As of September 1, 2010, due to a change in New York's State Public Health Law, New York residents receiving health services at most medical facilities should now expect to be offered a voluntary HIV test. With limited exceptions, the new State law requires health care professionals to offer all patients between the ages of 13 to 64 a voluntary HIV test. The law applies to anyone receiving treatment for a non life threatening condition in a hospital, a hospital emergency department or a primary care setting, such as a doctor's office or outpatient clinic.

The new law also simplifies the process for consenting to a voluntary HIV test. Under the state's old law, patients had to provide specific written consent before receiving a test. The newly amended law lets patients give oral consent if the test will produce results within an hour. The patient's consent must be documented in the patient's medical record, and the provider must share seven specified points of information about HIV. Patients must still provide written consent for HIV tests that can now be included in a patient's general consent for routine medical care, as long as the consent form lets patients opt out of HIV testing.

In the future someone from the State or the NYC Department of Health will come and give more information about this new regulation.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) reported that an unusually high number of mosquito pools are testing positive for West Nile Virus throughout the five boroughs, the agency advising all New Yorkers especially those 50 and older to take precautions to avoid bites. This year, the Health Department has recorded more human cases at this point in the season than it has in any other year since 2000. More cases are expected through October. New Yorkers can take simple steps to minimize contact with mosquitoes and prevent infection with West Nile Virus:

- Use an approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus (not for children under three), or products that contain the active ingredient IR3535
- Make sure windows have screens, and repair or replace screens that have tears or holes
- Eliminate any standing water from your property, and dispose of containers that can collect water. Standing water is a violation of the New York City Health Code.
- Report standing water by calling 311 or visiting [www.nyc.gov/health/wnv](http://www.nyc.gov/health/wnv).

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is offering Free Training for Food Service Operators. What the New Restaurant Inspection Grades Mean to You. The Health Department now requires restaurants to prominently post letter grades after they are inspected. To learn more about restaurant grading, register for one of the Department's free workshops.

- 1) September 22, 2010, 2pm-4pm: Queens Library, Auditorium Basement, 40-20 Broadway, Long Island City (English/Spanish Language)
- 2) September 29, 2pm-4pm: TeleLatina Studios, 3835 Ninth Avenue, Manhattan (English/Spanish Language)
- 3) October 13, 2pm-4pm: NYC health Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, 125 Worth Street, Manhattan (English Language)

- 4) October 14, 2pm-4pm: Borough President's Office, Courtroom, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn (English Language)
- 5) October 27, 9am-11am: NYC Health Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, 125 Worth Street, Manhattan (English Language)

To register, go to [www.nyc.gov/health/restaurants](http://www.nyc.gov/health/restaurants) or call 311

New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC): Developing preliminary and final design for school safety improvements at JHS 291, IS383 and PS299. This project will include the construction of sidewalk extensions, modification of sidewalk corner quadrants for installation of pedestrian ramps, and intersection improvements. The District Manager will invite the project manager of each of these projects to the October District Service cabinet Meeting where other city agency representatives will be present to discuss the ramification of these projects within the community.

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) has tailored hours of service to match demand at each of their locations. Branches with high circulation, program attendance and public computer usage will be open for longer hours. These neighborhoods libraries are open in an effort to serve the needs of all, particularly children and families:

Dekalb Library Branch – 790 Bushwick Avenue

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Hours: 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Wednesday Hours: 1:00pm – 8:00pm

Saturday Hours: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Washington Irving Branch – 360 Irving Avenue

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday Hours: 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Wednesday Hours: 1:00pm – 8:00pm

Friday Hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm

NO SATURDAY HOURS

Borough Consultations – Annually Community Boards have an opportunity to meet with high ranking agency representatives to discuss priorities.

The consultation will take place:

Monday, September 27, 2010 – Brooklyn High School of the Arts: New York Police Department – 4:30PM,

Department of Parks & Recreation – 5:00PM & Department of Transportation – 5:30PM

Group Consultation:

Friday, October 8, 2010 – 210 Joralemon Street, room 701 (B)

Department of Buildings - 9:30AM, HRA – 10:30AM, ACS -11:30AM, DHS -12:30PM

Group Consultation:

Friday, October 15, 2010 – 210 Joralemon Street, room 701 (B)

SAN -9:30AM, FDNY -11:00AM

The Community Board #4 office worked very closely with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Community Affairs Unit in coordinating 103 street activity permits along with 2 street closing for Play Streets. Each year the process changes sometime prior to the season and other times during the season. It is the hope of Community Board #4 that we continue to be a part of the process in the future in order to ensure that many of the local concerns are met. Each year the process becomes more centralized than decentralized. The board will keep everyone abreast of all developments as they become available.

The street closing process is not a rubber stamp process. It involves coordination with various agencies such as the Fire Department and Sanitation Department to name a few. The process also involves coordinating the traffic flow and most importantly coordinating with the neighbors at the various locations. The Community Board knows their community and knows what is going on in their community. Community Board #4 also works closely with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. in order to make sure that no street is close due to some criminal activity or for any other reason that they deem to be dangerous. The board hopes that the Mayor's Office does not take this most crucial process away from the Community Boards.

The District Manager attended a workshop over the past summer involving a public plaza that the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council is looking to develop. The Plaza site will be located at the Myrtle/Knickerbocker Avenues Intersection. The Public Plaza will improve the economic environment for the businesses there and increase the safety on the avenue. Once the site is developed there will be a permanent piece of art located there.

Borough commissioner Jules Siegel from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is retiring in the very near future after 37 years of service. Under his reign Community Board #4 had the privilege of recommending which baseball organizations will utilize the district's parks. The board is not sure if this will be a continued process under the new commissioner.

**Old Business:**

Cookie Lopez, resident of Willoughby Avenue between Evergreen & Central Avenues: Thanked Community Board #4 and the Elected Officials for all their help in solving the issues with 979 Willoughby Avenue. The Willoughby Avenue address had originally been built as a condominium but due to no buyers the owner turned the building into a Sober House in which a large number of beds and residents moved in at 1:00 in the morning. Ms. Lopez and other residences from Willoughby Avenue came before the Community Board #4 at their April 2010 meeting asking for help. As a result of the efforts of the Community Board and their Elected Officials Ms. Lopez was please to inform the Board that the building is now being rented and 4 of the apartments have residents living in them.

Ms. Dent thanked the board members for their letters to the Elected Officials and for making this a team effort that lead to success.

Gladys Puglla-Jimenez: Request a sign to be posted at Bushwick Playground located at Putnam Avenue stating the park's time of closing.

**New Business:**

There will be hearing on Thursday, September 21, 2010 at the Brooklyn Museum regarding the NYC Transit Department fare increases. All are encouraged to attend.

The Chairperson thanked Sergeant Duffy from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. and the Police Officer that accompanied him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Austen Martinez: Suggested that Community Board #4 and the community pay a special tribute next year (September 2011) to the Firemen in the District in remembrance for those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001 and to say thank you to those who continue to service the Bushwick area.

Ms. Dent stated that Mr. Martinez recommended an excellent idea and suggested that he head the committee so that it will become a reality.

**Announcements:**

Barbara Smith, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Council President: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

Evelyn Ortiz – New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene: "She's got text4baby", Text BABY to 511411 and get free messages on your cell phone to help you through your pregnancy and your baby's first year. This is a free service of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. For more information call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/health/pregnancy](http://www.nyc.gov/health/pregnancy)

Ms. Beryl Williams – Community Outreach Representative for Brooklyn Hospital Center located at 1280 Dekalb Avenue, 718-455-9000.

Dr. Eva Berrios-Colon – "Immunization Health Fair" at La Providencia Family Medicine Center: Keep Yourself and Brooklyn Healthy. Free Flu Shots on Saturday, October 9, 2010, 11am-2pm, 1280 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11221. Immunizations are available for adults 18 and older. Persons with no health insurance are welcome.

Blood pressure Screenings and information on free or low cost insurance will also be available. For more information call 718-250-8344

The Bushwick Starr presents "The Ring Cycle", Thursday – Sunday October 14-30, 2010. Previews on October 7-10. Location: 207 Starr Street between Wyckoff & Irving Avenues. Tickets are available at [www.thebushwickstarr.org](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org)

Roger Beckford: Beacon Program, IS 296 located at 125 Covert Street after school program Monday-Friday from 4pm-10pm and Saturday 9am-5pm. For more information stop by the office or give them a call: Halsey Middle School Beacon Office (149B), 718-919-4453

Sean Michael Fleming: Bushwick Farmers Market – Announcing: CALABAZAFEST! Located at Maria Hernandez Park Saturday, October 30, 2010 9am-5pm. EcoStation: NY, manager of three Bushwick Farmers' market locations is please to announce a fun and free, cross cultural celebration. CALABAZAFEST will be a celebration of several traditions, reflecting the cultural diverse neighborhood surrounding Maria Hernandez Park. Volunteers are needed. There will be an organizational meeting for volunteers on Saturday, October 9@12:00PM at the market on Knickerbocker Avenue and Starr Street. For more information contact: Sean Michael Fleming at 646-393-9305; [Sean@EcoStationNY.org](mailto:Sean@EcoStationNY.org)

Jason Andrew: STOREFRONT, 16 Wilson Avenue, gallery opening on Friday, September 17, 2010, 6pm – 9pm for more information [www.storefrontbk.com](http://www.storefrontbk.com)

Corwin Carroll: Interested in keeping the 6 day delivery postal service? Contact [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov) and click on contact to let them know.

William Harris, Representative from Assemblyman Vito Lopez: Thanked everyone for coming out to vote on Primary Day.

Volunteers are needed for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays in feeding the seniors and to deliver food to homebound seniors. For more information contact Mr. Harris at 718-963-7029. If you are a senior and would like to have a meal delivered to you on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day you can also call Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center located at 319 Stanhope Street, 718-366-3038

Gladys Puglla-Jimenez, Make the Road New York, 718-418-6790. Ask for signatures so that Councilmember Diana Reyna can pass a vote that will allow people to get paid for sick leave.

Odolph Wright: Bushwick Miniature Golf, 1469 Broadway, Brooklyn, New York 11221 (Corner of Cornelia Street) Fun for Family and Friends. Hours: Monday – Thursday 3:00pm to 11:00pm, Friday & Saturday 3:00pm to 12:00am, Closed Sundays.

Cyril Joseph: Bushwick/Linden Community Garden in conjunction with McDonald's Restaurant owner Mr. Juan del la Cruz held this summer (June 2010) "McKids Camp". By the end of the summer program the 64 kids that participated were able to learning and identify various aspects of gardening and planting. The kids were issued a certificate at the end of the program by Senator Martin Dilan and Councilmember Diane Reyna.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roll Call**: Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm