

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – January 24, 2006

Attendance

Rev. Reuben Akinfime (A)
David Alexander
Joyce Anderson
Josephine Blakeley
James A. Bowens
Helen Brown (A)
Hazel Clark
Esther Cobb (A)
Adrainer Kim Coleman
Roger Dixon (A)
Essie Duggan (E)
John Frederick (A)
Sam Gardner (A)
Shirley Gonsalves
Sarah Hall
Atikay Henry
Henry Hill
Philip Hogan (A)
Kofi Hormeku
Michael Howard
Hattie Hunt
Allene Ingram
Wordell Johnson
Dr. Cade Jones, III
Eula Key
Danny King

Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Deborah Mack
James Mack
Rev. Thelma Martin (E)
Yolanda Matthews
Sadie McNamara
Joseph Norton (A)
Bishop Landon Penn (E)
Elder Devon Ponds
Mattie Pusey
Isaiah Simmons (E)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Alice Vines
Annie Walkes (A)
Herman Winston
Hazel Younger
Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
E. Jane Coleman, ADM
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Johnnie Joyner for Sen. Martin Dilan
Tahira Muhammad for Assem. William F. Boyland, Jr.
James Tillmon for Assem. Dianne Gordon
Dalton Robinson for Assem. Nick Perry
Carolyn Sanders-James for Mayor Bloomberg
Shedline Alexis for B.P. Marty Markowitz
Sharon Devonish-Leid for D.A. Charles Hynes

MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN

First Vice Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.. An invocation was said by Dr. Cade Jones, III.

First Vice Chairperson Younger stated that no meeting was held for December 2005 due to the Transit strike and that the minutes of the November 22, 2005 were mailed to the members of the Board. She also stated that Chairperson Thelma Martin is progressing nicely from her illness and asked that the audience continue to keep her in their prayers.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried to accept the minutes of the November 2005 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Josephine Blakeley and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Glenis Henriquez of New York City's Department of Small Business Services (SBS).

Ms. Henriquez stated that SBS is a three-legged animal and the first leg is that of neighborhood development. If you interested in beautifying an area, particularly a business strip, SBS can handle it.

The second leg, which is her area of expertise, is that of business assistance. SBS can act as an ombudsman and remediate when businesses have issues with any of the various City agencies. They are responsible for outreach to small businesses in the City and inform them of the opportunities to do business with the City. The Mayor recently signed a new law that requires that a certain percentage of the spending the City does for its needed goods and services is allocated to minority- and women-owned businesses located in the City.

The third leg is dedicated to the workforce. When the Mayor took office, he dismantled the Department of Employment and charged SBS with those things having to do with adult

employment. Youth employment issues are now handled by the Department of Youth and Community Development. If you have a business and are looking for employees or you are seeking employment please contact SBS. She can be reached at (212) 513-6407.

Someone asked what is the difference between SBS, EDC (the Economic Development Corporation), and the SBA (Small Business Administration)?

Ms. Henriquez stated that the main difference is the branch of government that created them. SBS is a City agency, EDC is a State agency and SBA is a federal agency.

Mr. David Alexander asked what type of employment opportunities are available?

Ms. Henriquez stated that all types of jobs are available. There is a strong need for drivers, especially those with commercial drivers licenses.

Mr. James Bowens asked what are the wages?

Ms. Henriquez stated that wages vary depending on skill sets.

Someone asked where her office is located?

Ms. Henriquez stated that her office is located on the second floor of 120 Williams Street in Manhattan.

Mr. Alexander asked if an appointment is necessary?

Ms. Henriquez stated that if someone wanted to see her specifically, she would suggest that they make an appointment. They do have a walk-in center at 120 Williams Street staffed with personnel that can assist business owners with their needs.

Applications for certification are available on tonight's distribution table for businesses that wish to conduct business with the City. Also available is a list of requirements for certification.

She thanked the membership for the opportunity to present and stated that she would be available for future meetings if requested.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Charles Dingle of New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD).

Mr. Dingle stated that he is from HPD's Education Services Division. As part of the education aspect of HPD, they offer courses in building maintenance. Some of the courses are geared toward youth aged 17 to 25 years old and can lead to them becoming qualified to be either an assistant building superintendent or a superintendent under New York City Housing Code. The courses are meant to teach such disciplines as sheet rocking, plumbing, tiling, and electrical work.

In 2004, New York City passed Local Law 1, which requires owners of multi-unit dwellings built pre-1960 or built between 1960 and 1978 to remove any lead paint hazard from those buildings. Any type of peeling, chipping or cracking paint in a pre-1978 building would be considered a lead hazard. Such hazards must be remediated by the superintendent or other person who maintains that building.

If the area affected is larger than two square feet, the party doing the work must be certified by HPD. If you are renting and the landlord is having renovation or paint work done in your apartment, by law the work must be performed by someone who is certified.

Landlords of buildings in the City are required to send out a form to each occupied apartment by January 15th of each year. These forms should be completed by the renter and returned to the landlord by March 15th in order to inform them as to whether or not there are any children seven years old or under living in the apartment. If the form is not received by the owner, he or she must visit the apartments to ascertain whether there are small children living in the apartments.

Local Law 1 was passed because so many children were being diagnosed with lead poisoning. Many people think that children become lead poisoned by eating paint chips. The fact is most cases are due to inhalation or ingestion of lead dust. Lead dust is created when paint containing lead is improperly removed from walls and ceilings or fallen paint chips are trampled. It only takes a small amount (the equivalent of a packet of sugar) of this lead dust to poison a child.

Symptoms that a child may be suffering from lead poisoning are hyper or low activity. It may lead to a child's inability to focus in school and being classified as a special needs student. This can affect a child's entire school career.

Symptoms of an adult suffering from lead poisoning are over tiredness. It is recommended that when visiting your doctor, you ask them to perform a lead level test. This test is not commonly given and should be requested. The patient is considered to be lead poisoned if the levels are 15 micrograms or greater.

It is also recommended that we shop with caution when shopping at \$.99 stores. Many of the products sold at these stores come from foreign countries and may contain lead. It is especially advised that canned products purchased from these stores be thoroughly washed before using as lead-based solder may have been used to seal it.

Some people like to boil their water before drinking it but that practice will not purify the water. It is recommended that we run tap water for about sixty seconds prior to drinking it. The reason for this is that New York City has some of the oldest housing stock in the world and as such, some buildings still contain lead pipes. It should be noted that a survey done by Twenty-Twenty found that the City's water supply is safer than bottled water.

If you believe that your building contains lead hazards, you should call 3-1-1. Once HPD is contacted, an inspector will visit the site and if violations are found the owner will be asked to correct the problem. If they fail to do so, HPD will undertake the repairs and impose fees and fines upon the owner.

Mr. Dingle stated that after renovations, repairs, or prior to a new rental agreement, a landlord must conduct a lead dust test and provide its results to the tenant.

Someone asked about how they can sign up for the classes?

Mr. Dingle stated that they can call (212) 863-8830 to request an application. Literature is also available on the distribution table.

Someone asked about the use of water filters?

Mr. Dingle stated that the use of water filters does not hurt but by simply running tap water for sixty seconds, one can be assured of the safety of New York City tap water.

Someone asked about the removal of mold?

Mr. Dingle stated that attempting to remove mold with household cleaning products is futile. In order to remove mold completely, the wall or ceiling must be torn down, the source of the water removed, and then new sheetrock installed.

Someone asked if Local Law 1 applies to one and two family buildings?

Mr. Dingle stated that Local Law 1 applies to buildings containing three or more dwelling units. He recommends that all landlords take the lead abatement course in order to be certified and to protect their interest. A child has up to his/her eighteenth birthday to file a claim against a homeowner in whose building he/she has resided. Therefore, it benefits the landlord to do a lead dust test in order to prove that their apartments were lead dust free when the child was a tenant.

First Vice Chairperson Younger thanked Mr. Dingle for his presentation and stated that the audience should pay heed to what he said for the sake of our young people.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Acting Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning

Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 10, 2006 with representatives of a group that is proposing to develop approximately 40 units of supportive housing and a food pantry in a former church building at 17 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Hancock Street).

The Committee recommends that the Board not support this proposal because the area already has a high concentration of public housing.

The Committee also met with representatives of Services for the Underserved who gave an update on their proposal to construct 49 units of supportive housing on vacant land at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Somers Street which the Community Board approved on April 26, 2005.

There were two changes to the design. Instead of the building being flushed against an existing building on Somers Street, it was set back to create a side yard. This enables the adjacent homeowner to keep his side windows. The other change moves the community room, where the block association and other neighborhood groups can meet, from the first floor to the cellar.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support these changes.

In a letter dated November 29, 2005, the Committee was informed by the Department of Homeless Services that Women In Need is preparing to open a second transitional housing facility at 49 Junius Street to house as many as 203 homeless families.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker responded to the letter on November 30, 2005 in writing on behalf of the Community Board that the Board continues to oppose this facility as was stated in a letter dated December 8, 2003 to Women In Need.

In a letter dated January 9, 2006, Common Ground informed the Board that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded them funding for the development of a senior housing residence at 1501 St. Mark's Avenue.

The Municipal Arts Society has assigned two students to the Board under their Citi Youth Program. Fatima and Atilah O'Connor will serve as Map Technicians and will be able to provide instant access to land use maps of any location under discussion for viewing on a projector screen during Committee and Board meetings.

Through the Citi Youth Program, the Municipal Arts Society intends to provide interns to all of the 59 community boards.

A motion was made by Mr. Henry Hill, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee and its recommendations.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Deputy Inspector Joseph Campbell, former Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct, and stated that he community would like to show its appreciation with two presentations.

District Manager Greene-Walker, on behalf of the Board, presented Deputy Inspector Campbell with a certificate which read: Community Board #16 recognizes Deputy Inspector Joseph Campbell for his professionalism, unfailing leadership and service to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community during his tenure as Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct from March 31, 2003 to January 3, 2006. Presented on January 19, 2006 under the signatures of Rev. Thelma Martin, Chairperson and Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager.

Deputy Inspector Campbell thanked the Board for the certificate and its support throughout his tenure.

The next presentation was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, President of the 73rd Precinct Council, and Dr. Cade Jones, III, First Vice President of the 73rd Precinct Council, and the plaque read: To Deputy Inspector Joseph Campbell for your exemplary devotion and service to the 73rd Precinct Council and the residents of Ocean Hill-Brownsville community. You have left an indelible mark on the 73rd Precinct. Dated January 19, 2006 under the signatures of Sarah Hall, President, Leonard Hatter, Vice President, and Dr. Cade Jones, III, First Vice President.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized the new Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct Captain Jeffrey Maddrey.

Captain Maddrey stated that he wants to assure the community that he is here to assist them. Deputy Inspector Campbell has offered his guidance and advice and he is confident that working with the community the precinct will continue to progress towards making a safer community. He asks that if there is anything that he can do to please inform him and his staff. He looks forward to working with the community.

First Vice Chairperson Younger asked Ms. Cynthia Woronowicz of the Brooklyn Public Library if there has been any progress in their efforts to keep the libraries open for longer periods?

Ms. Woronowicz stated that thus far, all of the area branches now have Saturday hours and each branch is open an additional morning each week. They are seeking to extend the Saturday hours.

First Vice Chairperson Younger thanked Ms. Woronowicz for the update, and stated that the increased hours are welcome news.

She recognized Mr. James Tilmon of Assemblywoman Dianne Gordon's office.

Mr. Tilmon stated that the Assemblywoman is currently in Albany. She is hosting a meeting on January 26th at 6:00 p.m. concerning Medicare Part D.

Ms. Tahira Muhammed of Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr.'s office stated that the Assemblyman wishes to inform the public of their advisory meetings which are held on the second Saturday of each month. The meetings are held at the office, located at 467 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus will be sponsoring their annual event on February 17th thru 20th in Albany. Free buses to the event will be available at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 18th in front of 467 Thomas S. Boyland Street. All are invited to join them.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Shedline Alexis of Borough President Marty Markowitz's Office and congratulated her on her recent promotion to Assistant to the Deputy Borough President.

Ms. Alexis stated that her contact information remains the same ((718) 802-4091). She encouraged the audience to continue to reach out to her and she will ensure that their concerns are brought to the attention of the Borough President.

She reminded those that received invitations to the Borough President's Inauguration ceremony that it will be held on January 26th and the RSVPs are now due.

The Borough President is again inviting Brooklyn "Sweethearts" who have been married for fifty years or more to his annual champagne luncheon on February 10th at the Brooklyn Marriot from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m..

She asked the patience of those members whose terms expire this year, in receiving their renewal applications. The applications are currently being revised and should soon be available. As soon as the revisions are done, applications will be sent to the members with expiring terms.

Persons having access to the internet will be able to download the application from the Borough President's website, brooklyn-usa.org. She stressed that the application cannot be turned in via internet since they must be notarized and either mailed or brought to their office.

Mr. Johnny Joyner of Senator Martin Dilan's Office announced that the Senator is currently in Albany and wants the community to know that he has supported the bill to monitor sex offenders.

Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid of District Attorney Charles Hynes' office announced that brochures containing information on different crime prevention programs at the District Attorney's office are available on tonight's distribution table.

The District Attorney is sponsoring a youth workshop entitled “Drugs and Gangs it’s not Worth it” at Tabernacle Baptist Church, located at 580 Sackman Street at Livonia Avenue, on March 17, 2006, 6:00 p.m.. The program will educate both youth and adults on signs that may indicate that someone who you care about may be involved in drugs or gang activity and what you can do to help. Light refreshments will be served.

The District Attorney will host a Black History Celebration entitled “A Tribute to Gospel” on February 10th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Francis College, located at 182 Remsen Avenue between Court and Clinton Streets. The event will feature Tony Award winner Ms. Melba Moore and admission is free.

The District Attorney’s Office is creating an e-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email you should contact her during the meeting and complete a form so that they have your contact information.

Please call her at (718) 250-2798 for additional information on any of these programs.

Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James of the Mayor’s Community Assistance Unit stated that the Mayor has been lobbying in Washington and in Albany in order to stop the influx of illegal guns entering the City from other states.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has been reorganized and is currently working on changes to the way that noise complaints are handled. These changes will include the training of police officers. The changes will be effective July 2007, public hearings will be held on the issue throughout the City in order to get the public’s input on the changes.

She announced that the Mayor has allocated additional funding to the Administration for Children Services so that it may hire and train additional personnel. These changes are being made in the hopes of stemming tragedies such as those recently in the news.

The Mayor is committed to creating new affordable housing for half a million middle-class working New Yorkers. He has also committed to investing 1.3 billion dollars into expanding and modernizing City hospitals and clinics. First class healthcare must be a right that we all enjoy regardless of income.

She can be reached at (212) 788-7446.

Mr. Dalton Robinson of Assemblyman Nick Perry’s office stated the Assemblyman has been successful in having funds appropriated to effect repairs to the Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road station on the IRT and hopes that this is good news for this community as well.

The Assemblyman has a questionnaire in his most recent newsletter regarding gang activities. He is seeking the assistance of his constituents in getting youths involved with gangs to complete the questionnaires and return them to his office. Many complaints are received concerning gang activity and seemingly they can do nothing about it because they do not have enough information about why the youth get involved in gangs.

It is their aspiration that the questionnaires will provide them with the data needed to properly assess the reasons why the young people get involved with gangs and then provide resources to prevent it from happening further.

Police Officer Dean Elmore, Community Affairs Officer of the 73rd Precinct, encouraged everyone to take literature from the distribution table that the Police Department prepared to help the public identify perpetrators.

Recently a perpetrator exposed himself to three young children who were playing in the Powell Street Playground. He encouraged parents and guardians of children to ensure that there is adult supervision when their children are outside playing. He further stated that adults in New York City playgrounds must be accompanied by a child. Unaccompanied adults will receive summonses.

The distribution table also contains information about the State’s Central Sex Offenders Registry, including the telephone number and website address. As of today, there are currently 132 sex

offenders living in the 73rd Precinct.

He introduced the new Youth Officer, Police Officer Juanita Bennett who stated that she will be working along with Police Officer Gwendolyn Johnson. Their number at the Precinct is (718) 495-5426. The Explorers (for youths aged 10 to 21 years) meet every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Precinct.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Christine Larkin of the Department of Health.

Ms. Larkin announced that free fitness programs are now available at the Van Dyke Houses Community Center and at the CAMBA Beacon program. These facilities will supplement the established program at the Brownsville Recreation Center. Information on the locations is available on the distribution table.

She also announced the formation of the Central Brooklyn Food and Fitness Task Force that will work towards improving healthy food and exercise options to our neighborhoods. The task force will be comprised of both professionals and neighborhood residents.

Mr. William Boone of the Educator for Children, Youth and Families Beacon Program announced that he is now headquartered at one of their new sites which is why he is not seen in the neighborhood as much. He is still affiliated with the program and they are seeking three counselors and one administrator. Resumes may be faxed to (718) 498-7076 or they may be brought to the Beacon Program office at 210 Chester Street (P.S. / I.S. 323 between Sutter and Blake Avenues) Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

Mr. Daniel Baird of HomeLink stated that he is the Deputy Director of HomeLink which is a new homelessness prevention program that has recently begun to operate in the Brownsville community.

They are currently working with KeySpan Energy Delivery to provide homeowners with a \$200 credit to be used towards their home heating bills. They are also providing a free tax return preparation service throughout the month of February. They are located at 210 Chester Street, Classroom 119 (P.S. / I.S. 323 between Sutter and Blake Avenues). Their telephone number is (718) 282-2308.

He thanked the audience for its attention and expressed an interest in doing a full presentation as a guest speaker.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Josephine Blakeley, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to adjourn the meeting.