

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – May 23, 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  
Essie Duggan  
John Frederick (A)  
Sam Gardner (A)  
Shirley Gonsalves (A)  
Sarah Hall  
Atikay Henry (A)  
Henry Hill  
Philip Hogan (A)  
Kofi Hormeku  
Michael Howard  
Hattie Hunt (E)  
Allene Ingram  
Wordell Johnson  
Dr. Cade Jones, III  
Eula Key  
Danny King  
Bettie Kollock-Wallace

Deborah Mack  
James Mack (A)  
Rev. Thelma Martin (E)  
Yolanda Matthews (A)  
Sadie McNamara  
Joseph Norton (E)  
Bishop Landon Penn (E)  
Elder Devon Ponds (E)  
Mattie Pusey  
Isaiah Simmons (E)  
Ernestine Turner  
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu (E)  
Marcus Victory  
Alice Vines (E)  
Annie Walkes  
Herman Winston (E)  
Hazel Younger  
Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM  
E. Jane Coleman, ADM  
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant  
Zo Mpofu for Congressman Major Owens  
Tony Foreman for Congressman Towns  
Edna Johnson for Sen. Velmanette Montgomery  
J. Tillmon for Assemblywoman Dianne Gordon  
W. Mosley for Assemblyman Wm. F. Boyland, Jr.  
D. Robinson for Assemblyman Nick Perry  
Lisa Kenner, Female Leader 55<sup>th</sup> A.D.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

First Vice Chairperson Hazel Younger officially called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.. An invocation was said by Dr. Cade Jones, III.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):

- 1) pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:
  - a. the designation of property located at 2341-49 Atlantic Avenue; 1874, 1870 and 2335 Eastern Parkway and 20-30 Sherlock Place (Block 1571, Lots 1-3, 26-30, 32-36), as an Urban Development Action Area; and
  - b. an Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
- 2) pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer selected by HPD;

to facilitate development of three, 4-story buildings, tentatively known as Atlantic Avenue Residence, with approximately 41 residential units to be developed under the Housing Preservation and Development Habitat for Humanity Program.

A delegation from Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) led by Ms. Gina Buffone, Project Manager, presented architectural drawings of the Atlantic Avenue Residence proposal. The renderings indicated that there will be 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units in three, 4-story buildings. It was stated that the buildings would be a “green” buildings.

Ms. Petra Ann Van Buckley stated that Habitat will provide credit analysis and walk through the homebuying process with prospective buyers. Marketing of this project will begin sometime late June or early July. Flyers with income guidelines were disseminated to Board members.

Information for a Habitat project in Bedford-Stuyvesant that is currently being marketed was made available to the audience.

Mr. Roland Lewis, Executive Director, stated that Habitat works in partnership with the families and communities to place affordable homes in neighborhoods.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the units will be marketed as houses or apartments?

Ms. Buffone stated that they will be marketed as condominium apartments.

Someone asked what the price range will be?

Ms. Van Buckley stated that the buying price will be based upon income.

Mr. Lewis stated that similar units have been sold in the \$90,000 range, but because of the sweat equity that each of their homebuyers must contribute they hope to keep the prices lower.

Mr. Roger Dixon asked if minority and women contractors will be used?

Ms. Buffone stated that the some of their funding sources require that women and minorities be approached.

Mr. Dixon asked if there is a designated number or percentage of minorities required?

Mr. Lewis stated that it is more of a requirement that they approach a number of minorities and ensure that they are included in the process.

Ms. Essie Duggan asked if Habitat assists the clients with becoming fiscally prepared to buy a home?

Ms. Van Buckley stated that they offer homeowner education courses which include financial literacy aspects.

Ms. Duggan asked if they assist prospective buyers with credit repair if necessary?

Ms. Van Buckley stated that they do work with the clients to make sure that they are prepared financially, if they are not, they help prepare them for future projects.

Someone asked if priority will be given to neighborhood residents?

Ms. Van Buckley stated that priority will be given to neighborhood residents but units will be made available to others if there are not enough buyers from the neighborhood. Any one who would like information sent to them about the offering may contact their office at (718) 246-5656 or visit their website at [www.habitatnyc.org](http://www.habitatnyc.org).

Ms. Duggan asked if Habitat has reached out to the Community Board in regards to the hiring of sub-contractors?

Mr. Lewis stated that the process has not begun, when it does they will reach out to the Board.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack and carried to dispense with the reading of last month's minutes.

A motion was made by Dr. Cade Jones, III, seconded by Mr. Henry Hill and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Lieutenant Hector Tyler of the Fire Department of New York Recruitment Unit.

Lt. Tyler stated that the Uniformed Firefighter's test is given every four years. The Fire Department is making an effort to increase the number of minority and women firefighters in the Department. They are outreaching to the community in various ways in order to reach that goal.

In order to take the test you must be at least 17 ½ years old or older at the time of the test and no older than 29 years old at the end of the application period. Persons who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces may "buy back" up to six years. You are required to have at least thirty college credits at the time of appointment as a firefighter (persons with military experience are exempt from this requirement).

A fallacy has been spread that the test is bias against African-Americans. While the standards are high, anyone who studies for the test can pass it. The physical component of the test is passed by applying proper techniques.

The next application period for the test will be from July 2, 2006 to October 13, 2006. The written test will probably be administered in January 2007, and the physical test about two months later.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a representative from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Early Intervention Program which provides services for children under 3 years old and have a disability or developmental delay. A disability means that a child has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that often leads to problems in development (such as Downs Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, vision impairment, and hearing impairment). A developmental delay means that a child is behind in at least one area of development, including:

- Physical development (growth, gross and fine motor abilities),
- Cognitive development (learning and thinking),
- Communication (understanding and using words),
- Social-emotional development (relating to others),
- Adaptive development (self-help skills, such as feeding).

Your child does not need to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for services. There is no income "test" for the program. You and your child do have to be residents of New York State to participate in the Early Intervention Program.

For more information about the Early Intervention Program and its services, call "311"

State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center is offering free hearing screening for adults until June 16<sup>th</sup> at 470 Clarkson Avenue, Suite J. Screening will be done by appointment only. You may call (718) 270- 1511 for an appointment.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to accept the Committee's report.

Ms. Hazel Clark, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 8, 2006 and discussed names of Board members to fill the Executive Offices of the Board from June 2006 to June 2007.

The Committee submits the following names:

Chairperson – Hazel A. Younger  
First Vice Chairperson – Henry Hill  
Second Vice Chairperson – James A. Bowens  
Treasurer – Sarah Hall  
Secretary – Sadie McNamara  
Parliamentarian – Kofi Hormeku

Ms. Clark asked if there are any further nominations from the floor?

There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Dr. Cade Jones, III and carried to close the nomination.

The Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the slate of officers.

Mr. David Alexander, member of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and continued to discuss and finalize their plans for the youth conference scheduled for Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Kappa V School, located on Rockaway Avenue at Hegeman Avenue, from approximately 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..

The focus of this years' conference is career development and the theme is "Youth Empowerment – My Future, My Choice". Several workshops are being planned for the event such as AIDS/HIV, Know Your Rights, Domestic Violence, Teen Pregnancy, Peer Pressure, and Job Readiness.

Anyone who would like to join the Youth Service Planning Committee or volunteer to participate in the conference should contact District Manager Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

The Committee looks forward to seeing everybody, especially our youth, at the conference.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Josephine Blakeley and carried to accept the Committee's report.

A motion was made by Mr. James Bowens, seconded by Dr. Cade Jones, III and carried unanimously to approve tonight's Public Hearing item.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Andre Lyle of State Senator Carl Andrews' office.

Mr. Lyle stated that in the coming weeks there will be two important events taking place that will affect the community. There will be an immigration forum in June to discuss the policies being planned in Washington, D.C.. Attendees need not fear that their residency status may be exposed because it will be a safe environment for questions to be asked and answered. The Senator will also sponsor an emergency preparedness seminar. For further information about these events please call the Senator's office at (718) 284-4700.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Walter Mosley of Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr.'s office.

Mr. Mosley stated that the Assemblyman will host a teen summit this summer and plans to hire a number of teen interns.

Many activities have been planned for the upcoming "Brownsville Month" celebration, including a film series, basketball tournament, and a boxing tournament co-sponsored by Everlast – the sporting goods company. The Assemblyman will also send about five hundred senior citizens to see "The Color Purple" on Broadway.

There will be a series of emergency preparedness seminars at each of the senior centers in the District which will be co-hosted by the American Red Cross.

The Assemblyman is in the process of negotiating with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development for a site within the District for the development of a science and technology center similar to the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey. The center will be a "must see" destination for students throughout the nation.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Tony Foreman of Congressman Ed Towns' office.

Mr. Foreman stated that the Congressman has been closely monitoring the reforms to immigration laws being proposed in Washington, D.C.. His District consists of many immigrants, including many that have subsequently become citizens of the United States. Therefore, he wants to ensure that whatever reforms are passed are not detrimental to his constituents. Congressman Towns is also co-sponsoring legislation to curtail the rising cost of oil refining.

The Congressman will host his Annual Senior Appreciation Day on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

The District Office is located at 1110 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 5. The telephone number is (718) 272-1175.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Female District Leader Lisa Kenner.

Ms. Kenner stated that elections are upcoming for judicial offices and asked that the audience stay informed about the candidates and the issues. She also stated that she does not have an office but can be reached at (718) 345-5713.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Zo Mpofu from the Office of Congressman Major Owens.

Ms. Mpofu shared with the audience an article from the May 22, 2006 edition of the New York Times, which stated that 40% of New Yorkers are not prepared for an emergency. This includes anything from a terrorist attack, another blackout, or a Katrina-like storm. The article goes on to say that areas such as Staten Island, Bay Ridge, and the Rockaways are at considerable risk to a storm surge. This will affect Central Brooklyn as well because many of the current evacuation plans direct people to Central Brooklyn which could cause many of the hospitals, schools, and houses of worship designated as shelters to become over capacitated. It was critical that these plans be re-evaluated. The new plans will be released in June and will be shared with the community.

Someone stated that when they tried obtaining flood insurance for their home and were told that they do not need it in this area.

Ms. Mpofu stated that it is up to the individual homeowner to decide whether to obtain coverage (In some cases they may not be eligible through common channels). The New York State Insurance Department maintains a database of available resources.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that at a recent seminar it was stated that some insurance companies will be dropping homeowner coverage in New York City. She asked if Ms. Mpofu knows anything about this?

Ms. Mpofu stated that Allstate has announced that it had decided to leave the Downstate Region. They site the reason as their liability in the southeast and New York City's high risk of impact by a storm surge. They will not issue new policies or renew existing ones in the Downstate area directly. Homeowners may still be able to obtain coverage from Allstate through independent agents.

The Congressman's office is looking into the matter to ensure that redlining is not taking place.

The Congressman's District Office can be reached at (718) 773-3100.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Yvonne McKenzie from the Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Ms. McKenzie stated that she will be the Board's liaison to the Borough President until further notice.

The Borough President is currently reviewing Community Board Membership applications and is awaiting recommendations from Councilmembers. He will again host his summer concert series and flyers will be made available at the next Board meeting.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Tamara Green, Director of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Healthy Start Program.

Ms. Greene stated that Healthy Start's overall goal is to reduce the infant mortality rate in Central Brooklyn. They work with several community-based organizations.

She extended an invitation for everyone to attend a Perinatal Depression forum, especially those persons who work in the maternal health care field, that they are co-sponsoring at the Ingersol (Main) Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Captain Jeffrey Maddrey, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Captain Maddrey stated that all of the major crime indices for the month are down in the Precinct except for murders. A domestic homicide case took place at the Van Dyke Houses and an arrest was made. Crime is down by six percent for the year.

Someone asked if statistics are kept on police misconduct?

Captain Maddrey stated that they are kept at One Police Plaza.

Someone asked where can they send correspondence for Police Commissioner Kelly?

Captain Maddrey stated that correspondence may be sent to One Police Plaza, New York, New York 10038.

Someone asked how one might obtain domestic violence statistics for the Precinct?

Captain Maddrey stated that they have the statistics but cannot release them without proper authorization. Authorization is obtained by writing to the Office of Management, Announcement, and Planning at One Police Plaza, New York, New York 10038.

Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Police Officer Dean Elmore, Community Affairs Officer from the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, who reminded the audience that fireworks season is approaching and urged them to read a flyer on the subject from the distribution table.

First Vice Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Renee Regnier, Volunteer Coordinator and American Cancer Society liaison person in the Brooklyn office of the American Cancer Society.

Ms Regnier reminded the audience that the American Cancer Society will hold their Relay for Life event at the Brownsville Recreation Center from 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> until 7:00 a.m. Sunday, June 11. Relay for Life pays tribute to those who have lost their lives to cancer in the hopes that they will never be forgotten and seeks to raise funds so that one day no one will die from cancer.

Ms. Mack asked if anyone on the Board is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that no member has been trained yet. The Board is seeking volunteers so that a class can be held. At least twenty persons are needed to form a class. Anyone who wishes to volunteer may contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323.

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