

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – September 26, 2006

### Attendance

Rev. Reuben Akinfime (A)  
David Alexander  
Joyce Anderson (E)  
Josephine Blakeley  
Patricia Boone  
James A. Bowens  
Esther Cobb (A)  
Adrainer Kim Coleman  
Gregory Coad (A)  
Bonnie Crump (A)  
Essie Duggan  
Sam Gardner (A)  
Shirley Gonsalves  
Daniel Goodine (A)  
Sarah Hall  
Henry Hill  
Kofi Hormeku  
Michael Howard  
Hattie Hunt  
Allene Ingram (E)  
Daisy Jackson  
Wordell Johnson  
Dr. Cade Jones, III  
Eula Key  
Danny King  
Bettie Kollock-Wallace  
Shawn Lewis (A)

Deborah Mack (A)  
James Mack  
Rev. Thelma Martin (E)  
Yolanda Matthews (E)  
Sadie McNamara (E)  
Joseph Norton  
Marie Pierre  
Elder Devon Ponds  
Mattie Pusey  
Isaiah Simmons (E)  
Ernestine Turner  
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu  
Marcus Victory  
Alice Vines  
Annie Walkes  
Dr. Merrill White  
Herman Winston (E)  
Hazel Younger  
Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM  
E. Jane Coleman, ADM  
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant  
Sen. Velmanette Montgomery  
Sen. John Sampson  
Councilmember Darlene Mealy  
Carolyn Sanders-James for Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
Yvonne McKenzie for B. P. Marty Markowitz

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

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and an invocation was said by Dr. Cade Jones, III.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the regularly scheduled June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and the public hearing held on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following announcements from her report:

- The Citizens for New York City hosts a series of free workshops for community groups at their Neighborhood Leadership Institute during the year.
- Persons who may be interested in available funding sources should pay particular attention to the “Grants” section of her report.
- Urban Strategies is sponsoring a series of workshops on domestic violence beginning on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m..
- The Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association will host a housing seminar on Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m..
- Applications are being accepted for the Firefighters Exam to be held on January 20, 2006.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey and carried to accept the District Manager’s Report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Christine Larkin of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

Ms. Larkin stated that she is grateful for the opportunity to announce that the DOHMH will be implementing a new program in the community beginning early 2007. They are recruiting staff for the program and she will be available to discuss details concerning the available positions after tonight's meeting.

The Brooklyn District Public Health Office has been in existence for the past three years and was focused on the Bedford – Stuyvesant and Bushwick neighborhoods. In the past year, they began branching out into the Brownsville-Ocean Hill area, with initiatives in the day care and high school sectors.

The expansion of the Newborn Home Visiting Program will likely be the program most heard about. The program offers a home visit by trained health personnel to every new mother in the community on a voluntary basis. The staff, backed up by a social worker as well as a nurse, will visit the home of a new mother and distribute a gift bag containing safety items and information about caring for their baby and themselves. Social service referrals will be offered when needed (They will be reaching out to social service agencies in the community to determine the types of services that they offer and how DOHMH can make referrals to the agencies).

An environmental safety assessment of the home will be made during the visit. They will look for things such as peeling paint, properly installed window guards, vermin infestation, etc.. There are two options available if peeling paint is found in the home. They can guide the tenant through the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's complaint system via 3-1-1 or they can make use of the Public Health Sanitarians assigned to them. The Sanitarians will go to homes where peeling paint and a potential for a lead hazard was found during the initial visit. They will test for lead at no charge to the tenant. A report of the findings will be given to the property owner who they will work with to remediate the condition.

DOHMH also works with the mothers when domestic violence is found in the home. They have psychologists available to help with mental health issues. They also plan to work closely with local service agencies to ensure the mothers are aware of available resources. The Fire Department is assisting them in providing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to the parents who need them. Each home they visit is assessed and they assure that there are working detectors in the home when they leave that home.

DOHMH is proposing changes to regulations in the use of trans fats by restaurants in New York City. While not affecting the obesity and diabetes epidemics, trans fats can promote heart disease. For the past year, the Health Department has been attempting to get restaurants to voluntarily remove trans fats from the food that they serve. Additional information is available on tonight's distribution table.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Acting Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 12, 2006 with representatives from Broadway Bushwick Builders, LP which was selected through a Request for Proposal process to develop ANCHOR Broadway Site 3, located at 7 Saratoga Avenue and 1510-1524 Broadway (Block 1489, Lots 6, 11-18). Broadway Bushwick Builders, LP is proposing to construct a two-story commercial building on the site with fifty underground parking spaces and a loading dock in the rear of the building.

The Committee recommended that the Community Board support this project at a Public Hearing on September 12, 2006.

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has informed the Committee that 2193 Bergen Street, 2260 Atlantic Avenue, and 2262 Atlantic Avenue will be rehabilitated under their StoreWorks Program. Once completed, the three buildings will contain seven dwelling units and three storefronts.

HPD has also informed the Committee that the Wayside Out-Reach Development, Inc. will be rehabilitating the building at 609 Osborn Street. Once completed, it will provide nineteen units of rental housing for formerly homeless families and one unit for a superintendent.

Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc. and HPD's Community Outreach Unit will be conducting a Neighborhood Housing clinic on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at P.S. 12,

located at 430 Howard Avenue between Prospect Place and St. Mark's Avenue. Information will be provided about HPD Loan Programs, First Time Homebuyer Programs and Credit Issues, Predatory Lending, Fair Housing Issues, and New Neighborhood.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 18, 2006 with a representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) who spoke about a new program that DOHMH will be implementing in this community in early 2007 - as was reported by Ms. Larkin earlier.

The program will provide a one-time home visit to new mothers. The DOHMH staff will provide education and training on maternal and infant health issues, including breast feeding, do an environmental assessment in the home, and make referrals to community-based organizations and City agencies for longer term support for the family.

The program staff will include a public health nurse, social worker, and a housing coordinator.

The DOHMH is presently hiring for a Director of the Newborn Home Visiting Program, Consultant Public Health Nurses, Site Supervisor, Social Worker, Public Health Advisor, and Clerical Associate.

You may apply online by visiting [www.nyc.gov/dcas](http://www.nyc.gov/dcas). Additional information is available at the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Ms. Hattie Hunt, seconded by Dr. Cade Jones, III and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Resources Committee.

Chairperson Younger acknowledged the presence of Mr. James Holder of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, and Mr. Derrek Kelley, Station Manager of the Shirley Chisholm Postal Station.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Yvonne McKenzie of Borough President Marty Markowitz's office.

Ms. McKenzie presented Perfect Attendance Certificates to Mr. Danny King, Ms. Ernestine Turner, and Ms. Yolanda Matthews for the 2005 calendar year.

The Borough President is again promoting men's health. He is encouraging women to bring the men in their lives to the doctor during the week of October 16, 2006 through October 22, 2006. A number of hospitals and health clinics in Brooklyn will be providing free screenings during this period.

Chairperson Younger recognized Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Senator Montgomery thanked those persons who voted in the recent primary election and encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming November general election. The current administration has not been supportive of many of the programs that are important to the constituents of her district. It is important that we go out and vote to let the incoming administration know that we are here, a strong voting community, and that we expect a different response to our needs.

Yesterday, she met with members of the City and State Departments of Education as well as representatives of several institutions of higher education to discuss ways to enable the community to build support systems for young people who want to further their education. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, she will be in Atlanta, Georgia to meet with members of some of the historically black colleges in order to receive their input on this idea.

Too many of our youth, especially young black men, are ending up in the prison system instead of colleges. We need to turn this around; we cannot wait for someone to do it for us; we must do

it ourselves.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Lisa Kenner, State Committee Woman for Assembly District #55.

Ms. Kenner stated that we have been losing too many people to gun violence. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, she marched along with Brooklyn Communities Against Violence. The march was intended to bring attention toward violence of types. There were not as many people in attendance as she would have liked to have seen, but the persons who were there were very passionate about their purpose.

She has observed that many of our parks are not properly lighted at night, creating an unsafe condition near the parks. She has called 3-1-1 to report these concerns, however, several of the playgrounds remain dark. She knows that all City parks close at dusk but that does not stop a villain from hiding in the shadows and waiting for an unaware passerby to prey on. It is unfair that in some communities parks are properly lighted while in others they are not. She urged everyone to report this type of condition to 3-1-1 and to contact the Community Board if the problem persists.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Denese Forde of Kings County Hospital who announced that Kings County Hospital recently opened two new buildings. The old emergency room has moved into the "S" Building. The services from the "U" Building have moved to the new "E" Building along with the pharmacy. For additional information you may call the hospital at (718) 245-3141. She can be contacted at (718) 245-3910.

Chairperson Younger recognized State Senator John Sampson who stated that Region 5 was recently rated number one amongst all the regions within New York City in English Language Arts (ELA) test scores. Of all the school districts, East New York and Brownsville are in the top three in ELA scoring. Brownsville is rated number one at moving students who are at level one to level two and number two at moving students who are at level three to level four. We are waiting for the results of the math exams and hopefully the results will be similar. This is an encouraging thing and needs to be let known. The media is quick to report when violence occurs in our neighborhood, they should also be reporting on these positive events but will likely not.

He and his colleagues are working hard to see that resources such as jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities are being made available to people from this community from projects such as the arena project proposed for downtown. Whether you are for or against the project, it is important to realize that if it goes forward, our monies will be spent there and should therefore trickle back into our neighborhood.

Ms. Mattie Pusey asked if the Charter School program is being expanded?

Senator Sampson stated that the Charter School program was not expanded in the last session. He is hoping that in their current session, as they explore the capital budget, they will be able to increase the funding for Charter Schools.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy stated that she has some issues with projects such as the HOPE VI project that create homes without creating the services that will keep monies in the community. We need to create a growing local economy. She is currently looking to bring a large supermarket to the District. Many of us travel outside the District to buy our goods - why not have markets here and stimulate the local economy.

She has received a grant of two million dollars to create one hundred union jobs. These will be well paying union jobs for her Council District. The jobs should start some time in January of 2007. She hopes to begin disseminating information about the jobs towards the end of November. The positions will range from commercial licensed drivers to construction to administrative workers. Having a criminal record will not prevent someone from getting these jobs.

She continues to work with local organizations and anyone seeking to meet with her should call

her office at (718) 953-3097. Her e-mail address is mealy@council.nyc.ny.us.

Ms. Pusey stated that she is a long-time resident of the community and can remember a time when there were many movie houses in the area. Now there are none. She would also like the Councilmember to consider a Costco type store in her quest to bring a large food market to the District.

Councilmember Mealy stated that as long as they are willing to bring jobs to the neighborhood, they will be considered.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Michael Howard who stated that there will be a gang awareness forum held at I.S. 55 (Bergen and Thomas S. Boyland Streets) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Brooklyn Jazz Consortium will host an all-day jazz event on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, featuring renowned jazz artist Grady Tate and his Quartet, along with a youth jazz jamboree at 1958 Fulton Street. He can be contacted at (718) 498-2150 for further information about this event.

Chairperson Martin recognized Mr. William Boone of the Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone announced that they offer a number of programs for both youth and adults. He also stated that their Advisory Board meets on Thursday nights, 6:00 p.m. at P.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street between Blake and Sutter Avenues. Due to his expanded role in the Beacon program, he is not in his office as much but he can be reached at (718) 498-7033. Leave a message if he is not there and he will return your call.

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

Captain Maddrey stated that it was a tough summer for the Precinct, especially as it relates to auto theft and shootings. During the months of July and August, there were twenty-five shootings in the Precinct. Nine of the shootings led to arrests being made and six are under investigation. On the remaining ten, they are being stonewalled because no one is offering information. They are seeking the assistance of the community to help resolve these crimes. Please let it be known that assistance is needed and that persons with information do not have to contact the police. They can communicate with their clergy or local elected officials.

The summer also had a large number of automobile thefts. The numbers suggest that these are mostly youth stealing cars to joyride. He encourages the community to take advantage of the crime prevention initiatives available such as Operation C.A.T..

They will be going all out against truancy this school year. The record reflects that truancy rates affect crime rates. Children that are truant are inevitably involved in crimes as perpetrators, victims, or suspects. If you see children hanging out during school hours, please call the Precinct at (718) 495-5411.

Someone stated that she heard that there was a law enacted that allows property owners to be fined if they do not remove graffiti from their property. Does the Captain have any information on this?

Captain Maddrey stated that the Mayor offers a graffiti removal program where the Police Department provides graffiti removal, at the request of property owners, free of charge.

Police Officer Elmore added that the law will come into effect shortly and property owners will be responsible for their own properties. Under the current program, property owners sign up for graffiti removal at the Precinct, the Precinct then forwards the request to the Mayor's Office and collects the paint from them. Groups of volunteers then go out and paint the subject properties. They are currently seeking volunteers to do this.

Chairperson Younger suggested that some of the youth caught committing crimes be used for this purpose.

Captain Maddrey stated that they are sometimes used for the clean ups.

The questioner further stated that she has noticed graffiti on postal mailboxes. Will the Precinct remove graffiti from the mailboxes as well?

Mr. Kelley of the U.S. Postal Service stated that if graffiti is seen on Postal Service property, one may call 1-800- ASKUSPS and the Postal Service will remove it.

Someone asked if there were any PAL programs in the Precinct?

Police Officer Elmore stated that there are two in the Precinct, one at 985 Rockaway Avenue and one at 91 Watkins Street which is currently closed due to a flood.

Police Officer Dawn Townsend announced that the Police Department's Gun Stop Program is still in effect. If you know of guns that are being illegally trafficked, pick up one of their flyers and call the number (1-866-GUN-STOP - 1-866-486-7867) on it. A reward of \$1,000 will be issued for information leading to the arrest of a person for gun possession. Year to date, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has removed 153 guns from the streets but there are still many more guns out there.

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.