

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – November 28, 2006

Attendance

Rev. Reuben Akinfime (A)
David Alexander
Joyce Anderson (E)
Josephine Blakeley
Patricia Boone (E)
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 (E)
Eula Key
Danny King (A)

Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Shawn Lewis (A)
Deborah Mack
James Mack (A)
Rev. Thelma Martin (E)
Yolanda Matthews (E)
Sadie McNamara
Rev. Joseph Norton
Marie Pierre
Elder Devon Ponds (E)
Mattie Pusey (E)
Isaiah Simmons (E)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Marcus Victory
Alice Vines (E)
Annie Walkes
Dr. Merrill White
Herman Winston
Hazel Younger
Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Carolyn Sanders-James, Mayor's CAU
Princess Jackson for Hon. Darlene Mealy

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 Rev. Joseph Norton.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

The next item was the District Manager's Report. District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the announcement regarding the Community Emergency Response Team found on page 6.

Chairperson Younger requested that the membership read both the minutes and the District Manager's Report at their leisure and report any discrepancies to District Manager Greene-Walker.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 20, 2006 with a representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene who shared the following information with the Committee:

- 1) Free flu shots will be available to adults on:
 - December 1st at Mt. Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue; telephone # (718) 922-1304.
 - December 5th at Tilden Senior Center, located at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard; telephone # (718) 498-2990.
 - December 5th at Van Dyke II Senior Center, located at 430 Dumont Avenue; telephone # (718) 240-6290.

Please call ahead to confirm availability.

- 2) The East New York Food Co-Operative opened on November 20, 2006. They will sell produce as well as meats, grains, and other items. Foods will be sold as low as 20% below wholesale.

Cooking classes, nutrition workshops, health screenings, and nutritionist consultations will be offered.

You must become a member to participate in the East New York Food Co-Operative. To find out how you can become a member of the food co-op, call Salina Jones-Daley at the Local Development Corporation of East New York at (718) 385-6700 extension 20.

3) The latest Community Health Profile for Central Brooklyn was disseminated.

She stated that Assistant Commissioner Adam Karpati from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is here tonight to elaborate on the Community Health Profile and respond to questions from the audience.

A motion was made by Ms. Hattie Hunt, seconded by Mr. Kofi Hormeku and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Resources Committee.

Dr. Karpati was introduced and stated that he is a physician and Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He directs the Brooklyn office that serves the communities of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick, East New York, and Brownsville.

The latest edition of the Community Health Profiles for Central Brooklyn was disseminated.

Dr. Karpati stated that the profiles are an overview of health issues that confront residents of the City. The profile distributed this evening is for the area they call Central Brooklyn which generally consists of the Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick, and East New York neighborhoods.

He is here tonight to discuss the health issues and answer any questions that the community may have concerning those issues. The booklet, which the Department calls “Take Care New York”, focuses on the top ten health issues facing New Yorkers today. The data was collected via a telephone survey conducted last year. Questions were asked to randomly selected households throughout the City about each of the issues.

Dr. Karpati highlighted the different statistics and Brownsville’s ratings as compared to all of Brooklyn and the entire City.

Ms. Hazel Clark asked what effect does the shelter population have on the statistics?

Dr. Karpati stated that for the most part, the shelter population is not represented in the data, as “institutionalized” populations tend not to be part of their telephone surveys. Mortality rates, on the other hand, are based upon the address listed on the death certificate as the last known address for the decedent, which may well be a shelter.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if there is any outreach to residents of Central Brooklyn to make them more aware of these health issues.

Dr. Karpati stated that there is a disparity in health and part of the reason the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has placed him and his staff in the community is to address the inequalities that exist. There are only three District Health Offices in the City: his office in Central Brooklyn, one in Harlem, and one in the South Bronx. These communities bear the heaviest burden of poor health.

Clearly the existence of the District Health Offices is not enough. He encourages the use of these statistics when organizations and individuals are applying for grants and advocating for the community. Part of their goal in publishing the information is to highlight these inequalities and bring more resources to the community.

Someone asked for the location of their office.

Dr. Karpati stated that his office is located at 485 Throop Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant and the telephone number is (646) 253-5700. There is also a local Health Department Clinic located at

259 Bristol Street.

Ms. McNamara asked if the Health Department continues to check apartments for lead paint?

Dr. Karpati stated that they check in two ways. One way is that if they receive a report of a child with high levels of lead in their bloodstream, (All children should be screened for lead poisoning at ages one and two years old) they will inspect the home and take action if lead is found. Additionally, they now have a home visit program wherein they seek to provide a safe environment for infants of new mothers.

Mr. Albert Jones asked if the Department collaborates with community-based organizations.

Dr. Karpati stated that they do some networking with community-based organizations such as the task force that was convened to discuss food and nutrition. More can be done and he sees that as something that can be discussed further with the Community Board.

Chairperson Younger thanked Dr. Karpati for his presentation and moved to the next item on the agenda.

Mrs. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Acting Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 14, 2006 with representatives from the New York City Economic Development Corporation and Mack Glassnaught Iron Works, Inc. regarding the sale of City-owned Lots 42 and 45 on Block 3677 (Liberty Avenue between Sackman Street and Powell Street).

Mack Glassnaught Iron Works, Inc., which is located at 756 Rockaway Parkway, is a metal fabricator and erector of iron related products, including fire escapes, fences, roll down gates, railings, and cellar doors.

Mack Glassnaught proposes to construct an industrial facility containing a minimum of 8,000 square feet on the site. Lot 44, which Mack Glassnaught recently purchased, will be included in proposed development. The proposed development will allow Mack Glassnaught to relocate its current operation and expand.

The development is expected to retain eight employees and create approximately four permanent jobs.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support the sale of Lots 42 and 45 on Block 3677 to Mack Glassnaught Iron Works, Inc.

Mrs. Kollock-Wallace next reported that Ms. Ismene Speliotis, Executive Director of New York ACORN Housing Company, Inc., informed the Committee that they were awarded several sites under HPD's New Foundations Program to construct two- and three-family homes on the following parcels:

- 1) 220 MacDougal Street (Block 1533, Lot 35)
- 2) 2038 Pacific Street (Block 1439, Lot 21)
- 3) 2040 Pacific Street (Block 1439, Lot 22)
- 4) 2105 Pacific Street (Block 1432, Lot 43)
- 5) 2103 Pacific Street (Block 1432, Lot 44)
- 6) 2097 Pacific Street (Block 1432, Lot 48)
- 7) 2095 Pacific Street (Block 1432, Lot 49)
- 8) 2019 Fulton Street (Block 1537, Lot 1)

The homes will be available to families with incomes up to 80% or 90% of area median income (not to exceed \$71,280 for a family of four). At minimum, 50% of the homes will be for current residents of Community District #16.

This project will go through the ULURP process with a public hearing before the Community Board at a later date.

Mrs. Kollock-Wallace stated that the Committee also heard a presentation by Martin Dunn of Dunn

Development Corporation regarding a housing project for the City-owned site which is a former parking lot on Thomas S. Boyland Street between Pitkin and East New York Avenues. Dunn Development, New York ACORN Housing Company, and L & M Equity Participants were awarded this site through the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) Cornerstone Request for Proposals.

The development team is also proposing a rezoning of the site that would allow for one building along Thomas S. Boyland Street and one along Bristol Street to create 160 apartments for a range of family sizes and incomes from a low of \$20,000 to upwards of \$65,000.

The proposed design provides for approximately 14 parking spaces and a landscaped recreation area for residents of the buildings.

This project will also go through the ULURP process which requires a public hearing at the Community Board at a later date.

It should be noted that during the presentation to the Committee, concern was expressed about the limited number of on site parking for this project. The developers agreed to look at ways to resolve this concern.

Mrs. Kollock-Wallace stated that Mr. Dunn is present tonight to make a brief presentation on the project.

Mr. Dunn was introduced and stated that a team of Dunn Development along with New York ACORN Housing and L&M Equities won the opportunity to develop the former parking lot across the street from where we are meeting tonight.

Originally, their team proposed a 7-story "T" shaped building with the bulk of the structure fronting Thomas S. Boyland Street, which could be built "As of Right" under the existing "R-6" zoning. Their concern with that design was that it left Bristol Street with a look of desolation. They also looked at designing a 12-story building in the center of the lot, which is also allowed "As of Right". They do not believe this concept fits contextually.

Under the current zoning, constructing two smaller buildings on the site would be cost-prohibitive. They approached the Department of City Planning and Councilmember Darlene Mealy about rezoning the site in order to accommodate freestanding buildings on each side of the lot. Both were supportive of the idea as it will allow for more needed affordable housing and bring new life to Bristol Street. They then discussed their intentions with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and are here tonight to seek the support of the Community Board for the rezoning.

Normally, they try to incorporate design elements of surrounding buildings into the new construction. In this case, however, the surrounding buildings (the Brownsville Multi Service Center and the Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center) did not have any of the architectural features found elsewhere in Brownsville. Therefore, they have decided to go with a modern design that incorporated traditional elements such as a cast stone and brick facade. A rendering was displayed.

The buildings will be built under the voluntary "Quality Housing" guidelines and as with other buildings that they have recently constructed, and will include a host of energy saving and environmentally friendly features. Each building will feature a laundry room and a multi-purpose room that may be used for such things as community meetings and family events.

At a meeting with the Land Use Committee, a concern was raised about the proposed 14 parking spaces not being enough. The current plan now includes 24 parking spaces, although this had to come at the expense of the outdoor recreation area.

Security features will include double door entry, an intercom system, and closed-circuit TV monitoring system with transmissions that will be recorded. They are also in discussions with cable companies and their contractors to establish monitoring on a specific channel. This will allow residents to turn to a particular station and be able to view the entryways and perhaps other public areas that are monitored by the closed-circuit TV system. Their general philosophy is that the nicer they make the building the more the residents and general neighborhood will want to keep it up.

Ms. Speliotis stated that over sixty percent of the units will consist of two- and three-bedroom apartments. The income levels will range from about \$20,000 to about \$60,000, based upon family size. A minimum of sixty percent of the apartments will be set aside for residents of Community District #16.

Someone asked who will be assigned the 24 parking spaces for the 159 units?

Ms. Speliotis stated that the spaces will only be available to residents of the buildings. Experience tells them that there will be a few vacant spaces at any given time. If it becomes necessary, a lottery will determine who receives the available spaces.

Mr. David Alexander stated that in looking at the renderings, it appears that there are more buildings on the site than the two being discussed. Will there be more than two buildings constructed?

Mr. Dunn stated that there will only be two buildings built on the site. The design intentionally makes it appear to be several different buildings in order to break up the large mass.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked if they investigated doing underground parking?

Mr. Dunn stated that doing underground parking would raise the cost too much to keep the units affordable. Past experience and census data have shown that the 24 spaces will be more than enough.

Chairperson Younger thanked Mr. Dunn and Ms. Speliotis for their presentation and reminded the audience that this project is in the preliminary stages. There will be future opportunities to comment and ask questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Kofi Hormeku, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee and its recommendations.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Jerry Horton.

Mr. Horton stated that he has been preparing a documentary film about Brownsville since last summer. The film is entitled “Documenting Brownsville”. He is seeking participation from persons who have stories to tell or old photos of Brownsville. Anyone interested should leave their contact information with him.

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Horton was unable to make his video presentation. He was invited to return at a future date to present it.

Chairperson Younger requested that Community Board members hold the date of Friday, December 15th for an Executive Community Board meeting / Holiday Celebration from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

The following proposed legislation will be discussed: 421-a Property Tax Abatement Program by Assemblyman Vito Lopez and Intro No. 382 by Councilmember David Yassky.

This information was mailed to you along with the meeting notice for this month. Please review the information so that recommendations can be made at the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Hattie Hunt, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the Chairperson’s report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Princess Jackson, Community Liaison for City Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Ms. Jackson stated that Councilmember Mealy will host a town hall meeting early next year. She seeks volunteers from the community to assist her with the logistics of the meeting. They can be reached at (718) 953-3097.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan, representing State Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Ms. Duggan stated that Senator Montgomery requested that she distribute flyers containing information about newly developed low rent units in the Boerum Hill area of Brooklyn. The flyers are available on tonight's distribution table. Anyone seeking further information should call the Senator's office at the telephone number listed on the flyer.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit.

Ms. Sanders-James stated that the Mayor's graffiti removal program will continue to be implemented until the weather conditions become too inclement. The program is free but property owners must complete an application at their local precinct for the service.

Chairperson Younger recognized Captain Jeffrey Maddrey, Commanding Officer for the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Maddrey reported that for the past twenty-eight days, crime is down by twenty-one percent (approximately 40 crimes) as compared to the same period last year. He is happy to report that robberies are going down, something he has been working on for most of the year.

Shootings continue to be problematic. Last month, eleven shootings took place in the Precinct. Five of those took place last Saturday at a house party. After a fight, the loser brought out a gun and fired indiscriminately at the partygoers. Luckily, no one was seriously injured. He needs the community's assistance with bringing the shooter to justice.

He extended gratitude to Police Officers Gwen Johnson and Dawn Townsend for their efforts in helping to feed many people at St. Luke's Community Church on Thanksgiving Day.

Earlier today, he met with Senator-Elect Erik Adams and discussed ways to bring about a positive change between the community and the Precinct. One of the things that they decided to do is a Christmas toy campaign, wherein the officers of the Precinct will use their personal monies to buy toys for about twenty neighborhood children who are in need.

One of the problems that they anticipate is identifying the truly needy children. If anyone in the audience knows of such a child, he asks that they contact the Community Affairs Officers at (718) 495-5422. Each month, he plans to introduce a program that will help win the community's trust in the Precinct. He realizes that if the Police take the first step, it may be easier for the trust to come.

Ms. Sadie McNamara commented that she saw mounted officers on Pitkin Avenue earlier. Are they part of an initiative?

Captain Maddrey stated that one of the things that he noticed when looking at past crime statistics is that after Thanksgiving Day the number of robberies that occur climbs upward. It seems that the young hoodlums' idea of Christmas shopping is to rob people at gunpoint. They are committed to keeping the shopping areas, bus stops, and train station areas safe for shoppers and merchants.

Someone asked if a School Crossing Guard can be placed at the intersection of Marion Street and Rockaway Avenue?

Captain Maddrey stated that it would be difficult as there is no school for at least two blocks from that location. The Guards are generally placed at intersections where there is a school on the block.

Chairperson Younger thanked Captain Maddrey for his report and for his and his fellow Officers' kindness in visiting her while she was hospitalized.

She recognized Community Affairs Officer Dawn Townsend.

Police Office Townsend introduced Police Officer Hines who is Captain Maddrey's new assistant. Police Officer Hines may be reached at (718) 495-5411.

She distributed flyers depicting two endangered minors and asked for the community's assistance in helping to find the probable runaways.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Deborah Mack.

Ms. Mack stated that along with being a Board member she is a representative of a company called Primerica Financial Services. Primerica offers a host of financial tools to help individuals and families understand and attain their financial goals. They offer free financial assessment, consultations and seminars. Anyone with an interest may sign up with her this evening. She distributed copies of Primerica's newsletter. Many of the major financial companies will not come into our neighborhood. If you do not have a six figure income, there is no interest in you for them. Primerica does serve our community and can show you ways to make your dollars work harder for you.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Hannah Riseley-White of Green Guerillas.

Ms. Riseley-White stated that Green-Guerillas is working on the site between Somers and Fulton Street, just west of Rockaway Avenue, to transform the site into a new garden. The site was designated as green space during the Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Plan in the early 1990's and has been sitting vacant for twenty years. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development has reached out to them to help the City transform the site into a community garden.

They have met with Councilmember Darlene Mealy and she is supportive of the project. The project is fully funded. The actual design of the garden will depend on community input. Towards that end, they have had two community meetings and have scheduled a third for January 11, 2007. Information about the meeting can be found in this month's District Manager's report.

They will be planting bulbs at the site this coming Saturday. All are invited to join them. Anyone who wishes additional information may contact her at (917) 528-8647.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. William Boone of the Educators for Children Youth and Families Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that they are located at 210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues. They operate weekdays from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. He can be reached at (718) 498-7033.

On December 16th, they will host their Annual Christmas Celebration where there will be entertainment, and toy and coat giveaways. All are invited to participate.

Their program is continuing to expand and now offers a wrestling program for boys in the sixth to eighth grades. On January 9, 2007, they will restart their youth job readiness program for youth from 14 to 21 years old.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Debra Mack-Glasgow of the CAMBA Beacon Program.

Ms. Mack-Glasgow stated that their program is similar to that of Mr. Boone's program with some differences. They offer an archery program, a GED program, dance program, and a computer program. They are currently enrolling for the adult GED program.

They are located at I.S. 271 at 1137 Herkimer Street. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.. She can be contacted at (718) 345-5904.

Chairperson Younger recognized Dr. Merrill White who announced that on Tuesday, December 5th, the Administration for Children Services will host a forum at the Genesis Homes at 330 Hinsdale Street in East New York. The Commissioner has called for the forum because of the rash of intolerances to children in the area. All are invited to come and discuss ways to make our

children safe.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. David Alexander who announced that the Neighborhood Advisory Board will host a Community Service Forum on January 18, 2007 at the Kappa V Middle School at 985 Rockaway Avenue. All the agencies funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development will be there to tell you about their services.

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