

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – May 22, 2007

Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Deborah Mack (E)
Joyce Anderson	James Mack (A)
Octavius Bamberg (E)	Yolanda Matthews (A)
Sissi Benitez (E)	Sadie McNamara
Josephine Blakeley (E)	Rev. Joseph Norton
Patricia Boone (E)	Edna Petty (E)
James A. Bowens (E)	Marie Pierre (A)
Gregory Coad (A)	Elder Devon Ponds
Bonnie Crump (A)	Mattie Pusey
Essie Duggan	Lashon Segar (E)
Samantha Dunn (E)	Ernestine Turner
Ivory Ellison (E)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Helen Giles (E)	Alice Vines
Shirley Gonsalves	Dr. Merrill White
Daniel Goodine	Herman Winston
Sarah Hall (E)	Hazel Younger
Henry Hill	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Kofi Hormeku	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Michael Howard	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Allene Ingram	Hon. Darlene Mealy
Daisy Jackson (E)	Hon. Lisa Kenner
Javonn Johnson (E)	Kevin McCall for Hon. Charles Barron
Troy Johnson (E)	Rev. Joseph Jones for Hon. Charles Hynes
Dr. Cade Jones, III	Brandon Bloomfield for Hon. John Sampson
Pamela Junior (E)	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Eula Key	Semone Lucas for Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Danny King (E)	Kenton Williams for Hon. Dianne Gordon
Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)	Carolyn Sanders-James for Hon. Mike Bloomberg
Shawn Lewis	William Whitaker for Hon. 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 Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

A motion was made by Dr. Cade Jones, III, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey and carried to dispense with the reading of last month's minutes.

Chairperson Hazel Younger recognized Ms. Rebeca Gomez of Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP).

Ms. Gomez stated that she is a Community Education Coordinator for NEDAP. NEDAP is a resource and advocacy center that works throughout the city. They operate a hotline that gives legal advice to low-income New Yorkers on a variety of issues and advocate for responsible lending. She is here tonight to speak about predatory lending.

Many of you have probably heard or seen media accounts of the recent boom in foreclosures and the meltdown of the "sub-prime" lending industry. When NEDAP began working with homeowners with foreclosure issues they noticed a rash of foreclosures due to refinance scams. Senior citizens who were cash poor but had a great deal of equity stored in their homes were being targeted by abusive lenders. The lenders would sometimes entice homeowners into refinancing what were low-interest mortgages with high-interest, high-cost mortgages. Other predatory practices that may be used target first-time homebuyers, wherein the buyer would be directed towards purchasing over-appraised homes with high-cost mortgages.

A property flipping scam is one of the devices used by abusive lenders to take advantage of their unwitting clients. In a property flip scam a real estate agent forms an alliance with a lawyer, a home

appraiser, a property inspector and sometimes a remodeler. The alliance buys an inexpensive house that is often in need of major repairs. Cosmetic repairs are made to the property which is then sold to an unsuspecting buyer. The buyer (usually a first-time buyer) is shown the home by the realtor who then suggests that the buyer have the property appraised by an appraiser that is part of the alliance. The appraiser appraises the property at a value that is much higher than the true value of the property. The buyer is told that the home buying process is complicated and is directed to the alliance lawyer for assistance. The alliance works together to keep the buyer from straying before the closing, after which the buyer is left defenseless. When underlying problems with the property arise the buyer has no recourse nor are they able to secure additional financing to make the repairs because the property was over-appraised. This practice takes place predominantly in low-income neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color.

The "Deed Back Scheme" or "foreclosure rescue scheme" targets homeowners who may have fallen in arrears on their current mortgages or other loans and are facing foreclosure. In this scam, the lender approaches the homeowner and offers to assist them in coming out of foreclosure with a scenario that involves the homeowner signing over their deed to the lender who verbally promises to give it back when the homeowner has regained financial stability. Lo and behold, another party comes along and presents the deed to the original homeowner asking them to vacate the premise. The lender has effectively sold the property of the unwitting homeowner.

The sub-prime lending industry has erupted in recent years as a way for higher risk individuals to obtain loans to purchase property. They are higher rate mortgages because the lender believes there is a greater risk. The industry has given rise to new loan instruments such as adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) and interest only mortgages, where the borrower pays only the interest or part of the interest on the loan with a large lump sum or balloon payment due in a few years. These products were not designed for the general public. They were intended for use by investors that have short-term holdings and quick turn-a-rounds, or persons who are anticipating major increases in their wages in the near future. Predatory lenders use these loan devices for unintended populations who oftentimes end up in situations they cannot afford.

Fliers were disseminated with maps showing the distribution of foreclosures and high-cost mortgages throughout the Borough of Brooklyn. The maps indicate that the high-cost loans and foreclosures are disproportionately in Latino and black neighborhoods. This is partly due to the reluctance of mainstream banks and lenders failure to serve those neighborhoods and thereby creating fertile territory for the predatory lenders.

Ms. Gomez disseminated pamphlets containing the names and contact information of non-profit organizations that they have worked with that will counsel individuals in the purchase of a new home or attempting positive resolutions to persons who are struggling to keep up with high-cost mortgages. The pamphlet also lists some reputable appraisers and inspectors.

NEDAP is available to speak to any community-based organization about predatory lending. She can be reached at (212) 680-5100 Ext. 210.

Mr. Antoine asked if predatory lending has anything to do with reverse mortgages.

Ms. Gomez stated that they have not seen any scams involving reverse mortgages which are instruments designed to assist homeowners sixty-two years old and over.

Chairperson Younger thanked Ms. Gomez for her presentation.

Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the community is growing both in residential population and in commerce. The businesses may not necessarily represent what is needed by our community. The Committee is seeking individuals, who desire to have a say about what comes into our community, to join the Committee. Interested person may contact District Manager Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 9, 2007 and discussed names of Board members to fill Executive Offices for the period from June 2007 to June 2008.

The Committee submits the following names:

Chairperson – Hazel A. Younger
First Vice Chairperson – Henry Hill
Second Vice Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Treasurer – Sarah Hall
Secretary – Sadie McNamara
Parliamentarian – Kofi Hormeku

Mr. Howard asked if there are any further nominations from the floor?

There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey and carried to close the nomination.

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

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 21, 2007 with Mr. Iggy Terranova from the Department of Sanitation who informed the Committee about the following new laws:

- Effective January 1, 2007, rechargeable batteries should no longer be discarded with your regular garbage but returned to the store where they were purchased. If the store is no longer in existence, they can be taken to a store that sells the same or similar batteries.
- Starting this year, leaves must be placed in a brown paper bag or an unlined garbage can for collection. Plastic bags are no longer acceptable.
- Effective April of this year, under the Mayor's new "Keep New York City Clean and Beautiful Program", property owners of 6 families or more and commercial establishments with graffiti on their property will be notified by the Sanitation Department that they have 45 days to either remove the graffiti or sign a waiver giving the Sanitation Department permission to remove it free (The waiver forms are available on tonight's display table). Sanitation will either power wash the building or paint it to match the existing color. This program is not mandatory for 1 to 5 family property owners but they will consistently be reminded to take advantage of this free graffiti removal program.

There is a citywide concern about people walking their dogs and leaving their poop behind. If proposed legislation is approved, the fine for the violation will increase from \$50.00 to \$250.00.

There is also a citywide concern about litter baskets being used to discard residential and commercial garbage. Litter baskets are for pedestrian traffic and persons caught violating this usage can receive a \$100.00 fine.

The routing time (hours enforcement agents can issue summonses) for dirty sidewalks or for not sweeping 18 inches into the street is from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.. There is a proposal to change the 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. regulation time to 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., allowing time for persons to return home from work and clean their sidewalk as opposed to issuing summons when persons are at work.

The Committee expressed their concerns about collection, recycling, street cleanliness, and summonses. The Committee was advised that Sanitation has engaged in a major education of its personnel. They are training their employees to use discretion before issuing summonses and to engage in a customer service like attitude. They have already retrained 400 of their officers and their newly hired personnel are being trained properly.

Mr. Royston Antoine, a Pitkin Avenue merchant, stated that the majority of businesses along Pitkin Avenue do not open until 10:00 a.m.. He asked if the routing times apply to the commercial establishments.

Rev. Ukaegbu stated that routing times are different for commercial zones.

A motion was made by Ms. Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Mr. Kofi Hormeku and carried to

accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Ms. Annie Walkes, member of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 with Mr. Donald Turner, Executive Assistant to Congressman Ed Towns, who provided resource booklets on senior housing and care, Medicare's new prescription drug coverage, and a document entitled "The State of Aging and Health in America 2007".

The Committee requested information on Medicare Part C. Mr. Turner will arrange to have a representative from Medicare make a presentation at next month's meeting which is scheduled for June 20th, 3:30 p.m. in the Community Board office.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Sadie McNamara and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 10, 2007.

The Committee discussed the letters that were sent to the Department of Transportation and Transit Authority regarding their responses to the Board's capital budget requests which were not favorable. Once responses are received from the agencies, the Committee will follow-up with the elected officials.

The Committee will be requesting a meeting with the Pitkin Avenue BID to discuss the need to improve lighting along Pitkin Avenue and the Department of Transportation's response to the request.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that the lighting underneath the elevated train line along Livonia Avenue needs upgrading. The Committee will be following-up with the Department of Transportation.

It was also brought to the Committee's attention that traffic devices are needed along Thomas S. Boyland Street between Hull Street and MacDougal Street to slow speeding vehicles. Residents are concerned about the number of accidents that have occurred in the past three years since new homes have been built in the area. District Manager Greene-Walker will follow-up to get 4-way stop signs or traffic lights at the intersections.

The Committee has been very active and is here to address the community's concerns. Feel free to contact the Community Board office with your concerns.

A motion was made by Ms. Sadie McNamara, seconded by Dr. Cade Jones, III and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

Dr. Merrill White, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that a meeting of the Women's Committee of Community Board 16 was held on May 14, 2007 to discuss details of the Health Forum scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2007. Members decided to hold the Forum in the lobby of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street to allow presenters an opportunity to set up tables and speak directly to community residents. Refreshments will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m..

Presentations will begin at 6:00 p.m.. The following persons/organizations were asked to participate: CNR, Dr. Mitchell, AmeriPlan, Brooklyn Perinatal, HIP of NY, Brooklyn Children's Center, Michael Howard, Department of Health, Brookdale Hospital, Alcoholism Council of NY, Interfaith Mobile Crisis Unit, WIC, Family Consultation Services, Kings County Mental Health, and the Cancer Society of NY.

Confirmations have been received from: Christina Larkin of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, CNR, WIC, Brooklyn Perinatal, HIP of NY, Ronald Humphries of the Brooklyn Children's Center, Dr. Garner of Brookdale Hospital, Dr. Kaplan of Interfaith Mobile Crisis Unit, Dr. Mitchell, and Michael Howard.

The areas covered are Diabetes, HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Health Insurance, High Blood Pressure, Healthy Eating, the Importance of Making Wills, Infant Health Care, and Podiatry. The Committee is still searching for a presenter to discuss cancer.

The Women's Committee is excited about bringing this information to the community and hopes that all members of Community Board #16 will support the Committee's efforts by attending this health awareness event. The Health Forum is for all community residents, their relatives and friends. Please join the Committee on this Thursday, May 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that this month, he and Mr. Tony Rosa, Manager of Parks for District #16, visited the parks and playgrounds in the District. Their findings are in his report which can be found in each member's folder. The Committee continues to need volunteers to adopt the parks and playgrounds in our community. Please contact the Board office at (718) 385-0323 to volunteer.

Mr. Daniel Goodine stated that Betsy Head Playground, located on Dumont Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street, is in need of work and he does not see this noted in the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Hormeku stated that Mr. Goodine's concerns will be taken into consideration. The playground was inspected by him this past Monday and while there he witnessed Parks Department personnel making repairs to fencing around the park. He is aware that additional work is needed and has been assured that it will be done in a timely manner. He made an appeal to Mr. Goodine and other persons who live near a park to join the Committee and help with the inspections of the playgrounds and parks. As the summer approaches, the parks will be heavily used and the assistance would be most appreciated.

Chairperson Younger stated that budget requests for funding to effect repairs of the playground have been made and rejected several times in the past few years. This year, however, funding has been appropriated for some of the work to be done. Mr. Hormeku has been diligent in his efforts to keep the Board and the community aware of the condition of our parks and she encouraged the audience to support his efforts to increase the Committee's membership.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. William Whitaker of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's office who stated that he can be reached at (718) 802-3876.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Brandon Bloomfield of Senator John Sampson's Office.

Mr. Bloomfield stated that he is a new Community Liaison for Senator Sampson. Senator Sampson is currently working on several legislative issues including a proposal to give a special real estate tax rebate to military personnel in active duty, a bill seeking to change sexual abuse in the second degree from an "A" misdemeanor to an "E" felony - meaning a person convicted of such a crime will do more time, legislation that will limit the maximum annual percentage rate that can be charged by credit card issuers to 10%, increase the penalties for identity theft and leaving the scene of an accident, and laws to limit access by minors to violent video games. The Senator's Office can be reached by calling (718) 649-7653.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy made the following announcements: 1) applications are available at her office for affordable housing for seniors in Bushwick. Although her Council District does not include that area, she sees a need for affordable housing for our senior citizens. 2) Funding has been allocated for the Citizens Committee for NYC to conduct "New Leadership Training" for persons interested in forming grassroots organizations and obtaining 501 (c)s. 3) Sixty additional police officers have been assigned to the Brownsville area - she asks that the community inform her if they are not doing their job properly. 4) The City Council is working on legislation which will require that residential sanitation code violation summonses be issued only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.. The same enforcement agent may not issue summonses for the same infraction to one location more than once in a 72 hours timeframe. 5) She will host a town hall meeting in June, further information will be given at the next Community Board meeting.

In terms of the budget, she has submitted a request for repairs to Betsy Head Park and the multi-service centers. She has schools as her first priority. Some of the schools in her district are in critical need. Some have kitchens that are in a poor state of repair, some have no libraries or gyms.

It is critical that she be at City Hall all of next week to ensure that her budget requests are not taken off the table. She asks that her constituents seek the assistance of her staff for the concerns during this period. Mr. Maurice Philips, her Special Assistant, will be available and can be contacted at (718) 953-3097.

She met with officials from New York City Housing Authority concerning the closing of the PAL program at Howard Houses. They were not able to stop the closing. However, the summer program has been extended to operate 5 days per week for 8 weeks, instead of 3 days a week for 6 weeks. Parents who were to pay \$400.00 up front for their children to attend are now being allowed to make installment payments throughout the 8 weeks. The program will also stay open until 10:00 p.m. and include field trips.

Mr. Roy Antoine commented that the community needs to be watchful of how our police are interacting with them. He related an incident where a man with appendicitis was arrested and jailed overnight without access to medical treatment.

Councilmember Mealy stated that it is important that we report these types of incidents in order to make the police accountable. Oftentimes incidents go unreported, perhaps due to fear of retaliation, but she encourages the community to come forward and speak out against police brutality.

Ms. Joyce Anderson asked Councilmember Mealy if she is aware of any plans to maintain Operation Impact. She is of the understanding that the Police Department will be unable to recruit enough rookie officers to man the program due to the \$25,000 starting salary.

Councilmember Mealy stated that the influx of sixty new officers to the 73rd Precinct is in and of itself an impact. This is not happening in any of the other precincts in her district. She again encouraged the audience to be vigilant in reporting undue harassment by the police.

Someone asked if the Kids and Cops program will be continued.

Councilmember Mealy stated that it is in operation and they are sponsoring a basketball game at the Van Dyke Houses this summer that she will participate in. She is encouraged by the program as it opens a line of communication between the youth and the officers. It is more difficult for an officer to mistreat a child that he or she can personally identify with.

Block associations requesting assistance for their summer block parties should submit their requests as soon as possible because funds are limited.

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

Ms. Sanders-James stated that she is happy to have heard Ms. Gomez spreading information about predatory lending scams. Their office receives many calls concerning this type of fraud, especially from senior citizens. The Mayor sponsors a number of educational seminars on the subject throughout the city.

A request was made by someone at a previous meeting for senior citizen discounts at the shops along Pitkin Avenue. She has spoken to the Pitkin Avenue BID about this and it appears that it will happen soon.

The Mayor's graffiti removal program remains in effect and applications can be downloaded from their website at nyc.gov/cau. Street activity permits are issued approximately two weeks before the date of the event.

Mayor Bloomberg continues to put forth his planNYC 2030 initiative - a plan to develop new and

affordable housing and create a cleaner, more environmentally friendly city that can sustain a growing population.

Mr. Antoine asked how affordability is being determined; homes in this neighborhood are being marketed for upwards of \$700,000. How is this affordable to residents of this community?

Ms. Sanders-James stated that she is not an expert in this field, but she recognizes the fact that what is considered affordable in one community is not necessarily so to another community. This is one of the many challenges that are facing a growing city.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Simone Lucas of Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr.'s Office.

Ms. Lucas stated that the Assemblyman's office has heard concerns about a proposed 40% rent increase for tenants of Atlantic Towers. All the concerned parties were gathered and an agreement was made to reduce the increase to 26% with Section 8 subsidies provided to the tenants who are eligible. Assemblyman Boyland has also met with officials of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal to discuss the possibility of allowing tenants the option of purchasing their apartments as co-ops. As additional information becomes available, they will advise the community.

The Assemblyman's office has been in contact with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Caribbean Chamber of Commerce in order to engage the merchants in his district to hire youth from the community for the summer.

The Assemblyman will meet with officials from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) in two weeks. Members of his staff will be riding the 3, A, C, and L lines in the district. She is asking for the assistance of the community to let her know what problem they see as they make use of the trains.

Assemblyman Boyland hosts an advisory meeting on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.. He will also host the annual Intergenerational Festival sponsored by our neighborhood health providers on June 22nd at Saratoga Square Park.

The telephone number for the Assemblyman's office is (718) 498-8681.

Mr. Antoine asked which businesses have been contacted concerning summer youth employment?

Ms. Lucas stated that they have spoken to Mr. Larry Blackman at the Small Business Services and with the merchants along Ralph, Pitkin, and Howard Avenues to put together a list of merchants and the jobs they have available.

Mr. Antoine asked if they have spoken to the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District (Pitkin BID)?

Ms. Lucas stated that the last contact person they had was Mr. Larry Fowler who is no longer associated with the Pitkin BID.

Mr. Antoine stated that there is a new Director who was hired about three weeks ago. Her name is Cathy Hickey.

Chairperson Younger requested that Ms. Hickey, who was in the audience, come forward.

Ms. Hickey stated that she is the new Executive Director for the Pitkin BID and that she looks forward to working with the community to bring about progress in the district. She encouraged the audience to reach out to her with their thoughts about the type of businesses they would like to see in the district or something that they see on the street that they don't like.

Chairperson Younger thanked Ms. Lucas and Ms. Hickey for their information, and Mr. Antoine for his comments and quality questions. She recognized District Leader Lisa Kenner.

Ms. Kenner stated that she read in today's newspaper that the city is seeking to take away

Operation Impact. It seems that there are not enough candidates for police officer positions due to the low starting salary. Newly hired police officers in Suffolk County are paid \$50,000 a year and Mayor Bloomberg needs to “step-up to the plate” and pay our officers at least the same.

Operation Impact is important to this community. Both tenants and homeowners are affected by the program. In as much as we may complain about the police, we need them around to curtail the violence in our community.

She requested and was given a copy of the Community Board’s 2007 Resource Directory in order to see what services are in the community. She wants to know where the money is going. Are the organizations helping the community? If they are not we need to close them down and have the money redirected to groups that are successfully helping our neighborhoods.

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

Ms. Duggan stated that Senator Montgomery, in cooperation with Councilmember Mealy, is sponsoring a youth dialogue with the Police Department on June 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at I.S. 271 (1137 Herkimer Street). She encourages the audience to bring the youth to the session. Answers to questions such as why they are being stopped, what are the repercussions of their actions, etc. will be given.

As the summer approaches, the youth will need summer employment. She suggests that they reach out to all of their elected officials for assistance. If each does a little, many of the youth will be able to find employment.

Chairperson Younger recognized the delegation from the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Jeffrey Maddrey introduced Sergeant Will Hamilton, the Community Policing Sergeant.

Captain Maddrey stated that information was relayed to him about an article in the New York Daily News concerning an increase in crime in Brownsville and East New York. Brownsville is up in crime - but less than 1%, or 7 real crimes, as compared to the same time period last year. He expects to be down in overall crime year to date by next week.

Shootings continue to be a problem in the Precinct and many are taking place near Livonia and Rockaway Avenues. On March 27th, one of his officers was shot at by a 15 year old boy who has since been arrested. There were not many shootings in that area last year. They know that some of the shootings are interconnected, rival groups in different complexes attacking each other. They have been going after individuals who they know are responsible for six shootings in two incidents. There is something happening to the youth’s mindset. There was an incident where a 16 year old was shot and three days later he was caught on the streets with ten vials of crack in his possession.

Borough Chief Gerald Nelson authorized the mobile command center located at Rockaway and Livonia Avenues, along with an additional sixty officers. He has spoken to the new officers and instructed them that they are here as visible support to the community, not to make enemies. He wants them to help curtail the shootings.

Police Officer Elmore announced that the 73rd and 75th Precincts will host Harmony Night on August 15, 2007. Harmony Night will bring together youth from all over the Brooklyn North Patrol for fun activities. There will be swimming, rides and food.

As summer arrives, fireworks return and you are urged to call 911 to report illegal firework activity. Fireworks are dangerous. Last year, a young woman lost a thumb due to a firecracker she ignited.

The City will begin to issue fines to property owners who do not remove graffiti from their buildings. Owners can avoid the fines by signing up for the Mayor’s free graffiti removal program.

Their new description sheets are available on the distribution table. The sheets are designed to help the public provide information that identifies crime suspects to the police which enables the

police in arresting criminals.

Someone asked what can be done about motorcyclists recklessly riding their vehicles on the sidewalks?

Police Officer Elmore stated that it should be reported to 911 while it is happening. If there is a time pattern for it taking place, the Community Affairs Office may be called at (718) 498-5422.

Police Officer Dawn Townsend announced that the 73rd Precinct Community Council and Community Board #16 will host a Dinner Dance at the Fleur de Lis on June 28th. Please contact Dr. Cade Jones, III, Ms. Sarah Hall, or the Community Board office for additional information.

The Community Council will hold its last meeting before the summer recess on June 21st at the Reverend R.D. Brown Community Center, located at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue.

The National Night Out Celebration will take place on August 7th at Betsy Head Park. Details and fliers will be distributed at the Community Board meeting in June.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Melane Rockford of the New Life Cathedral.

Ms. Rockford announced that they will host a 500 Men of Color Empowerment Summit at New Life Cathedral, located at 110 Junius Street on June 23rd from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. The registration fee is \$35.00, but men who have been recently released from prison or in a drug program may register free of charge. The summit will cover a host of topics affecting the needs of men in the inner city. Lunch is included in the registration.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Ngozi Moses of the Brooklyn Perinatal Network.

Ms. Moses stated that her organization deals with infant and maternal care and as such they care a great deal about the health of the community. They are noticing that many health services are leaving the community along with affordable housing and jobs. Of the seven health centers that were saved when Saint Mary's Hospital was closed, two are now slated for closing and a WIC center lost. What will be next? Although it is late notice they are seeking support for a meeting being held on May 25th to hear community concerns on this matter. On June 9th, the Mayor will host a listening session, most likely in Manhattan. The information they gain at May 25th's meeting will allow them to let the Administration know proactively how the services or lack thereof affect this community.

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

Mr. Boone thanked those who participated in their recent and successful Grandparents' Day and Career Day activities. They will host a Fathers and Son celebration on June 8th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at P.S. / I.S. 323 at 210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues. They will also sponsor a Fathers and Daughters celebration on June 15th at P.S. 327 at 111 Bristol Street. He can be contacted at (718) 498-7033 for additional information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Merlyn Joseph of 1199.

Ms. Joseph stated that there are over 2.6 million Americans without medical coverage. They believe that we should be like England and Canada and have universal health coverage. They are running a campaign soliciting individuals to complete postcards that will be forwarded to our elected officials in Washington in support of universal health coverage.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Henry Hill, seconded by Ms. Sadie McNamara and carried to adjourn the meeting.