

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JUNE 24, 2008**

Attendance

David Alexander*	Shawn Lewis (A)
Renee Archer (A)	Deborah Mack
Orlando Aupont	James Mack
Octavius Bamberg (E)	Yolanda Matthews
Sissi Benitez (A)	Sadie McNamara
Josephine Blakeley (E)	Ted McQueen (A)
Patricia Boone	Rev. Joseph Norton (A)
James A. Bowens (E)	Marie Pierre
Essie Duggan	Elder Devon Ponds
Samantha Dunn (A)	Mattie Pusey (A)
Ivory Ellison (A)	Melaine Rochford
Helen Giles (E)	Linda Sanders
Shirley Gonsalves	Lashon Segar (A)
Sarah Hall	Tyrone Thomas
Henry Hill	Ernestine Turner
Jessie Hilliard	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Kofi Hormeku (E)	Alice Vines (E)
Michael Howard	Annie Walkes
Allene Ingram	Herman Winston
Daisy Jackson (E)	Hazel Younger
Javonn Johnson (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Troy Johnson (A)	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Dr. Cade Jones, III	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Pamela Junior	Hon. Lisa Kenner
Eula Key	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Danny King (E)	R. Hermon for Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Kevin McCall for Hon. Charles Barron

\*Inadvertently marked absent instead of excused for May 27, 2008.

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

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.. An invocation was said by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu.

Chairperson Younger recognized Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes.

District Attorney Hynes stated that his office is currently involved in an initiative to reduce the amount of guns on the streets. Beginning July 19<sup>th</sup>, two hundred dollars will be given to anyone who turns in a gun at one of several Brooklyn churches, which include First Baptist Church of Brownsville (357 Chester Street) and Helping Hands Ministries (326 Junius Street). The weapons may be turned in at these locations with no questions asked and two hundred dollars will be issued to the presenter. He is hoping that many guns are removed from the streets through this program. The number of guns in the hands of our youth is tragic. There are not many options for these youth when they are caught with a gun under the mandatory sentencing guidelines.

For nearly eight years they have had a program for formerly incarcerated individuals. This was the brainchild of his first Assistant District Attorney and the current Chairperson for Mayor Bloomberg's Human Rights Commission, Patricia Gatlin. Ms. Gatlin came up with a program that referenced the fact that about four thousand individuals are released from prison each year. The recidivism rate was approximately 60% within three years of release, with a large percent of that number occurring in the first year of release. Her idea was a rather simple one, if those individuals could be brought together with volunteer agencies and provided with wrap-around services and meaningful rehabilitative services, recidivism could be lowered.

The ComALERT (Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together) began with a group of 200 former inmates a year for the first four years and now enrolls 1,200 former inmates each year. Since the program's inception, the recidivism rate has dropped to between twenty and twenty-five percent. The fewer people who return to the prison system, the better it is for all of us. The statistical information has been substantiated by Harvard Professor Michael Western

who's report on ComALERT may be found on Harvard's website.

Another exciting happening in law enforcement is the Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R. 1593) which was signed into law this past April by President Bush. This bi-partisan legislation provides nearly \$200,000,000 for re-entry and in-house drug treatment programs and will reduce the recidivism rate even further.

The Board is invited to visit his orientation program for the formerly incarcerated on any Friday at 1:30 p.m.. He promises that you will see something that you have never seen, the conversion of young people from angry, distracted, and disenchanting individuals to young people who see the possibility of real alternatives to returning to prison. No one plans on when they will be returning to prison as they are leaving those upstate facilities. However, if they are offered no job and no family support, and you give them no hope, it becomes a certainty that they will return to prison. He is often asked, why does he involve himself in such ventures? His answer is why would he not be involved. As the chief law enforcement officer of Kings County, it is his duty to protect its citizens. If he can return these individuals back into the mainstream as law abiding tax payers, it is a benefit to all of us.

As a survivor of domestic violence, he is well aware of its effect on public safety. Many of those incarcerated are survivors of domestic violence. He can recall the anger and frustration that he felt as a child when his father would beat up on his mother. He is fortunate in that he was saved by his mother and grandfather, but many others are not so lucky. His office operates a Family Justice Center on the fifteenth floor of 350 Jay Street, downtown Brooklyn. It is a sensational program where thirty-seven totally dedicated agencies are committed to stopping domestic violence. There is no need for any Brooklynite to endure the horrific nightmare of domestic violence for another hour. No court involvement is necessary, the walk-in center is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

Chairperson Younger thanked District Attorney Hynes for his presentation.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Chairperson Younger requested that they be read at home.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report. Chairperson Younger requested that the Board Members read them at home.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that fliers are available on tonight's distribution table with information about an owners' night forum being hosted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at Mount Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Eastern Parkway. HPD, along with several other agencies, will be present to answer your questions regarding home repair loans, property tax exemption, code enforcement, recycling, lead abatement, and pest control. If you do not own property, please encourage a friend or relative who does to attend the event. There will be a room full of resources available to them on Thursday evening.

Also, on the first page of her report is an article about new homes being constructed on Pacific and Dean Streets between Eastern Parkway and Rockaway Avenue. An informational seminar will be conducted on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mount Ararat Senior Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. She encourages any interested persons to attend.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 23, 2008 with several merchants from Belmont Avenue regarding the efforts to revitalize Belmont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Rockaway Avenue.

Everyone agreed that a national chain store is needed as an anchor to attract other stores. In addition, a lack of parking is a major problem and we will be examining the possibility of converting Belmont Avenue to a mall, which will restrict vehicular traffic, or installing metered parking.

Now that the Committee has a commitment from several of the major stakeholders on Belmont Avenue to work towards improving the shopping strip, they will be pursuing efforts to revitalize Belmont Avenue with our City, State, and Federal representatives, in conjunction with economic development agencies.

As plans progress, the Committee will inform the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 16, 2008 with representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The Lead Program is working on an initiative to assist property owners with removing lead paint hazards by targeting financial resources and working with hardware and paint stores.

Lead is a poison often found in old paint. Lead paint, and the dust it turns into, is the most common cause of lead poisoning. It's especially dangerous for young children because lead can cause learning and behavior problems.

Brownsville is one of the neighborhoods that has a high rate of lead poisoning cases. In coming months, the Lead Poisoning Program will be reaching out to property owners to inform them about resources that can assist them with removing lead paint hazards.

As more information becomes available, the committee will inform the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Patricia Boone, seconded by Elder Devon Ponds and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Resources Committee.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that at last month's meeting, the Committee recommended and the Board supported a proposal by the Calvary Church of God, Inc. to construct 120 units of housing for senior citizens on Riverdale Avenue (Block 3603, Lot 25) at Rockaway Avenue in a 6-story building with at least 40 parking spaces.

At its meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with representatives from Calvary Church, the Committee reviewed additional information about the project and is requesting that the Community Board rescind its initial recommendation and that the Board vote in support of the proposal to construct a seven story building with the 7<sup>th</sup> floor being a setback. This building will create 120 units of affordable housing for senior citizens with commercial space on the ground floor and 27 parking spaces.

Calvary Church also presented a proposal to develop a commercial building on Livonia Avenue (Block 3566, Lot 6) between Howard Avenue and Grafton Street. Potential tenants will be a day care center and an after school program.

The Committee recommends that the Board supports this proposal which will create much needed space for day care and after-school programs in the community.

A delegation from Calvary Church led by Mr. Carlton Knight was called forward for a brief presentation on their proposal.

Mr. Knight stated that they are proposing to construct affordable housing on a lot on Riverdale Avenue between Rockaway and Thatford Avenues and they are requesting the Board's continued support. Also, at Livonia Avenue between Howard Avenue and Grafton Street, they propose to construct a two-story building with retail space on the ground floor, as per HPD's Request for Proposals. Calvary Church is proposing a daycare facility on the second floor of the building. The Administration for Children's Services is in support of this proposal.

They are in conversation with other agencies regarding entering into a partnership on the retail portion of the proposal. It is their intent to provide structured care for young people from infancy to about age 12 to 13 years between the daycare and after school program. As the programs develop

they will keep the community informed.

The architect, Mr. Daniel Garthe of Kitchen and Associates Architectural Services, stated that they are requesting maximum flexibility to develop the housing proposal in accordance to HPD's guidelines. The Board's Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee had requested "X" amount of parking spaces and "X" amount of floors. He is hoping that those limitations can be set aside. They presented to the Committee a potential schematic which they are proud of, however, they do not want to be in a position where they cannot make any adjustments as may be required by HPD or the Department of City Planning.

Mr. Tom Keller of Brisa Builders Corporation, the general contractor for the project, gave a brief history of his company's background and mentioned some of the projects that he has been involved with in Brooklyn.

Someone asked what percentage of units are being set-aside for community residents?

Mr. Knight stated that they have a development committee working on that. He feels certain that a high percentage of the units will go to community residents as Calvary Church is located in the community on East 98<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Kevin Monroe asked how old do applicants need to be and what is the pricing range for the apartments?

Mr. Knight stated that the housing is being developed for persons age sixty-two years or older. The apartments are being priced in accordance to Section 8 guidelines.

Mr. Garthe stated that residents would pay rent based on a percentage of their income.

Chairperson Younger asked what will be the dollar amount for an apartment?

Mr. Garthe stated that the rents would be no more than thirty percent of the renter's income.

Chairperson Younger stated that what is being sought is a dollar amount. Is there an amount available?

Mr. Garthe stated that if a senior has income of \$600 per month they would pay 30% of that (\$180) as rent.

Mr. Monroe asked if seniors without Section 8 would be precluded from obtaining an apartment in the development?

Mr. Garthe stated that each unit will be Section 8 eligible and the residents would pay based on a percentage of their income.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if there will be a maximum income limitation?

Mr. Knight stated that to his knowledge there will be none. However, the person with a better knowledge of the financial aspects of the project is not present this evening. He would rather have the information prepared and forwarded to the Community Board no later than next week, rather than comment further on that aspect.

Someone asked if the site is located on what is now Riverdale Towers?

Mr. Knight stated that the site is located on what was formerly a community garden on Riverdale Avenue between Rockaway and Thatford Avenues.

Someone asked where will the daycare center be located?

Mr. Knight stated that the site is located on Livonia Avenue between Howard Avenue and Grafton Street.

Mr. Tyrone Thomas asked how many jobs would be created by the projects?

Mr. Keller stated that it is not possible to predict the number of jobs that will be created due to the nature of the construction industry. On any given day, the subcontractors will have onsite the number of workers he or she needs to perform the day's job. One day there might be twenty workers and the next week it may only be four persons.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if the seniors will be allowed to have a family member live with them?

Mr. Knight stated that all of the units are one-bedroom units design for the seniors.

Ms. Peltonbusch asked if the bedrooms will be large enough to accommodate a bedroom set?

Mr. Garthe stated that the bedrooms will be ten feet by fourteen feet which is large enough to accommodate a bedroom set.

Ms. Linda Sanders asked why are there only one-bedroom units? Many seniors have children who live with them.

Mr. Knight stated that they are trying to provide affordable housing for seniors.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Yolanda Matthews and carried to table the proposals by Calvary Church until they provide the Board with additional information in regards to the rent payment schedule.

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 15, 2008 and discussed names of Board members to fill Executive Offices for the period from June 2008 to June 2009.

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 – James Mack

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

There being none, a motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Annie Walkes and carried to close the nomination.

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

Chairperson Younger thanked the Nominating Committee and the membership for their votes of confidence.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reminded the audience that recycling is the law and it's important that each of us do our share to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfills.

Also, Sanitation Enforcement is very active in issuing summons to property owners who do not recycle items such as glass, plastics, metals and paper. If you are not sure of the materials that should be recycled, please call the Community Board office for assistance. Labels identifying the items for recycling are available at the Community Board Office.

If you are having a block or tenant association meeting and wish to have a speaker to explain what should be recycled, please call the Community Board Office at (718) 385-0323 for assistance.

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is offering free composting events at 1000 Washington Avenue.

There will be a workshop on compost tea on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and composting in small city yards on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. You may call (718) 623-7220 to register for the workshops.

She re-emphasized the need to recycle, it is our neighborhood, our city, and our planet.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. David Alexander to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Mr. Henry Hill, member of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 18, 2008 with a representative from New York Life who shared information about Long Term Care Insurance.

With advances in medical science and healthier eating habits, people are living longer. Living a long life can increase your risk of needing help with daily activities such as getting in and out of bed, eating, bathing, or dressing. Long term care, unlike standard medical care, helps an individual maintain a level of functional independence, but isn't necessarily attempting to cure a specific illness.

Long term care insurance may help pay for the cost of a variety of long term care services and gives you the freedom to select where you receive care – at home, or in an approved facility.

Long term care insurance can also help protect the savings and assets that you have worked so hard to accumulate.

In the fall, the Committee will invite representatives from long term care insurers to speak at a Community Board meeting to give more information.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Chairperson Younger commended Ms. Daisy Jackson for all her efforts in putting together the recent youth conference held at I.S. 271 and Ms. Essie Duggan for her presentation at the conference.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Community Board #16's Youth Services Planning Committee, in conjunction with the CAMBA Beacon Program at I.S. 271, successfully held the Annual Teen Conference. Fifty teens participated. Most popular workshops were Gang Violence, Health & HIV/AIDS, and Maintaining Your Power in the Midst of Controversy. One teen registered to vote after taking the "Your Voice Matters" workshop. A number of teens applied for library cards at the Public Library resource table.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr., Councilmember Darlene Mealy, and Senator Velmanette Montgomery made special appearances and interacted with the teens.

The Committee plans to recap and begin preliminary planning for the 2009 teen conference on July 21, 2008.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Ry-Ann Hermon from the Office of Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr..

Ms. Hermon stated that Assemblyman Boyland has teamed with National Grid (formerly KeySpan Energy) to offer homeowners a twenty percent discount on their natural gas bills. Applications are available at the Assemblyman's office, located at 467 Thomas S. Boyland Street between Pitkin and East New York Avenues.

For working families, a grant is available to assist with window repairs. Another grant, the Restore Fund, provides emergency resources to homeowners who are senior citizens. It is

available to make emergency repairs such as repairing a leaking roof, boiler repairs, or a broken sidewalk. Applications for both resources are also available at the Assemblyman's office.

Several complaints have been received by Assemblyman Boyland's office with regard to the B-14 and B-60 buses. The complaints are that these buses do not run frequently enough. The Assemblyman met with Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) officials who have promised to place additional buses on the routes.

Assemblyman Boyland, along with Assemblyman Jeffries, Assemblyman Rivera, and City Councilmember Dickens will meet with Robert V. Hess, Commissioner for the Department of Homeless Services, to discuss the merging of all intake centers into the Brooklyn Armory at Bedford and Atlantic Avenues.

The Assemblyman will host a fireworks display on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Fulton Street between Van Sinderen Avenue and Sackman Street.

He will sponsor a baseball and a tennis league this summer. The baseball league will start on July 15<sup>th</sup> and end on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The league is for youth ages 5 years to 13 years old. The tennis league will operate on August 16<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fliers for the sport leagues are available on tonight's distribution table.

He is also hiring youth and college students to work this summer. There are currently nine open slots for youths aged 14 to 16 years old. There are twenty positions available for those aged seventeen to twenty-four years old. The telephone number for their office is (718) 498-8681.

Chairperson Younger requested that the newly appointed members of the Board come forward (Orlando Aponte, Jessie Hilliard, Linda Sanders, Tyrone Thomas, and Annie Walkes responded).

She requested that Rev. Joseph Jones of District Attorney Charles Hynes' office administer the oath of office to the appointees.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Kevin McCall from the Office of Councilmember Charles Barron.

Mr. McCall stated that on Thursday past, Councilmember Barron honored several community individuals, as he does each year. Amongst the honorees this year were tenant association presidents, Nicole Paultre-Bell, fiancée of the late Sean Bell, and this Board's own Chairperson Ms. Hazel Younger.

East New York and Brownsville have the highest foreclosure rates in the city. On Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. Councilmember Barron, along with Senator John Sampson, representatives from HPD, and the State Comptroller's office will rally at "Sonny Carson Park" to stop this foreclosure madness. He encourages the entire community to come out to support them.

Councilmember Barron allocated \$2,000,000 for the rehabilitation of the Brownsville Recreational Center ballfield. The work is currently underway and will cause the relocation of the Brownsville Old-Timers day celebrations. This year, the celebration will take place on Linden Boulevard from Mother Gaston Boulevard to Van Sinderen Avenue.

Chairperson Younger recognized Female District Leader Lisa Kenner.

District Leader Kenner stated that even though she has not been present at a number of Community Board meetings, she has been working for the community.

She would like to see a greater participation in Community Board activities by the young people of the community. There are many people here this evening, but not enough young people. We are losing too many of our young people to the streets.

She expressed disappointment with some of the clergy in the community for their lack of outreach to the families. She stated that in growing up in the community the churches were a foundation that she sees crumbling.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, a production of Dreamgirls will be performed at Van Dyke Community Center (The Hole) as part of the Brownsville week celebrations. She encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the presentation.

Chairperson Younger recognized Senator Velmanette Montgomery's representative, Ms. Essie Duggan.

Ms. Duggan thanked District Manager Greene-Walker and the Youth Services Planning Committee for inviting her to speak at the youth forum. It is extremely important that our youth be informed on their rights and duties as citizens. Information is a powerful resource. Lack of knowledge causes people to suffer through crises needlessly.

Grassroot organizations such as block and tenant associations can carry much power if they are kept active and informed. They are a wonderful resource for residents to use when a problem occurs. She encouraged the audience to bring someone along with them when they attend meetings such as the Community Board meetings so that the information can be spread throughout the community. On tonight's distribution table, pamphlets containing information on various resources from who your elected representatives are to available resources in the Juvenile Justice system. She urges everyone to take them, read them, and pass the information along.

Chairperson Younger recognized Rev. Joseph Jones from the office of District Attorney Charles Hynes.

Rev. Jones reiterated that on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> several churches in Brooklyn will be participating in a gun buy back program. Churches were selected as neutral territory where there are no cameras, no pictures being taken, and no one asking questions. Simply bring in a gun and a two hundred dollar ATM card will be issued on the spot.

Amnesty will be provided through a call-in system. The gun carrier would call their office and leave initials, it can be any initials, it does not have to be their own. If they should be stopped, they would then call the site, give the initials and they will be allowed to turn in the weapon. He strongly suggests that this is the time to let everyone you know who may possess an illegal firearm to turn it in.

A similar program was administered in Chicago using twenty-three churches and seven-thousand weapons were collected in a single day. Here, in Brooklyn there will only be five churches because they are still unsure that it will work. He needs our help to spread the word so that it can be shown that this is a good way to do it before someone falls victim to a gun.

They are also promoting their Project Redirect program which is designed to assist gang members who have been arrested, or are seeking to find a way out of gang life. Please call his office at (718) 250-3729 for additional information.

They are preparing to setup a meeting with Mothers Against Gangs (you need not be a mother to take part) to bring awareness of gang paraphernalia. There are several merchants along Pitkin Avenue who purposely setup their stores with blue on one side and red on the other. People have already been assaulted by unknowingly buying one or the other. Mothers Against Gangs is reaching out to Major League Baseball to get them to stop misuse of their product. As soon as information is available he will forward it to the Board.

Chairperson Younger announced that there will be a special public hearing held on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss two housing projects. She urges all members of the Board to attend the meeting in order to ensure a quorum.

She recognized Ms. Nicole Clark of the Brownville Multi- Service Health Center.

Ms. Clark stated that on Friday, June 27, they will host a health fair at the BMS Isis Center, located at 259 Bristol Street between Blake and Dumont Avenues. During the fair the Department of Transportation will assist them in distributing free bicycle helmets to riders of all ages. Bicycle riders and skateboarders should always wear safety gear to prevent injury. They will also be doing free HIV/AIDS testing to commemorate National Multicultural HIV Testing



Day. A relatively large portion of the Brownsville population is affected by HIV/AIDS. They encourage everyone to get tested.

Chairperson Younger recognized Dr. Cade Jones, III of St. Luke's Community Church.

Dr. Jones announced that on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's and Christian Crossroads will close Watkins Street between Pitkin and Belmont Avenues to provide information to the community. There will be college representatives present, free HIV screening, and members of the Police Department's Explorer program and recruiters from the Department will also be there. He invites everyone to join in the activities.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Christina Larkin from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Larkin stated that West Nile season is upon us once again. She encourages the public to report any instances of standing water to 3-1-1. She also stated that New York has raised the tax imposed on cigarettes sales and a pack of cigarettes now averages \$8.50 per pack. Free nicotine replacement therapy is still available by calling 3-1-1 and will be available to persons seeking to quit smoking at the owner's night event mentioned by District Manager Greene-Walker earlier this evening.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Deborah Mack who stated that she is a personal financial analyst and she has with her this evening a flier offering information on different types of life insurance. She is available to consult with any who seeks additional information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Detective Dean Elmore, Community Affairs Officer for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Detective Elmore stated that shootings continue to be a major issue for the precinct. They are observing more and more gun violence perpetrated by and upon teens 14 and 15 years old. Earlier, you heard about the gun buy back program, we have to get the guns off the street. Ms. Duggan spoke about block and tenant associations, the Community Affairs Office, along with the precinct commanding officer, will work with active associations to reduce criminal activity that may be taking place on your block or in your building. The information will be kept strictly confidential.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Vara Perry-Spencer from Wings for Youth, Inc..

Ms. Perry-Spencer stated that her organization is located at 42 Ralph Avenue and they service male minority youth at risk. They host prison prevention workshops weekly, the next workshop will be on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The workshops are facilitated by ex-offenders and correction officers who come out and share the realities of prison life with the young men. She encourages the audience to bring an at-risk-youth to one of these very informative workshops. Their mission is to increase graduation and decrease incarceration.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dr. Cade Jones, III, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to adjourn the meeting.