

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 28, 2008

Attendance

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the Public Hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. and an invocation was said by Dr. Cade Jones, III.

The first item was read: Pursuant to the New York City Charter to gather community views and proposals with respect to the New York City's Fiscal Year 2010 Capital and Expense Budgets.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker directed the audience's attention to the list of recommended Capital and Expense Budget requests and their suggested priority for Fiscal Year 2010 (listed on the first six pages of tonight's District Manager's report).

The capital budget allocates funds for physical improvements, land acquisition, and major equipment. The expense budget allocates funds for the ongoing operations of the City, which include personnel, minor equipment and materials, and anything budgeted on a year-to-year basis. The Board may submit up to forty capital budget requests and up to twenty-five expense requests.

She stated that some of the suggestions may look familiar as they were previously submitted but have not been funded. She opened the floor for comments and/or any new suggestions.

Mr. Lamell Callahan, a community resident, asked if any of the budget requests address the beautification or development of the many vacant and unsightly lots in the community?

Chairperson Younger stated that most of the vacant lots in the community are part of program that is designed to develop the lots. The process is such that a lot may have the appearance that nothing is taking place when in-fact it is scheduled for development. She applauds his sense of pride in his community at an age in his life when many of his peers do not express such an interest. She requested that he provide the Board with a list of properties that he is concerned

about and the Board will in turn let him know of plans for development of those lots.

Ms. Christina Larkin of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requested that item number 27 on the Capital Expense Budget: Upgrade Housing Authority Grounds in Community District #16 also include walking paths in order to encourage walking as a physical activity to stem obesity and other health issues amongst community residents.

District Manager Greene-Walker asked if there were any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Capital and Expense Budget items.

There being none, the next item was read: IN THE MATTER OF a Land Sale to Comfort Bedding, Inc. Pursuant to Section 384(b)(4) of the New York City Charter, Block 3676, Lots 30, 32, and 34 (the "Site").

District Manager Greene-Walker requested that representatives of New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) come forward for a brief presentation.

Mr. Connor Wilson stated that he is a Project Manager for EDC and they are here tonight to request the Board's support of sale of approximately 10,000 square feet of City-owned vacant land located in the East New York Industrial Park to Comfort Bedding, Inc..

Comfort Bedding is a manufacturer of mattresses, box springs, and bed frames in the east Brooklyn area. They have developed over 21,000 square feet in Brownsville. They have been in operation since 2001 and are located at 13 Christopher Avenue. The sale will allow them to expand their operation and create approximately 15 new jobs while maintaining their current staff of 58 persons. They have expressed to the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee their willingness to sign a letter of intent to employ residents of Community District #16 whenever possible.

District Manager Greene-Walker asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the presentation.

There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to adjourn the Public Hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Dr. Cade Jones, III and carried to waive the reading of last month's minutes.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

Everyone was encouraged to read the minutes and the District Manager's report at home.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that there is a battery on each seat, courtesy of the Fire Department of New York as a reminder to change the batteries and test our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when we adjust our clocks this fall.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Iggy Terranova from the Department of Sanitation.

Mr. Terranova stated that he is the Citywide Community Affairs Officer for the Department of Sanitation. He announced that beginning November 10th they will be in "Night Plow" status which means that they will be collecting garbage 24-hours a day. During this period, some households will have their garbage collected overnight while others will continue to have collection done during the day. If a household had collection overnight in the previous year, they will be serviced during the day this year. In either case, garbage should be placed curbside after 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled collection day. Placing garbage curbside prior to 4:00 p.m. will subject you to a fine.

Election Day and Veterans Day are back-to-back Tuesday holidays in November and there will be no collection on those days. Collection of household garbage normally collected on Tuesdays will take place on the ensuing Wednesdays. Recyclables normally scheduled for Tuesdays will be collected on Wednesday, November 12th.

The Lawn Litter Law is now in effect in New York City wherein it is illegal for a person to place unsolicited advertisements on another person's property if there is a clearly visible sign that reads "do not place unsolicited flyers on the property". If your 1- to 3-family home has such a sign posted and is littered upon, you may obtain a complaint form from the Department of Sanitation and submit the completed form, along with the flyers, to the Department. Once the complaint is received they will wait to receive a second complaint from the same area for the same date. After receiving two or more complaints they will issue a \$250 summons to the distributor of each flyer that is received. He suggests that we make our neighbors aware of the law and encourage them to complete and submit the form for lawn litter, as the Department can only act if they receive multiple complaints for the same date in a particular area. In the case of multiple dwelling units, management may place a sign stating that flyers are not desired except for specific units that may wish to receive them (The flyers must be placed in a designated area).

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that some of his neighbors have complained that distributors place ten or more bags in front of their property and they are issued summonses by Sanitation.

Mr. Terranova stated that Sanitation Enforcement Officers should not be writing violations on bagged lawn litter, even if there are 100 bags, unless there are torn bags and flyers strewn throughout the yard.

Mr. Ladson asked if the Department will issue leaf collection bags this year?

Mr. Terranova stated that this year, leaves may be placed out for collection alongside regular household garbage. In the past, homeowners were asked to place leaves in plastic bags for collection on specified Sundays. In 2007 that was changed to placing the leaves in brown paper bags and as an introduction to the program each homeowner in the city was given 5 bags on a one-time only basis.

As a part of the Department's required budget cuts, the leaf collection program has been suspended. This was done in order to have as little effect on the citizenry as possible by the cuts. There will be no cuts to collection services.

The fine for violating New York States Pooper Scooper law has been increased to \$250 per violation. In order to help enforcement, the public is asked to report violations to the Board's office or 3-1-1 with the location and specific times the dogs are walked, i.e.; Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m..

Chairperson Younger asked if it is still necessary to have the lawn litter complaint forms notarized?

Mr. Terranova stated that it has never been a requirement. It was an idea that was toyed with when the legislation was introduced but was never supported by the Department of Sanitation.

He reminded the audience that as we enter snow season, New York City law requires that property owners clear the sidewalk in front of their property no later than four hours after the end of a snowfall. An exception to this rule is if the snowfall ends after 9:00 p.m., in which case it must be removed no later than 11:00 a.m. the following day. Snow should be shoveled to the curb and not into the street. If snow is shoveled into the street the property owner is subject to a fine.

Someone asked what recourse is available if their parked vehicle is damaged by snow plow trucks?

Mr. Terranova stated that a claim should be filed indicating the truck number, place, and time the damage occurred. Claims without the truck number will not be processed.

Someone asked if the truck number can be determined by the route?

Mr. Terranova stated that while trucks are generally assigned designate routes, during a snow clearing period the routes become irrelevant because the trucks are maneuvered throughout the city in order to remove snow as quickly as possible.

Ms. Marie Pierre asked who is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk of vacant property?

Mr. Terranova stated that it is the responsibility of the property owners to remove snow in front of their property. If the owners fail to keep the sidewalk clean they will be summoned. In some instances where there have been snow laborers available, the laborers may be assigned to remove snow in front of vacant properties with the owners being billed for the service.

Mr. Ladson asked if the City has discontinued litter basket service?

Mr. Terranova stated that the litter basket service continues to be active. Litter baskets are placed along commercial strips where foot traffic warrants such service. To determine if a specific location warrants a litter basket, the location is monitored to see what pedestrians have in hand as they travel near the location. If they are carrying articles that they are likely to dispose of before reaching their destination, then a basket is placed at the requested location.

Mr. Ladson stated that a litter basket that was placed on Strauss Street at Blake Avenue is no longer there.

Mr. Terranova stated that there are two reasons why the basket may no longer be there. One is the basket may have been stolen because litter baskets are frequently stolen. The other is that the basket may have been abused. Litter baskets are placed for the deposit of pedestrian garbage. It is illegal to place residential or commercial garbage in litter baskets. If non-pedestrian garbage is frequently found in a particular litter basket it is considered abused and removed.

Mr. Gauntlett Mightly asked who is responsible for debris on sidewalks in front of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings?

Mr. Terranova stated that NYCHA is responsible for keeping the sidewalks clean in front of their properties. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) recognizes that there are problems with some NYCHA sites and is working with them to resolve the issues. He requested that he be informed of any specific issues that may arise.

Someone stated that when they go to respond to summonses, the process takes all day. Is there something that can be done to streamline this process?

Mr. Terranova stated that once DSNY has issued a summons, they no longer control the process. The Environmental Control Board (ECB) is responsible for the adjudication of the summons. It should be noted that all Sanitation summonses may be challenged or paid by mail, although in certain circumstances you may be requested to come in.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu requested a clarification on what happens when residential or commercial garbage is found in pedestrian litter baskets.

Mr. Terranova stated that if DSNY find so much as one piece of garbage that identifies the violator, the violator will be summonsed. The first summons is for \$100 and subsequent violations are \$300.

Ms. Marcella Lee stated that an auto repair shop is parking vehicles on the sidewalk of Saratoga Avenue near Dean Street. What can be done about this?

Mr. Terranova stated that depending on whether the vehicle has plates or not, it may be a police issue or a DSNY issue. If the vehicle has any license plates, even a paper one, the police must be contacted. If there are no plates and the vehicle has been in one location for over six hours, it can be considered abandoned. It can then be summonsed and removed by DSNY.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if there will be any other cuts or changes made aside from the leaf collection mentioned earlier?

Mr. Terranova stated that the only other change that affects the public is a change to the collection of litter baskets. Previously, litter baskets were serviced around-the-clock on Mondays through Saturdays and twice on Sundays. They will now be serviced only once each day.

Chairperson Younger thanked Mr. Terranova for all the information he presented to the audience.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that on October 15, 2008, a meeting was held with representatives of the Child Development Support Corporation which provides preventive

services to 61 families in Community District #16 under contract with the New York City Administration for Children Services.

The preventive program provides a broad range of direct, intensive, and comprehensive social services to help families overcome challenges and learn ways to become self-reliant and self-sufficient in order to avoid the disruption of their families by placing children in foster care.

The Child Development Support Corporation has been working with Brownsville families since 1985. They are requesting a letter of support for their proposal for refunding.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board provide them with a letter of support.

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

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that at the Committee's meetings on June 10th, and on September 9th, the Committee met with representatives of Women In Need regarding a proposal to construct 282 units of housing in an 11-story building on a vacant lot at 75-121 Junius Street between Liberty and Glenmore Avenues.

This property is located within the East New York Industrial Park which is zoned M1-4. In order for housing to be built it requires a rezoning to R9.

Following the meeting, Women In Need met with representatives of the Local Development Corporation of East New York which is opposed to the project because it is contrary to their mission to preserve and protect zoned real estate for firms looking to relocate, expand or exist in the East Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board vote in opposition to this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposed site is located in a manufacturing zone. The site is abutted by the train tracks along Van Sinderen Avenue and a metal recycling facility which create an unhealthy environment for residents.
- 2) The existing zoning does not permit this kind of housing development.
- 3) The size of the development is out of context with the surrounding area.

On October 14th and 28th, the Committee met with representatives of the New York City Economic Development Corporation and Comfort Bedding, Inc. regarding a proposed land sale of city-owned property at 117-121 Liberty Avenue (Block 3676, Lots 30, 32, and 34) between Sackman Street and Christopher Avenue.

Comfort Bedding proposes to construct a 1-story building with high ceilings, containing 10,000 square feet on the site in order to expand its adjacent manufacturing facility.

The development is expected to retain fifty full-time employees and anticipates the creation of approximately fifteen new jobs.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports the land sale to Comfort Bedding with the understanding that employment opportunities will be given to community residents with referrals from the Community Board and nonprofit organizations involved in workforce programs.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey and unanimously carried to reject the proposal by Women In Need, Inc. to construct 282 units of housing on a vacant lot at 75-121 Junius Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Octavius Bamberg III and carried with 1-opposed (Dr. Cade Jones) and 1-abstention (Ms. Essie Duggan), to support the land sale to Comfort Bedding, Inc. (as described in item III. in tonight's Public Hearing).

Mr. Henry Hill, member of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 22, 2008 with a representative of District Attorney Charles Hynes' Office who shared information about their Senior Affairs Unit. The Unit will investigate and provide

counseling for victims of elder abuse, and educate seniors regarding crime prevention techniques. In addition, the Unit focuses on predatory lending practices which routinely target the elderly. For assistance, call Mary Hughes at (718) 250-2309.

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

A roll call vote was taken which resulted in 25 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions to approve the District Manager's suggested Capital and Expense Budget Requests and their priorities which was also presented at tonight's Public Hearing.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Latrice M. Walker from the Office of U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke.

Ms. Walker thanked all those who participated in their recent Economic Stimulus Workshop and invited anyone who completed a tax return, but has not yet received their stimulus check, to contact Congresswoman Clarke's office.

She stated that 59,000 jobs were lost in the nation last month. Congresswoman Clarke has reached out to a host of organizations and will host a job fair. Amongst the employers that are seeking to fill vacancies are Bedford Stuyvesant Development Corp., Con Edison, Ikea, the Human Resources Administration, National Grid, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Postal Service, the Office of Kings County District Attorney, and Work Force 1.

As an attorney, a significant number of community residents have approached her concerning a host of legal issues that need to be addressed. Congresswoman Clarke will host a series of symposiums to address some of the issues. On November 19th personnel from the Office of the Attorney General will be at the Van Dyke Community Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to offer assistance on employment discrimination. The discussion will include what is legal or illegal for an employer to ask on job applications and interviews? On November 3, 2008 from 5:30 p.m., representatives from Legal Help for Families Today will be available to discuss issues of custodianship.

Please call Congresswoman Clarke's office at (718) 287-1142 for additional information.

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

Ms. Hermon presented Chairperson Younger with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her recent receipt of a SUN-B Award.

She announced that, as was mentioned by Ms. Walker, employment is an issue in our community, Assemblyman Boyland has opened his office to offer assistance preparing resumes. Anyone who needs help in this area should call their office at (718) 498-8681.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Christopher Lundy from the Office of Congressman Representative Edolphus Towns.

Mr. Lundy stated that Congressman Towns sends his thanks to all those who supported him in the recent primary election. He is working very hard to save jobs, homes, and money for this nation's citizens.

The office continues to receive many calls concerning foreclosures. Anyone in eminent danger of foreclosure should call Operation Preserve Community Legal Housing Clinic at (718) 260-5324.

He encouraged everyone to vote on November 4th.

He reminded the audience of the upcoming change to digital TV and stated that fliers and coupons for converters are available on tonight's distribution table.

Anyone with any concerns that they would like to make known to the Congressman should call his office at (718) 855-8018.

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

Ms. Duggan stated that copies of Senator Montgomery's newsletter are available on the distribution table which she encourages all to read. The newsletter highlights some of the legislation that is being worked on in Albany.

Chairperson Younger recognized Police Officer Kevin Carro of the 73rd Precinct who stated that he will follow up with the concerns about the illegal parking of vehicles on Saratoga Avenue and Dean Street that was mentioned earlier and try to coordinate with the Department of Sanitation to resolve the issue.

The Precinct's Community Council meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month at the Mt. Ararat Senior Center.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Charlene Gordon of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Gordon stated that she is with the Department of Health's Lead Poisoning Reduction Program. The program has been in operation since 1970 and its mission is to prevent and control lead poisoning. They provide outreach to the community through presentations to providers, churches, and other organizations. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution table with additional information or you may call (212) 676-6116.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Christina Larkin of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene who stated that flu season is upon us and encouraged the audience to get their flu shots. Fliers on tonight's distribution table list locations where the shots can be received at no cost.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. William Boone of the Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that the Oasis Beacon Program is located at 210 Chester Street. They will host a coat drive in conjunction with NY Cares on December 13th, 20th, and 27th (all Saturdays). Last year's drive was successful and he encourages the community's participation again this year.

He introduced Mr. Claude Celestine who stated that he is from the office of Vice President Andre Link at Medgar Evers College. They are bringing an additional program into the Beacon to help mentor young men of color. With the assistance of a few fraternities, 80 mentors will be available to teach them things, from how to tie a tie to how to go about applying for colleges. For additional information call (718) 270-6111.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilman Eric Gioia from Queens.

Councilman Gioia stated that he is visiting every community Board to share a concern that is very dear to his heart, hunger, specifically child hunger. Last year he personally attempted to live on \$28.36 per day which is the average allotment for persons receiving food stamps. His experience was challenging to say the least. He found his diet to consist mainly of pasta and at times had to forgo a nutritious diet.

There are 1.9 million people in New York City who are qualified to receive food stamps but approximately 900 thousand people who qualify don't receive food stamps and he launched an investigation to find out why. The first reason he found this to be true is because of bureaucratic red tape. When he started out, the application was 24 pages and now because of his hard work it has been reduced considerably. He is also wants to get the application online. The second reason is people thinking that they do not qualify for food stamps because of their resources. They think that they cannot have any resources such as a bank account which is not true.

He challenged everyone present to share the fact that if you earn under \$24 thousand per year with kids, you probably qualify for food stamps. By doing this correctly, New York City could receive billions of dollars in federal aide.

He is available to talk to community groups and individuals about qualifying for food stamps. He can be reached at 718-383-9566.

Chairperson Younger thanked Councilman Gioia for his informative presentation.

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