

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JUNE 23, 2009

Attendance

David Alexander
Orlando Aupont (A)
Octavius Bamberg (A)
Patricia Boone (A)
Margaret Brewer
Lynn Brown
Essie Duggan
Helen Giles (A)
Shirley Gonsalves
Sarah Hall
Jessie Hilliard
Kofi Hormeku
Michael Howard
Allene Ingram (E)
Prince Issachar
Daisy Jackson
Orin Johnson-Griffith
Pamela Junior*
Rev. Eddie Karim
Eula Key
Danny King (A)
Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Charles Ladson
Shawn Lewis (A)
Deborah Mack
James Mack
Yolanda Matthews
Sadie McNamara

Ted McQueen
Genese Morgan
Davond Motes (A)
Rev. Joseph Norton
Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Marie Pierre
Rev. Devon Ponds
Hellen Purdie-Thomas
Mattie Pusey
Melaine Rochford (E)
Wendy Rutheford (A)
Linda Sanders (E)
Carolyn A. Smith
Tyrone Thomas (A)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Alice Vines
Annie Walkes
Herman Winston
Hazel Younger
Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Gail Muhammed for Hon. Edolphus Towns
Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Cathleen McCadden for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Xamayla Rose-Persadi for Hon. Marty Markowitz

* Inadvertently marked absent for May 26, 2009 meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the approval of an Urban Development Action Area designation and disposition of city-owned vacant land (“Project Area”), to facilitate the development of an approximately 115 unit rental project for the elderly in HPD’s Supportive Housing Program.

The Project Area consists of one city-owned vacant lot (Block 3603, Lot 25) consisting of approximately 20,923 square feet of lot area and is located on Riverdale Avenue between Rockaway and Thatford Avenues in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. The site is zoned R6/C2-3 and M1-1. (Ten feet of Lot 25 is in a M1-1 zoning district.) The Project Area formerly contained a green thumb garden that was vacated by the gardeners in accordance with Site Surrender and Relocation Agreement. Along Rockaway Avenue there is a 1-story commercial building that houses laundry, dry cleaner and beauty salon businesses, a private parking lot that extends to Thatford Avenue, an occupied 1-story warehouse that also extends to Thatford Avenue, and an active green thumb garden. One story warehouses and a church which is housed in one of the warehouses are located on Thatford Avenue.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker requested the developers of the project, Calvary Church of God, Inc., to step forward and give a brief presentation on their proposal.

Mr. Calvin Knight stated that Calvary Church is located at 299 East 98th Street in Brownsville. They have been diligently going through the processes of the various agencies to put forth their project. They are here tonight to provide an update on the project and to request the continued support of Community Board #16.

Mr. Jim Terjesen of Terjesen Associates stated that they are the architects for the project which will be a six- and seven-story brick building. Schematics of the proposed structure were

displayed. It will feature 114 one-bedroom units. The bedroom sizes will be at least 130 square feet and the apartments will be at least 540 square feet with some ranging to 580 square feet. The first floor of the building will have a large community room of approximately 1,600 square feet. The rooftop of the six-story portion of the building will have a terrace measuring approximately 1,400 square feet. There will be 18 parking spaces; most will be below the building. A garden will be placed on ground level. Along the Rockaway Avenue side of the building there will be about 2,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor. A senior activities area will also be located on the ground floor.

Ms. Stephanie Knepper stated that they have another similar project in Crown Heights that is roughly eighty percent complete; she invites members of the Board to visit the site which is currently six months ahead of schedule.

The Brownsville facility will be a Section 8 building. They will seek to lease space, in the project being proposed tonight, to the Department for the Aging for use as a senior center and to some organization specializing in geriatric health care. Their concept being that a person who is sixty-two years old and may still be employed might not need those type of services but, as they continue to age the services may be needed. By having the services onsite it will allow the senior to age in-place and receive necessary referrals.

She stated they have a good record of accomplishment with regard to bringing employment opportunities to the locations where they operate facilities. At their Crown Heights location, sixty percent of the jobs have gone to local residents and enterprises. They look forward to continuing that record and even improving upon it, here in Brownsville.

Someone asked what types of services and program will be provided?

Mr. Knight stated the Calvary Church intends to expand upon programs already in place and bring in others including an intergenerational program that will create interaction between youth and seniors.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if the building will be wheel chair accessible and will there be units that will be large enough to accommodate seniors and family members who are in residence to assist the senior?

Chairperson Younger stated that seniors have choices available to them today. They can chose to enter an assisted living community or independent senior housing. Each has its own set of rules; in this instance the units will be strictly for the seniors.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if there will be licensed medical practitioners on-site?

Ms. Knepper stated that the project is to be an independent living facility and will not be licensed by the Department of Health. Were they to include supportive services in the rent it would necessitate that it be licensed and therefore subject to additional regulations as to who can live in the units. They have chosen to instead to seek tenants, who can provide some of those services, to occupy the retail space in the building.

Mr. David Alexander asked what are the eligibility requirements?

Ms. Knepper stated that Section 8 eligibility was obtained for the project through a bid to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Tenants for the apartments will be selected through a lottery process with a fifty percent preference for current Community District #16 residents. Selected applicants will also undergo a financial screening process.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked what the rents will be and will there be any income guidelines?

Ms. Knepper stated that units will be limited to persons earning no more than fifty percent of the area median income (AMI) and the portion of rent paid by the tenant will be no more than thirty percent of their gross income.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked how can they assure the community that they will keep their promise to hire from the community and rent to current residents?

Ms. Knepper stated that aside from their record they are regulated by NYCHA and the

Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). Among the regulations is a requirement that they document the number and type positions that are filled by local enterprises and individuals for Section 3 certification. They have hired Crescent Consulting to insure that this is done.

Rev. Norton suggested that when the lottery is held for the apartments that it is drawn here (444 Thomas S. Boyland Street).

Ms. Knepper stated that they are anticipating five thousand applications to be submitted from Kings County alone. As a practical matter, she would not suggest this location for the drawing. She stated that the process is transparent. There will be representatives from NYCHA, HPD and the New York City Housing Development Corporation present when the mailbox is opened and she invites members of the Board to participate.

Chairperson Younger suggested that Rev. Norton represent the Board.

There being no additional comments, a motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Ted McQueen and carried to adjourn the Public Hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Michael Farca of Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center.

Mr. Farca stated that he is an Administrator for the hospital and is here to bring attention to a program in which they are collaborating with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the American Cancer Society.

Tom Frieden, the outgoing Commissioner of the Department of Health, has always championed initiatives targeting health issues such as smoking cessation, tuberculosis, and colon cancer screening. They are pleased to partner with the Department of Health and the Cancer Society. This collaboration has developed a program entitled: Citywide Colon Cancer Control Coalition also known as C5. The word control was added because C4 has a different meaning in the medical world.

The primary objective of the C5 is to increase the rate of colorectal cancer screening and raise awareness in New York City. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Yet colon cancer is one of most preventable types of cancer. Early detection and diagnosis can cure colon cancer. There are five common tests for colorectal cancer (CRC) detection. Colonoscopy remains the "gold standard". It is the test that doctors turn to confirm other test.

Some of the common barriers to people being tested are: geographic, economical, cultural, and education. Personally, he likes to consider some alternative barriers such as physical barriers, perceived barriers, and created barriers. Physical barriers are those that are factual such as not being able to go to a doctor due to a lack of transportation. Perceived barriers would be something such as what will my neighbors/friends/loved ones think. Created barriers are probably the most complicated barriers as they refer to the authorities and regulations that tell us what we have to, how, when, and where we have to do it. The policies can at times be very challenging to patients. To help guide the patient through the barriers, Brookdale has employed Navigators. The Navigators are there to assist the patient with their paperwork and answer questions that they may have. Navigators also outreach to captive audiences and encourage them to have screenings done based on certain at-risk factors.

Chairperson Younger thanked Mr. Farca for his presentation and next recognized Ms. Berlane Holland of the United States Census Bureau.

Ms. Holland stated that she is a Partnership Specialist with the Census Bureau and they will

conduct the next Centennial Census in 2010. Census counts are very important as they determine how three-hundred billion dollars are distributed annually. It is extremely important that everyone in our community is counted as it will directly correlate to the funding received for our schools, fire departments, police departments, and other services.

In some census years, long census forms detailing vast information about individuals and families are used. The 2010 Census will use the short form which will ask approximately ten basic questions about individuals and families. Aside from depriving our community of resources, failure to respond or falsely responding to a United States Census is a crime punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. It should also be noted that information collected by the Census Bureau is confidential and is not shared with any other agency and therefore undocumented persons need not be concerned that completing the form will be detrimental to them in any way.

The Bureau is outreaching to faith- and community-based organizations to help get the word out about the census and its repercussions on our communities. She encourages audience members who may be involved with such an organization to speak to her after the meeting to arrange a presentation to their organization and help disseminate the information.

Someone asked if the Bureau was hiring.

Ms. Holland stated that there are some positions available and information about the positions can be found on the Bureau's website at www.census.gov.

Someone asked if there has been any change to the policy of counting prison populations as residents of the prison's county.

Ms. Holland stated that that question has been raised at many meetings that she has attended. She has been told by some of her colleagues that there are legislators who are working on bills to change the policy. However, as of today the policy has not changed.

Ms. Genese Morgan, member of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Thursday, June 19th, 2009, members of the Committee met to discuss the adoption of a community board review process for applications to obtain a New York State Liquor license. The Committee has received one (1) application for review and plans to roll out a complete procedure for review of all future applications when the Board reconvenes in September 2009. This is an effort to ensure that businesses requesting State liquor licenses are considering the laws and regulations that currently exist such as the 200 foot rule which prohibits the issuance of a liquor license within 200 feet of a building that is used exclusively as a school, church, synagogue or other place of worship and the 500 foot rule which contains restrictions on certain on-premises liquor licenses if the location is within a 500 foot radius of certain other establishments with on-premises liquor licenses. Additional information on State liquor laws and regulations can be found on www.abc.state.ny.us.

Furthermore, the Committee is continuously working on revitalization plans for the shopping area along Belmont Avenue and is discussing ways to re-connect the community with the merchants by way of events, concerts, etc. The Committee would like to consider the ideas of community members when such plans are executed and ask that any person with ideas on outreach efforts contact a Committee member or the District Manager, Mrs. Greene-Walker.

As always, please continue to support the existing merchants on Belmont Avenue and have a wonderful summer.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 9, 2009 with representatives from the Department of City Planning, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Local 1500 regarding a proposal to provide incentives for supermarkets to locate in certain areas of the City identified as being in high need of additional fresh food retail. The Food Retail Expansion to Support Health, or FRESH, program will combine a package of zoning and financial incentives for the development of grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods of the City.

She asked Ms. Laura Smith from the Department of City Planning to come forward and elaborate on the FRESH program.

Ms. Smith stated that the proposal seeks to make specific areas of the City conducive to the opening of supermarkets and local grocery stores. It also seeks to improve the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables at existing supermarkets and grocery stores.

Two or three years ago, a study was conducted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to identify parts of the city that are prone to diet-based diseases. Community District #16 was identified as having a high rate of diabetes as well as obesity and a low rate of consumption of fresh produce. In the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's survey, over twenty percent of adults from District #16 stated that they did not have at least one serving of fresh produce in the previous day. Over twenty-seven percent of the residents are obese and more than thirteen percent have diabetes. The consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables can help to improve these numbers.

City Planning looked to see why there are not a sufficient amount of full line grocery stores and supermarkets in the community.

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed indicating the areas of the city where there is a need for a greater availability of fresh produce. The areas are northern Manhattan, the South Bronx, Central Brooklyn (which includes Community District #16), and Downtown Jamaica in Queens.

Operating a supermarket can be difficult financially and there are land use issues as well. The City wants to create some financial and zoning incentives to developers to create more fresh food outlets in the neighborhoods of concern.

The addition of local retail food stores to a community improves the quality of life in that community. Jobs are created, health is improved, and residents tend to walk more.

Ms. Mattie Pusey stated that often times the produce that is offered for sale in this community is of inferior quality and overpriced. Is there anything being done to reverse this trend?

Ms. Smith stated that it is their expectation that with more stores available to the consumer vendors will lower their prices in order to be competitive.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked how can she be contacted?

Ms. Smith stated that her email is l_smith@planning.nyc.gov.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, made an appeal to the audience to participate in the Committee. He stated that the parks and playgrounds in Community District #16 are amongst the cleanest in the City and we should go out and enjoy them. He requested that anyone who finds an issue with the parks should report the problem to the Board's office.

A motion was made by Mr. James Mack, seconded by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, stated that on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, the Committee met with Buck and Mav Moorhead of New York H2O organization to discuss the new State law A10526/SO8169, a law setting certain technical requirements pertaining to well spacing which will facilitate the use of "hydraulic fracturing" for natural gas recovery in an underground geological formation known as the Marcellus Shale and its impact on the entire New York State water supply.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (HF) requires a mix of 240 chemicals including known carcinogens (90% toxic), that are injected into the earth at extreme pressure and whose compositions and concentrations are not publicly disclosed and which under certain circumstances could pose a serious risk to local sources of water. HF has a controversial history in the United States with documented incidents of leaks, spills, explosions and water pollution in nine different states which have resulted in the contamination of local point sources of water. This definitely is of great concern to us especially as ninety percent (90%) of the New York City water supply originates from the Catskill/Delaware watershed, which is within the boundaries of the Marcellus Shale, and is delivered to the City without filtration, making this water extraordinarily susceptible to contamination from hydraulic fracturing should an accident occur within the boundaries of the New City watershed.

Governor Patterson ordered a new Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement that "will occur as part of a public process that ensures that concerns raised by residents who could be affected by drilling activities are heard and considered". As a result, the New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation held public meetings in many towns and cities but no public meetings in New York City have been scheduled.

The Committee recommends that Brooklyn Community Board # 16 pass a resolution urging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing in the New York State and within the New York City watershed; and that they schedule public hearings in each of New York City's five boroughs during the second commenting period leading up to the issuance of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement in 2009; and that these public hearings require a minimum of 120 day comment period.

She asked Mr. Joe Levine to come forward for a brief presentation.

Mr. Levine gave a history Hydraulic Fracturing in the United States and the plans for drilling in New York State. He explained the possible environmental effects if the plans were to go forward unchecked. He encouraged the audience to visit their website at: nyh2o.org.

Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 with Mrs. Eleanor Jones and her daughter Venice and Deacon Edna Massey of the St. Luke's Community Church of Brownsville/UCC to co-name Watkins Street between Pitkin Avenue and the dead end at Belmont Avenue in memory of Dr. Cade Jones III.

In addition to being the Pastor of St. Luke's Community Church of Brownsville/UCC, Dr. Jones served on Community Board #16 from March 2005 to January 2009, member of the Community Board's Economic Development Committee, member of the 73rd Precinct Community Council and the 73rd Precinct Clergy Council.

A copy of Dr. Jones' bio and petitions in support of the co-naming request was submitted to the Committee.

The Committee recommends that Community Board #16 support the request by the family of Dr. Cade Jones III to co-name Watkins Street in his memory. We further recommend that the boundary be extended one block north to Glenmore Avenue which will encompass 3 blocks on Watkins Street between Glenmore Avenue and the dead end off Belmont Avenue.

The Committee wishes to inform the Board that the MTA will not reduce services on the B-7, B-14 and B-25 as was originally proposed. However, the transit fare will be increased to \$2.25 as of June 28, 2009.

A motion was made by Rev. Joseph Norton, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to support the co-naming of Watkins Street between Glenmore Avenue and the dead end off Belmont Avenue in memory of the late Dr. Cade Jones, III.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee held a successful Youth Conference, entitled, "A Second Chance" under the umbrella of "The Ocean Hill/Brownsville Yes I Can Teen Movement" on Saturday, May 30, 2009, at Teachers Preparatory High School, located at 226 Bristol.

Forty-two students attended. Brooklyn Democracy Academy High School won best presentation. Fifty-five percent of the students in attendance took our survey. The majority of the students liked the entertainment best, followed by the showcase of the various schools, followed by the resource information that was available. The majority of the students would like to attend another like event. The least liked aspects of this event were the gifts and the food. Students were looking forward to an iPhone, which we could not obtain, and Chinese food, which was voted against. Thanks to the generous donation of Mr. Harvey Lawrence, CEO of the BMS Family Health Center, the Committee was able to serve nutritional sandwiches.

Other good news, two high schools have decided to join our Ocean Hill/Brownsville Yes I Can Teen Movement.

The Youth Services Planning Committee would like to thank all those who donated and supported this event.

The “Let’s Grow Green” Project will resume in the fall.

Our next meeting will be held on July 21, 2009 at 5:30 PM. We will begin planning and making preparations for upcoming events in 2009/2010.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Elder Devon Ponds and carried unanimously to approve tonight’s Public Hearing item: IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the approval of an Urban Development Action Area designation and disposition of city-owned vacant land (“Project Area”), to facilitate the development of an approximately 115 unit rental project for the elderly in HPD’s Supportive Housing Program.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Bettie Kollock -Wallace and carried with a vote of 30 – in favor, 3 – against (Pamela Junior, Marie Pierre, and Alice Vines), and 0 - abstentions to support the change in Common Ground’s proposal to develop the parking lot at 39-47 Hegeman Avenue between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Amboy Street; from the original proposal for 124 units of 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments in a 12-story building for low-income and formerly homeless families to 161 studio units for low-income individuals with incomes of approximately \$31,000 and for formerly homeless individuals.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried with a vote of 17 – in favor, 6 – against (Jessie Hilliard, Yolanda Matthews, Genese Morgan, Ernestine Turner, Alice Vines, and Hazel Younger), and 2 – abstentions (Deborah Mack and Annie Walkes) to support New Beginnings’ request for a letter of support to establish a comprehensive mental and primary healthcare facility at 1534 Broadway.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Cathleen McCadden from Councilmember Darlene Mealy’s office.

Ms. McCadden stated that there will be a march against violence on Saturday, June 27th. Councilmember Mealy will join the Howard Houses Tenants’ Association in front of the Brownsville Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (Glenmore Avenue at Watkins Street) at 12:00 noon.

Councilmember Mealy will host a job fair at Kingsbrook Jewish Community Center on July 21st, and asks that the audience spread the word to those who may be seeking employment.

Ms. McCadden announced that in the recent budget Councilmember Mealy was able to allocate one million dollars for programs and activities at Howard Houses, and three million, one-hundred thousand dollars for capital improvements to Betsy Head Memorial Park.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Xamayla Rose-Persadi from Borough President Marty Markowitz’ office.

Ms. Rose-Persadi announced that Borough President Markowitz will again sponsor his summer concert series – the Seaside Series at Coney Island and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Series at Wingate Field. Please visit www.brooklynconcerts.org for schedules and additional information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Latrice Walker, Esq. from Representative Yvette Clarke’s office.

Ms. Walker stated that Congresswoman Clarke is in receipt of an email from Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, requesting the support of H.R. 444 – a bill that would significantly reduce the cost of certain drugs used by the hospital. Congresswoman Clarke does in-fact support this bill.

They are planning to sponsor a prison re-entry program in August. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has allocated seventeen million dollars for New York City to provide services to persons returning to society from prisons.

Congresswoman Clarke has also been able to secure a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to provide scholarship opportunities for disadvantaged students seeking to attend SUNY (State University of New York) Downstate. She encourages the audience to outreach to young people who are interested in health services to contact

Congresswoman Clarke's office.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Gail Muhammed from Representative Edolphus Towns' office.

Ms. Muhammed stated that Congressman Towns' office is ready to assist residents with problems they may have concerning the federal government. Their telephone number is (718) 855-8018.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Maurice Roberts from Senator Eric Adams' office.

Mr. Roberts reported that Senator Adams, Chairperson of the New York State Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, saluted our military veterans at the Armory on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan on June 14th. He was joined by Coca-Cola Enterprises, Time Warner Cable, and New York Jets Special Teams Coach and former Coast Guard member Kevin O'Dea. Along with representatives from Coca-Cola Enterprises and Time Warner Cable, Senator Adams is highlighting programs designed to ease the return of veterans to their homes.

Of special note is the Division of Veterans' Affairs' "What's Next" Program. Senator Adams was also joined by dozens of veterans groups representing many organizations throughout New York State. Senator Adams has worked closely with several corporations to promote the hiring of veterans. Coca-Cola Enterprises and Time-Warner are businesses that take the hiring of veterans seriously and are to be commended for their efforts.

Senator Adams responded swiftly and boldly to the tragic shooting death of Police Officer Omar Edwards in East Harlem. He was joined by Protect-All Security Products to demonstrate two vehicles equipped with new technology that makes a panoramic 360 degree recording to chronicle episodes involving the police. The system can be installed in police patrol cars to record all activity surrounding the entire vehicle.

He announced that Senator Adams will sponsor an outdoor movie nights at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue) featuring "Mall Cop" on July 17th and "Kung Fu Panda" on July 24th.

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

Ms. Larkin announced that information is available on tonight's distribution table concerning West Nile Virus which can be an issue as the summer months approach. This summer, "Shape Up New York" will be at Betsy Head Park for the first time from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.. If the program is successful it will be carried over into the fall. They have also added evening hours to the "Shape Up" fitness classes at the Brownsville Recreation Center (1555 Linden Boulevard). As a correction to information that was given at last month's Community Board meeting, she stated that food stamp recipients who use their EBT cards at participating farmers' markets receive a forty percent bonus towards the purchase of additional fresh produce.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Randy Hudson who announced that he created a blog on his website: www.bigtimebiz.biz as a means for community residents to express their views about their community.

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