

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 27, 2009**

### **Attendance**

David Alexander	Sadie McNamara
Orlando Aupont (A)	Ted McQueen
Octavius Bamberg (A)	Genese Morgan (E)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (A)	Davond Motes (A)
Patricia Boone (E)	Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Margaret Brewer (A)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Lynn Brown (A)	Marie Pierre
Essie Duggan	Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Helen Giles (A)	Hellen Purdie-Thomas
Shirley Gonsalves	Mattie Pusey (A)
Sarah Hall	Melaine Rochford
Jessie Hilliard	Wendy Rutheford
Kofi Hormeku	Linda Sanders (A)
Michael Howard	Tyrone Thomas (A)
Allene Ingram	Ernestine Turner
Prince Issachar	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Daisy Jackson	Alice Vines (E)
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)	Annie Walkes
Pamela Junior	Herman Winston (E)
Rev. Eddie Karim (A)	Hazel Younger
Eula Key	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Danny King (A)	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Charles Ladson	Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Shawn Lewis (A)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Deborah Mack	Michael Caver for Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
James Mack	Maurice Roberts for Hon. Eric Adams
Yolanda Matthews	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 7:06 p.m..

An invocation was said by Rev. Joseph Jones.

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 2011 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 2011 (listed on the first five 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.

Some of the suggestions may look familiar as they were previously submitted but have not been funded.

Chairperson Younger opened the floor for comments and/or any new suggestions. There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. James Mack and carried to close the public hearing.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. James Mack and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Annie Walkes and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the first two articles found in her report - reminding the community of an upcoming meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Board #16 and of a public hearing on charter schools being hosted by the Department of Education.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Alazen Whitten of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Whitten stated that influenza (flu) is a respiratory infection that causes fever and a cough or sore throat.

Seasonal flu is most common during the fall and winter months. Every year, more than 2,000 New Yorkers die of seasonal influenza and pneumonia, which can develop as a complication of the flu. Vaccination is the best way to protect against seasonal flu. Flu vaccine can be given in a shot (needle injection), or in a nasal spray called FluMist (for healthy people aged 2 to 49). Your doctor can tell you what is right for you. Seasonal flu vaccinations are available from September through June. The sooner you're vaccinated, the sooner you'll be protected.

H1N1 flu (swine flu) was first found in New York City last spring. Like regular seasonal flu, the H1N1 flu is a respiratory infection. It causes fever and a cough or sore throat that can last a week or more. Some people also get diarrhea and vomiting. H1N1 caused some severe illness in some people last spring, but the great majority of infections did not cause complications or require any medical treatment.

Seasonal flu vaccine will not work against H1N1 flu. To protect against both kinds of flu, people will need two different vaccinations: one for seasonal flu, and one for H1N1.

The following people should receive H1N1 vaccine, in addition to a seasonal flu vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months
- Health care and emergency medical services workers
- Children and young adults age 6 months to 24 years
- People age 25 to 64 years with certain long-term health conditions that make them more likely to get very sick with the flu (Diabetes, lung disease-including asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia, weakened immune system (such as from HIV or cancer treatment), seizure, neuromuscular, and other disorders that may cause breathing problems or a long-term health condition).

An H1N1 vaccine will be available in many of the same places where people get seasonal flu vaccines. Call 311 or visit the Health Department's website at [nyc.gov/flu](http://nyc.gov/flu) for up-to-date information about seasonal flu, H1N1 flu, and where to get a flu vaccine, including free or low-cost vaccines. Many pharmacies now offer seasonal flu vaccinations for adults.

To prevent the spread of flu and other infections, you should cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze; use a tissue or the inside of your elbow – not your hand. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner. Do not get too close to people who are sick. If you get sick, avoid close contact with other people.

If you have a fever (100° F or higher) plus a cough or sore throat you should stay home until your fever is gone for at least 24 hours. Most people with flu-like symptoms get better on their own, without medical treatment. They do not need to go to the hospital.

Ms. Mabel Davis stated that she has heard that certain foods such as green tea, cabbage, spinach, and kale, have anti-oxidants and protect one from contracting the flu. She also heard that Walgreens is offering a flu patch. What is the Department of Health's position on these alternatives?

Ms. Whitten stated that she is unaware of any flu patch being offered at this time. She is aware that Walgreens is administering flu shots and she will look into the patch. Regarding alternatives such as one's diet and exercise routines, it is an individual choice. The Department of Health is

recommending that the groups described earlier be vaccinated.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that there are many parents who distrust the Swine Flu (H1N1) vaccine. What does it do? Are there any side effects? Is this an experiment or what? He is aware that vaccines for seasonal flu is derived using eggs which some people are allergic to. Is this the case with the H1N1 vaccine?

Ms. Whitten stated that persons who are allergic to eggs will not be able to take either vaccine. Again it is a matter of personal choice as to whether or not you have your child vaccinated.

Someone asked why is it mandated that certain people be vaccinated.

Ms. Whitten stated that the State Department of Health had previously required that all state health workers be vaccinated by November 30<sup>th</sup>. A protest was lodged with the courts which resulted in the State being prevented from making such a requirement. Many of the workers believe in the vaccine but were uncomfortable with being mandated that they be vaccinated.

Informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Luis Carridad of the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP).

Mr. Carridad stated that NEDAP is a non-profit resource management center that deals with various issues having to do with economic justice in New York City neighborhoods. Tonight he is here to speak specifically on the foreclosure crisis affecting certain communities.

He presented maps displaying locations of foreclosures, both citywide and districtwide. Foreclosures are a problem citywide, indeed nationwide, however, looking at the maps one can see clusters are found in specific neighborhoods. The clusters tend to be in neighborhoods where people of color and large immigrant populations live. The reason for this is for over a decade these neighborhoods have been targeted for high cost predatory mortgages.

The mortgages were very expensive and were often obtained using deceptive practices. There was no concern as to whether the borrower would be able to pay the mortgage. The result of this is that these communities are now facing a severe foreclosure crisis.

Earlier this year, President Obama signed the "Making Homes Affordable Act". The Act gives homeowners more options and flexibility with loan modifications by incentivizing lenders to restructure the terms of the high cost mortgages to make them affordable to borrowers. Most major lenders have elected to participate in the program. By participating they become bound by law to offer loan modifications to qualified borrowers who may be facing foreclosure.

The best way for borrowers to determine if they are qualified for the program is to seek the assistance of a non-profit legal service provider or a non-profit mortgage counseling agency. A list of reputable agencies is available on tonight's distribution table. Interested persons may also call 3-1-1 to obtain information for an agency near them. These agencies do not charge for their services and have been evaluated by the City.

It is important to note that the agencies do not charge any upfront fees; as the mortgage crisis has developed, so too have the scams. One frequently used fraud is the loan modification scam. In this scenario, a borrower is solicited by someone who states that they can save their home from foreclosure or other similar promise. After the promise is made to the borrower, the scammer makes a request for upfront fees. Afterwards, the solicitor disappears or at best offers solutions that are not beneficial to the borrower.

Lastly, Governor Patterson recently signed into law a bill that requires an early mandatory settlement conference in court for those homeowners with subprime loans against whom foreclosure proceedings are commenced.

He offered to speak to any church, synagogue, mosque, or other group interested in hearing about this issue. His contact information can be found on the informational fliers found on tonight's distribution table.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection

Committee, reported that on October 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., members of the Committee held a meeting to update and discuss the responses from the Department of Sanitation (DOS) Commissioner and staff to important community sanitation issues that were discussed at the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Consultations.

The new DOS Digest of Codes booklet is now available on the Department's website: [nyc.gov/dsny](http://nyc.gov/dsny) and copies may also be requested by calling 3-1-1. The following are some highlights of the new DOS regulations:

- The routing time is 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Curbs should be cleaned 18 inches into the street to avoid summons.
- Computers can now be disposed of as regular garbage.
- For refrigerators pick up, please call 311 and DOS will schedule an appointment to remove the Freon gas. Please be reminded that the door must be removed from the unit. If not disposed appropriately, you are subject to a fine of \$1,000.
- Prior to disposing a microwave oven, remove the glass tray inside.
- On the issue of vermin infestation of EZ-Pak dumpsters at schools, please call 311 and express your concern for children in and around the schools.
- During the snow season, night pick up will be suspended.
- Tertiary streets will be plowed within 24 hours of a storm. Whether you're the owner, tenant, occupant or the person in charge of any lot or building, you must clear the snow and/or ice from your sidewalk within four (4) hours after the snow has stopped falling, or by 11:00 a.m. if the snow stopped falling after 9:00 p.m. the night before. If the snow becomes frozen and too hard to remove, you may spread clean, unused cat litter, salt, sand, sawdust or another similarly suitable material within the same time limits.

As you clear your sidewalk, keep in mind: **YOU MUST NOT THROW SNOW INTO THE STREET.** It's against the law, and it forces Sanitation to re-plow your street. Also, you should never cover fire hydrants with snow - this could interfere with firefighting efforts.

The bottom line is sidewalks must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as the weather permits. Failure to comply may result in a \$350 fine.

Regarding hydraulic drilling in the Marcellus Shale and its impact on the New York State water supply which was discussed at our June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee proposes the following resolution for adoption by the Board:

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2008 Governor David Paterson signed A10526/S08169 into law, a bill 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

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing has a controversial history in the United States with documented incidences of leaks, spills, explosions and water pollution in nine different states which have resulted in the contamination of local point sources of water; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing requires a mix of chemicals, including known carcinogens, 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 point sources of water; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent 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 York City watershed; and

WHEREAS, in his July 23, 2008 press release announcing the new law, Governor Paterson 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"; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation held the first of two rounds of public meetings on hydraulic fracturing in Allegany, Bath, Elmira, Binghamton,

Oneonta and Lake Sheldrake but held no public meetings in New York City; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Brooklyn Community Board #16 unequivocally urges 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

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is strongly urged to 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.

The issue is gathering momentum and is now at the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee for a legislative process.

The next Committee meeting will be held on December 9, 2009.

Ms. Melaine Rochford requested a brief overview of why the Committee believes this process is detrimental to this community.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that hydraulic fracturing may introduce carcinogenic materials into our drinking water, in an attempt to mine natural gas.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked where are residents to place the snow that the Department of Sanitation plows into their driveways, if they are not permitted to shovel it into the streets?

Mr. Ted McQueen stated that property owners are only required to clear a passage way on pedestrian sidewalks; he suggests that the snow that is removed from driveways be placed on the sidewalk without blocking the pedestrian passage.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch complained that the curb cuts at pedestrian crossings are rarely cleared. What can be done to address this?

Chairperson Younger stated that that is a valid concern that should be addressed. However, the topic at hand is the resolution concerning hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale. She requested that the discussion remain on topic.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Mr. James Mack and carried by a vote of 24-in favor, 0-opposed, and 0-abstentions to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Development Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met and toured the Services to the Underserved facility, located at 84 Mother Gaston Boulevard. There are forty-nine nicely furnished units at the location.

On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, she and two other members attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Bishop Richard B. Martin Senior Housing building at 1355 East New York Avenue at Lincoln Place. The eighty-unit building was constructed specifically to house persons age 65 and older. This project was delayed due to some environmental concerns which have been successfully addressed. Tenants will be moving in shortly.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on October 13, 2009, Mr. Tony Rosa, Manager of Parks for District #16, and he visited the parks and playgrounds in the District. Their findings are on tonight's distribution table and in Board members' folders.

On October 21, 2009, the Parks and Recreation Committee met with representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation and reviewed a preliminary design for the addition to the Marion-Hopkinson Playground. He asked Mr. Martin Maher to come forward and present the preliminary design.

Mr. Maher stated that he is the Chief-of-Staff for the Borough of Brooklyn and is pleased to be here tonight. He presented photographs depicting the Marion-Hopkinson Playground, its garden areas, basketball court, play equipment, a sitting area, a pathway which dates to the Revolutionary War, a toddler spray area, and the adjacent lots as they stand today. He then displayed schematic drawing of the proposed addition.

The plans are intended to blend the addition seamlessly into the current park and make them work cohesively. The plans will include a quiet planting area, a continuation of the wrought iron picketed fence with a lockable gate, a walking path that will be constructed with a rubberized surface that will be wheelchair accessible, a fitness area, benches scattered throughout, security lighting, an oval shaped plaza for small gatherings, and the entire park will offer clear visibility from the street.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that a lockable gate was mentioned. What will the operating hours of the park be?

Mr. Maher stated that there will be lockable gates; however, they do not have enough staffing to lock and unlock the gates on a regular basis. The current operating hours (dawn to dusk) will continue to apply. There are certain communities where they receive assistance from the police and/or local community groups to lock and unlock gates.

Mr. Hormeku reminded the audience that it is illegal to enter the park between dusk and dawn, violators are subject to arrest and/or fines.

Ms. Annie Walkes stated that she resides nearby and is concerned about security. Will there be fencing along the adjacent property lines?

Mr. Maher stated that the existing eight foot chain-link fence will be kept and a planted buffer area will be added.

Ms. Walkes asked how many of the adjacent vacant lots will be incorporated?

Mr. Maher stated that they will be incorporating the lot abutting the current park (on its eastern border) which is approximately one hundred and sixty feet by one hundred and twenty feet.

Ms. Essie Duggan suggested that the plan include a water sprinkler for the youth to cool off in the summer instead of at fire hydrants in the street.

Mr. Maher stated that there is a sprinkler already there.

Ms. Duggan stated that it is not functioning.

Mr. Maher stated that he was informed that it is functioning but will follow-up and have repairs made if necessary.

Ms. Peltonbusch asked if security cameras will be installed?

Mr. Maher stated that there are insufficient funds to install cameras.

Ms. Mack asked if cameras are installed at any parks?

Mr. Maher stated that they typically are not; there is one location that he is aware of that has cameras installed because of a persistent dumping problem. The camera was installed with funding from a grant.

Mr. Ladson asked if a camera was installed, would it be monitored by Parks Department personnel or by the police?

Mr. Maher stated that since this is not something they typically do, he does not have an answer to the question, except to say that in the instance where he knows there is a camera, it is monitored by the police.

Mr. Prince Issachar stated that he was present at the Committee meeting and as he understands,

there will be security lighting added to the playground which currently has none. Additionally, the project will eliminate what is now an unsightly, weed-bound area and create usable green space for the community. The improvement will make for a safer and more community friendly area.

Mr. Maher concurred with Mr. Issachar's assessment.

Mr. David Alexander asked if barbecues will be allowed in the playground.

Mr. Maher stated that it is not being considered as a barbecue location. Generally speaking, barbecues are not allowed in playgrounds.

Mr. Randolph James asked what the cost of the project would be and how can neighborhood entrepreneurs take part in the construction?

Mr. Maher stated that the project will cost 1.05 million dollars to construct and funding was provided by Councilmember Darlene Mealy. Any Parks Department project goes through a transparent bidding process. After the project is approved by the Design Department and the Community Board, it is registered with the City Comptroller's Office and advertized for bidding in the major newspapers and construction journals. The bidding period is a minimum of ninety days. Qualified bidders submit their sealed bids to an independent bidding office. At the end of the bidding period, the bids are opened and the lowest qualified bidder is awarded the contract, after they have been properly evaluated.

A typical project will take about a year in the design stage and another year in the construction stage. They expect construction to begin in the fall of 2010.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee and to approve the design for the Marion-Hopkinson Playground.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Mel Faulkner from Assemblywoman Inez Barron's office.

Mr. Faulkner stated that he has placed on tonight's distribution table information concerning the line of succession for apartments rented from the New York City Housing Authority. The law states that children and/or grandchildren of a decedent are entitled to take possession of the apartment.

Mr. Michael Caver asked if that rule applied to persons who are not named on the lease.

Mr. Faulkner stated that it does if they can prove a blood relationship. Assemblywoman Barron's office can be reached via telephone at (718) 257-5824 for additional information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Michael Caver from Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.'s office.

Mr. Caver announced that the Assemblyman's office is now open for brief periods on Saturdays. They assist persons who are in need of resumes, either creating or updating an existing one. Copies of Assemblyman Boyland's newsletter are available on tonight's distribution table which lists the additional services that are available at their office.

Assemblyman Boyland has worked to bring in ASA College into the District. They will offer computer training and General Equivalency Diploma courses as part of their curriculum.

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

Mr. Roberts stated that available on tonight's distribution table are fliers for America Works, Inc., an employment agency which he had the opportunity to meet with recently. He recommends the agency because of their proven record of accomplishment. Unlike many agencies of this nature, they are a for profit organization that is only compensated when they place job seekers who are able to retain their positions for at least six months. They are particularly adept at placing people with felony records and veterans.

Senator Adams, along with Senator John Sampson, Assemblyman Karim Camara,

Councilmember Letitia James, and District Leader Walter Mosley are collaborating with Watchful Eye, Community Youth, Inc., and Serum Music to present a Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving Concert on Sunday, November 15, 2009, 4:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts' Walt Whitman Theatre. Admission is free, however, tickets are required. Please contact Senator Adams' office at (718) 284-4700 for additional information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Latrice Walker from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office.

Ms. Walker invited the audience to visit Congresswoman Clarke's website ([clarke.house.gov](http://clarke.house.gov)) to see highlight's from last month's Congressional Black Caucus Weekend which Congresswoman Clarke co-chaired.

Congresswoman Clarke will host a job fair on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 123 Linden Boulevard. RSVPs to Congresswoman Clarke's office are encouraged. Attendees are also encouraged to bring along enough resumes to distribute to the potential employers.

Congresswoman Clarke encourages minority- and women-owned businesses to reach out to her office to determine what resources are available to them. Please call (718) 287-1142 for more information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Christopher James from Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office.

Mr. James stated that Councilmember Mealy encourages constituents to reach out to her office for assistance on matters that are of concern to them. The telephone number to her office is (718) 953-3097.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James from Mayor Bloomberg's Community Assistance Unit.

Ms. Sanders-James stated that this past Saturday was "It's My Park Day". She was happy to see that many members of the community showed up to plant bulbs at Zion Park. A beautification program is also underway near the Broadway Junction Station. Passersby will see beautiful plantings along the traffic island on Van Sinderen Avenue.

Chairperson Younger recognized Captain Miguel Iglesias of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Captain Iglesias stated that crime for the period is down by twelve percent. Shootings, while still higher than they would like, are down by fifty percent.

He introduced the Precinct's new Domestic Violence Officer, Sergeant Elke James.

Sergeant James stated that she and her four officers have only been in their current positions for a short while. There is a lot of domestic violence in the Brownsville community and they are working diligently to reduce it. In the past three months, they have visited over four hundred victims. They welcome people to talk to them if they have domestic violence issues. They have with them tonight pamphlets with valuable information regarding domestic violence.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that there is a rumor going around stating that gangs will be conducting a massive initiation ritual on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Does the Police Department have any opinion concerning this?

Detective Dean Elmore stated that this is a rumor that is circulated on an annual basis, thus far, it has not come to bear. That said, he advises that we be vigilant as we go about our business.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Sarah Hall, President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Council.

Ms. Hall announced that the Precinct Council, along with the Officers of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, will host their annual dinner dance on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at Fleur de Lis, located at 870 Cypress Avenue. She can be contacted following tonight's meeting for more information.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Violet Young who stated that she is a longtime resident of



Brownsville and is seeking the assistance of the community to have the image of her grandmother, Gladys Booker-Hedgepeth, placed on a United States postal stamp. Ms. Booker-Hedgepeth was the impetus for the desegregation of a school in Trenton, New Jersey in 1944, when a State Supreme Court ruled in her favor to allow her daughter, Janet, to attend the school. Today, that school is named the Hedgepeth-Williams School in honor of her grandmother and Ms. Berline Williams who also brought suit in behalf of her son. In the 1944 landmark decision, the New Jersey State Supreme Court ruled that a school district may not refuse to admit or assign students to public schools on the basis of race.

Ms. Young stated that she has submitted much of the documentation required to have the stamp approved and she is asking for signatures from the audience to help achieve the six thousand that are required as part of the procedure.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. David Alexander who stated that he is both a member of Community Board #16 and the Chairperson of the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB). He is making an appeal to the audience to join the NAB. NABs provide residents with an opportunity to help the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) identify funding priorities.

NAB members are responsible for helping to identify the needs of the community. DYCD takes their findings into consideration when allocating federal Community Services Block Grant funding. Anyone who is interested in joining is asked to contact District Manager Viola Greene-Walker.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Randolph Jenkins of the Redemption Center.

Mr. Jenkins stated that we have a new President who has marked a new era. In this era he is addressing an issue that had not been addressed before by allocating funds for re-entry programs. President Obama is allowing formerly incarcerated individuals to make a living for themselves without having to stoop to menial jobs. However, getting the funds to the targeted population has been a struggle for his organization, the Redemption Center.

The Redemption Center is located on Herkimer Street and houses formerly incarcerated individuals. Although they are able to provide shelter in a much more humane fashion than the City's shelter at Atlantic and Bedford Avenues, they have been unable to receive any funding for this. In fact, the only support that they have received has been from Rev. Brawley of St. Paul's Community Church. To battle this, they have decided to form a for profit corporation that will install solar panels. They have drafted a business plan and are seeking to put it into action.

Chairperson Younger suggested that Mr. Jenkins reach out to Rev. Joseph Jones of the Brooklyn District Attorney's office who operates a re-entry program.

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