

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – September 28, 2010

Attendance

David Alexander	Rev. Joseph Norton
Angela Alexander-Wilson (A)	Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Margaret Brewer	Marie Pierre
Adrainer Coleman	Rev. Devon Ponds
Essie Duggan	Mattie Pusey (A)
Helen Giles (A)	Linda Rivera
Shirley Gonsalves	Melaine Rochford (E)
Danny Goodine (A)	Wendy Rutherford
Chanel Haliburton (A)	Beatrice Saunders
Sarah Hall	Christina Serano (A)
Kofi Hormeku	Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Michael Howard	Ernestine Turner (E)
Allene Ingram (E)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Prince Issachar (E)	Alice Vines (E)
Daisy Jackson	Annie Walkes
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)	Herman Winston
Carl Joseph	Hazel Younger
Pamela Junior	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Rev. Eddie Karim (A)	E. Jane Coleman, ADM
Eula Key	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Charles Ladson	Hon. Darlene Mealy
Deborah Mack (E)	Maurice Philips for Hon. John Sampson
James Mack	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Yolanda Matthews	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Linda Mayo	Sam Pierre for Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Sadie McNamara	Andrea Dawes for Hon. Bill de Blasio
Ted McQueen	Renee Hastings-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz
Genese Morgan	

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed with an invocation by Evangelist Hellen Thomas-Purdie.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Annie Walkes and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted several articles found in her report.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to waive the reading of the remainder of the District Manager's report.

The audience was encouraged to read her report in its entirety, as it contains other articles which may be of value to them and are time sensitive.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Trudy Ann Miller from New York Foundling.

Ms. Miller stated that New York Foundling has been offering services to people in need, especially children, since 1869. Currently, they provide over fifty services to aid families; ranging from foster care and adoption, family community support/preventive services, medical and mental health and wellness, youth development, juvenile justice, residential programs, and services for adults with developmental disabilities, to the recently opened Mott Haven Academy Charter School in the Bronx. New York Foundling operates in all five boroughs and Westchester County.

There is a dire need for foster care in the New York area, specifically therapeutic foster care. Therapeutic foster care is foster care provided to children who have been diagnosed with issues

such as AD/HD, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, or depression. These children may be age six through twenty-one (when they age out of the foster care system) and need extra care. This type of care is called Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). MTFC is an effective alternative to regular foster care, group or residential treatment, and incarceration for youth who have problems with chronic disruptive behavior. The need for MTFC comes in part due to the exhausted budgets of residential therapeutic programs. The evidence of cost-effective positive outcomes from this unique multi-modal treatment approach is compelling. The MTFC treatment model allows the agency to bring together various professionals who combine their skill sets and provide services to children with serious behavior problems and their families. This enables the children to become productive members of their communities.

They realize that caring for the troubled youth is not an easy task for the foster families. Making assistance available to the families twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, helps them cope with the situation. They meet with the foster parents on a weekly basis and share information on the development of the children.

To be a MTFC parent, an individual needs to be at least twenty-one years old, have a source of income, an apartment or house in his or her name with enough space to safely accommodate the household, and be committed to providing the care the children need and deserve. Fliers and other literature regarding the program are available on tonight's distribution table.

Someone asked if there is a cap on the upper age limit for being a foster parent.

Ms. Miller stated that there is no upper limit. However, they do require that foster parents be physically capable of performing the duties of a foster parent.

Chairperson Younger next recognized Mr. Luis Caridad from the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project.

Mr. Caridad stated that the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP) is a non-profit organization. He displayed maps of New York City and the Borough of Brooklyn - each indicating locations where foreclosures have occurred. The markers suggested a pattern wherein certain communities, including Community District #16, were targeted for predatory rate mortgages.

He is here tonight to inform the community of an option that may be available to persons who are having or think they will have problems in keeping up with their mortgages. Relief may be provided through a program issued by the Obama Administration in March 2009. The Making Home Affordable Program, also known as the Obama Plan and other names, seeks to stabilize the housing market and help struggling homeowners get relief and avoid foreclosure. The Home Affordable Modification Program provides eligible homeowners the opportunity to modify their mortgages to make them more affordable (Fliers summarizing the federal program are available on tonight's distribution table.). The best way to determine your eligibility is to seek the assistance of one of the non-profit counseling agencies. There are many non-profit agencies offering this service at no cost to the borrower. To get the contact information for an agency near you, call 3-1-1 or browse through one of the guides on the distribution table.

He is also here tonight to inform the community of some of the scams that have arisen from the program. Unscrupulous individuals and organizations will approach a homeowner and offer to assist the owner in resolving their mortgage problem for a fee (usually payable in advance). Unsolicited offers to aid a homeowner should be considered as a red flag. In fact, the State of New York recently passed legislation making it illegal for anyone to charge an upfront fee for this service. The guides previously mentioned also name legal organizations that may be able to help persons who have fallen prey to these scams.

New York State has also enacted a law giving the right to mediation between every homeowner facing foreclosure and mortgage companies. The purpose of this mediation is for the people facing foreclosure and their mortgage company to meet with an arbitrator. At this meeting, they try to modify the existing loan and reduce the payment to a level that people can afford to make on a monthly basis. By doing this, people can save their homes and foreclosure can be avoided.

The Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA), effective as of May 20, 2009, provides residential tenants with new protections when landlords lose rental properties to foreclosure. While residential leases in New York used to be extinguished at foreclosure and tenants could be evicted quickly, tenants now have the right to stay in their homes after foreclosure for at least

ninety days, or, if they have a one or two year lease, they may stay in the home throughout the entire remaining term of the lease. The PTFA applies to foreclosures of all residential property such as single family houses, 2 to 4 unit houses, and condominiums. This includes tenants with month-to-month leases, without formal leases but with verifiable rent payment history, and with Section 8 leases. New York State legislation signed in December 2009 provides further protections for New York tenants residing in foreclosed properties. Most notably, the legislation requires that New York tenants receive written notification of the foreclosure action and the change in ownership of the property. In the past, tenants received little notice prior to foreclosure evictions. Now they will receive at least ninety days notice and their leases will be protected, with limited exceptions.

Someone asked if modifying a mortgage will affect one's credit rating?

Mr. Caridad stated that the modification itself would not. However, if someone is modifying their mortgage because they have gone into arrears then being in arrears will affect the rating.

Someone asked if they need to be behind on their mortgage to qualify for a loan modification.

Mr. Caridad stated that they do not need to be in arrears to qualify. A homeowner may be up to date on their mortgage payment but have suffered some sort of hardship such as loss of employment. They may be eligible for a modification because the hardship will cause the loan to become unaffordable.

Someone asked if NEDAP provides loan modification services?

Mr. Caridad stated that they do not.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Secretary of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on July 29, 2010 with Mr. Kervel Young, owner of Young's Video and Internet Services at 68 Belmont Avenue.

In an effort to enhance services to the community, Mr. Young is proposing to reorganize his business and cater to a more adult population. To accomplish this, he has applied to the New York State Liquor Authority for a license to serve alcoholic beverages.

After careful review, the Committee recommends that the Community Board approve Mr. Young's application for a liquor license.

On August 26, 2010, the Committee met with several merchants to discuss plans to revitalize Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard. Everyone agreed that merchants on Belmont Avenue must organize into a merchants' association which will enable them to obtain certain government benefits designated for a merchants' group. Those present agreed to meet with their fellow merchants to enlist their cooperation to form a merchants' association on Belmont Avenue.

On September 16, 2010, the Committee met with Mr. Najeeb Alnajar, proprietor of a grocery store at 1540 East New York Avenue. Mr. Alnajar operates a grocery/deli store seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight. He is applying to the New York State Liquor Authority to renew his beer and wine product license. The Committee recommends that the Board approve Mr. Alnajar's application.

The Committee continued its discussion with merchants on Belmont Avenue by recapping to date efforts made to improve the Belmont Avenue corridor and shared information on the old Belmont Avenue up to the decline in the 1990s. There was discussion on the benefit of the merchants forming an association and Assemblyman Boyland's effort to expand the New York State Empire Zone to include Belmont Avenue as well as the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District.

The next Committee meeting will be on October 21st, 6:00 p.m. at 68 Belmont Avenue.

A motion was made by Rev. Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to approve the Economic Development Committee report and its recommendations to support the application for a New York State Liquor License by Young's Video Games and Internet Services and Mr. Najeeb Alnajar's application for renewal of a New York State Liquor License for his grocery store located at 1540 East New York Avenue.

A roll call vote was taken with the majority approving the motion.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that the recommendations should be given separate votes as there are two distinct locations with different conditions.

A roll call vote was taken for the Committee's recommendation to support the application by Young's Video Games and Internet Services for a New York State Liquor License with the vote being 19 in favor, 6 opposed, and abstentions by Mr. James Mack and Ms. Wendy Rutherford.

A roll call vote was taken for the Committee's recommendation to support the application by Mr. Najeed Alnajar for renewal of a New York State Liquor License with the vote being 20 in favor, 6 opposed, and abstentions by Mr. David Alexander, Ms. Carolyn Benjamin-Smith, Ms. Yolanda Matthews, and Ms. Wendy Rutherford.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, thanked the audience for their part in making the past summer a safe and enjoyable one at our community Parks and Recreation facilities. The season went by without any major incidents.

He reminded everyone that a report is produced each month detailing the condition of Parks and Recreation facilities within Community District #16. The report is in every Board member's folder and on tonight's distribution table. He highlighted the conditions found at some of the facilities including Brownsville Recreation Center, Betsy Head Playground, Nehemiah Playground, Dr. Richard Green Playground, and Marion Street Playground.

During their visit to Marion Street Playground they encountered evidence that there may be a drug use and/or trafficking problem at the park. They have contacted the police who will be monitoring the location, including some undercover officer visits. He asks that local residents be vigilant and report any illegal activities to the police. Do not approach individuals yourself as they may be dangerous.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to approve the Park's Committee report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, on behalf of Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 15, 2010 with Ms. Sharmin Prince who has been Program Director of the Volunteers of America SRO, located at 1381 East New York Avenue, for the past 2 years.

In the past, the SRO was only servicing clients from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Homeless Services. They now have an additional 17 beds from the Veterans Association in a per diem program. The veterans are housed at the SRO for 24 months before they move into permanent housing. Volunteers of America has submitted a bid to obtain an additional 23 beds for a total of 40 beds for veterans. These beds will replace HASA beds.

They recently suffered a 17% budget cut from the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). Before the budget cuts, they moved 20 of their tenants into permanent housing through the Moving Out Program with DHS.

They have an active monthly food pantry for tenants every third Thursday.

The building has a total occupancy of 174 residents. There are currently 6 vacancies.

They presently have two part-time vacancies – front desk security and maintenance. Applicants are required to have a high school diploma or GED.

Ms. Prince also informed the Committee that they are looking for volunteers to serve on their advisory board. For additional information, call Ms. Prince at (718) 566-8750 Ext. 205.

The Committee also met with Ms. Sharon Marshall-Taylor, Acting Director of the BACHE Project at the Brooklyn Perinatal Network. She requested that Ms. Taylor come forward and give an update on the BACHE project.

Ms. Marshall-Taylor stated that she is the Assistant Program Manager and Community Services Coordinator for the Brooklyn Perinatal Network, specifically the Brownsville Action Committee

for Health Equality (BACHE). Brooklyn Perinatal Network maintains an office here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Their main office is located at 76 Nevins Street, Downtown Brooklyn. They have been in the community for twenty-two years, providing services to families including advocacy for those families. Each year they form a contingent that lobbies City Hall for funding for community-based organizations serving this community.

The Center for Disease Control provided the Brooklyn Perinatal Network with a grant to further address the health disparities in Brownsville. BACHE was formed as a result of the funding and ten years of successfully collaborating with over twelve community-based organizations, particularly, as it relates to infant mortality rates. In 2008, fifty-five (11.2 deaths per one thousand births) babies died in Brownsville which is an extremely high rate compared to the City average of 5.1 deaths per one thousand births. The infant mortality rate for other areas of Brooklyn is 3.0 deaths per one thousand births. The 2010 Healthy Families Initiative sets a goal of 4.0 deaths per one thousand births nationwide. The numbers show the great disparity taking place in Brownsville.

The maternal mortality rate is also climbing. There are policymakers who want to include this as an initiative as well. In Brooklyn, the racial breakdown show that amongst White, Hispanic, and Asian women, sixteen die in childbirth compared to twenty-two African-American women. They would like to bring this issue to the forefront, particularly here in Brownsville.

They are taking a multi-pronged approach to this. One part is an enhanced approach to prenatal care; wherein they are engaged with four major medical centers that are utilized by about sixty percent of Brownsville residents: East New York Diagnostic Center, Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, Kings County Hospital, and Brookdale Hospital. They are seeking to roll out an enhanced screening that measures, not only medical risk, but social risk.

Another part is the fragmentation of care in the community. Many people in the community are unaware of all the rich services that are available to them in the Brownsville community. Often, when she asks women where they are getting their care they will say: Lenox Hill, Beth Israel, or elsewhere because they do not know that the services exist here in the community. So they are trying to advertise the services and seeking to engage an electronic referral system. In partnership with Brooklyn Healthy Start, they will be using peer point software that has been successful in many Upstate perinatal networks. The networks have reduced their number of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) admissions. In Rochester, they have made significant strides in reducing NICU admissions. They are simply borrowing from that successful program. The digital referral will allow agencies to follow-up on client referrals. They can see whether or not a client that was referred for domestic violence assistance was picked up by the agency; if the client was referred for housing, did she receive the assistance needed?

The last component is community involvement. They have partnered with Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center's WATCH High School to develop Preconception Health Peer Leaders. The group's goal is to ensure that our emerging adults are healthy before they even consider having children, or if they are already mothers, getting themselves right before having another baby.

A woman's health plays a part in the mortality rate. Obesity, diabetes, stress, etcetera also affect mortality rates. Therefore, they are also developing community health advocates to go out into the community and promote early prenatal care. There is a stipend, travel and childcare expense available to the advocates.

There is a linkage agreement in place with Community Board #16 to help in coordinating health fairs and other events in this building and eventually publishing a newsletter.

Lastly, they are looking to hire a new Program Manager. The ideal candidate will have strong maternal/child health skills and strong advocacy skills. She can be reached at (718) 240-9033 for further information.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the Health and Human Resources Committee report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr..

Assemblyman Boyland stated that Chancellor Joel Klein visited a school in the district on September 13th. He received many comments concerning charter schools versus regular schools. Many who were there opined that unfair comparisons are being made. It was stated that the

regular schools are feeling as if they are tenants in their own buildings. There was discussion about school safety, the effect of different activities in our community has on education in our schools, and how funding recently awarded to New York State schools by the Obama Administration's Race to the Top competition will be administered. It was also noted that parents, and sometimes school administrators, are not aware of changes being made until it is too late to be part of the process or to comment on the changes. Chancellor Klein committed to visiting the schools in the district with his staff on a quarterly basis.

Assemblyman Boyland stated that he is sponsoring a free college-bound tour, wherein they have buses to take college-bound students to colleges throughout New York State and the historically Black colleges of the southern United States. Interested persons should contact his office at (718) 498-8681.

They are also involved with the "Year Up" program. Year Up is a one-year intensive training program that trains disconnected and low-income young adults, ages 18–24 with a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED), in technology and investment operations skills as well as business and professional skills. After a six month classroom component, Year Up students are placed in six-month corporate apprenticeships with Fortune 50 corporations. Year Up's mission is to close the Opportunity Divide by providing urban young adults with the skills, experience, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education. They achieve this mission through a high support, high expectation model that combines marketable job skills, stipends, internships, college credit, a behavior management system and several levels of support to place these young adults on a viable path to economic self-sufficiency. For additional information on the program, please call (212) 785-3340.

He hosts his monthly Community Advisory Board meetings on the second Saturday of each month. The topic of discussion for the upcoming meeting will be the so-called half-way houses that are being placed throughout the community.

There will be four buses leaving from the area to attend the "One Nation" event to take place October 2, 2010, in Washington D.C.. The march seeks to call attention to the condition of the many middle-class Americans who are suffering during this tough economic climate. Anyone who would like to attend should contact his office – seating is limited.

Lastly, he and Senator John Sampson are collaborating to expand the Empire Zone to include the Belmont Avenue and Pitkin Avenue shopping districts. An Empire Zone would provide tax incentives to businesses in order to encourage them to expand current businesses or open new ones in the zone.

Ms. Mabel Davis requested that Assemblyman Boyland inform the audience on the commitments that have been made to education by American Express and IBM.

Assemblyman Boyland stated that American Express has committed funding ten million dollars in grants towards improving underperforming school districts in the city. The funds will be used to hire teachers and improve the infrastructure of the schools.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if anything is being done to make all schools in the district wheelchair accessible. She recounted a situation on primary election day wherein she had to wait fifteen minutes before she could get into the building of P.S./I.S. 323 at 210 Chester Street.

Assemblyman Boyland stated that he is aware of her situation and is seeking solutions.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy stated that there were many events held in her district this past summer. She is working to bring as many services as possible to the district. She hosts her monthly Advisory Board meeting on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

There are two parks in her district that still need to be rehabilitated. She is striving to work with fellow elected officials to have a dome erected over the Betsy Head Playground. It is imperative that our children have positive places to go to year round; for if they do not have them, the youth will likely end up in jail or worse.

She will be hosting seminars in her office to assist community-based organizations (CBOs) that

are interested in learning how to apply for funds from governmental agencies.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Maurice Philips from Senator John Sampson's office.

Mr. Philips stated that Senator Sampson will host an event to celebrate all grandparents in his district on September 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at his District Office, located at 1222 East 96th Street between Flatlands Avenue and Avenue "J". Refreshments will be served. For additional information, please call his office at (718) 649-7653.

As was mentioned by Assemblyman Boyland and Councilmember Mealy, Senator Sampson is collaborating with other elected officials to bring essential services to the community. One of the things that he (Mr. Philips) is most happy to see is the revitalization of the old Loews' Pitkin Theatre. Not only does it bring back memories of his youth – having seen movies such as "Samson and Delilah" there, it will bring new jobs and opportunities to the Brownsville community.

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

Mr. Faulkner stated that he is here tonight to represent the Black churches of our communities. Tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m., a number of these churches will rally at One Police Plaza to spread the word that we are tired of Black on Black crimes in our communities. He is asking that as many church leaders from the community as possible join them in stepping out from behind the pulpit and in to the streets. Too many of our youth are ending up in jail or in the grave. This must stop now!

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

Ms. Walker stated that she is an attorney on staff at Congresswoman Clarke's office and serves as the Brownsville liaison to the office.

There is legislation currently being advocated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its Secretary, Shaun Donovan. PETRA (Preservation, Enhancement, and Transformation Rental Assistance Act of 2010) seeks to privatize public housing and has the support of New York City Housing Authority Chairman, John B. Rhea. The Brownsville community has the largest concentration of public housing in the nation and this legislation would greatly affect the community. She suggests that the community become familiar with the bill and write to the elected officials in Washington, D.C.. Correspondence should be sent, not only to the Representatives of this community, but to other members of Congress as well. Our local Representatives are frequently aware of and supportive of the positions held by area residents. It is the Representatives from other areas that most often need to hear the position of our communities.

Congresswoman Clarke has arranged for buses to carry individuals who are interested in participating in this weekend's "One Nation" rally at the Lincoln Memorial. The buses will depart from 1123 Nostrand Avenue between Midwood and Maple Streets on Saturday, October 2, 2010, 5:30 a.m..

Congresswoman Clarke was able to allocate \$75,000 for P.S. 178 and another considerable health grant for Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center. She asks that community-based organizations seeking to obtain 501 (c) 3s contact her at (718) 287-1142 or (347) 731-5311 for assistance. Proper 501 (c) 3 status is necessary for most governmental funding.

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

Ms. Rose-Persadi stated that she will be leaving the position of Board Liaison after tonight. She introduced her replacement, Ms. Renee Hastings-Motes.

Ms. Hastings-Motes announced that the Borough President is hosting his Parent Academy event at 6:00 p.m. on October 19th at Borough Hall. The theme of the evening will be: "Presenting Special Education: A Process and Your Rights". On October 28th they will host their Disability Employment Awareness Month event and ask that the Borough President's office is called at (718) 802-3700 to nominate companies who employ disabled persons. On November 10th at

8:00 a.m., there will be a Clergy Breakfast, please inform the clergy of your church of this event.

Chairperson Younger recognized the contingent from the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Joseph Gulotta stated that he and Captain Kevin Abernethy are the Executive Officers of the 73rd Precinct. They are both excited to be here and look forward to working with the community. Overall crime is down by 3.2 percent and robberies are down 24 percent for the year. However, they are experiencing a rise in violent crimes and ask for the communities' help to keep it under control. Along with contacting their Community Affairs office you may call (718) 495-5500; this is the number for two new lieutenants who are working with them. They have 104 police officers assigned to the Impact Zone and will deploy them where needed.

Detective Mary Anne Petrizzo stated that she was formerly assigned as a Crime Prevention Officer and is now assigned to Community Affairs, along with Police Officer Dawn Townsend, and they can be reached at (718) 495-5422.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Noel Gordon-Baptiste representing Local 1199.

Ms. Gordon-Baptiste stated that Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center is part of the Medisys Health Network which incorporates Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, Flushing Hospital Medical Center, and Peninsula Hospital Center. Brookdale is the largest of the four institutions and has been going through some rough times. Last year, there was a reduction in staffing at Brookdale and again last week there were further cuts which came with very little advance notice. It is the fear of the employees that these reductions will render Brookdale non-viable. They are seeking the support of the Community Board and elected officials to keep this from happening. The well being of Brookdale is essential to this community.

Chairperson Younger asked what do they want the Board to do to support them?

Ms. Gordon-Baptiste stated that this is their first step, they have not yet devised a strategy.

Chairperson Younger stated that it is her understanding that the Union was notified of Brookdale's financial hardship in June and of the imminent layoffs in July. In fact, a meeting took place with Senator Sampson and Mr. Weissman to obtain additional funding for the hospital. What has the union been doing since then?

Ms. Gordon-Baptiste stated that during the early part of the discussion, much of what was happening was not communicated to the membership. They are very concerned about what is going on.

Chairperson Younger agreed that they should be concerned, she is concerned as well. However, the time to act should have been when they first heard about the prospect of cuts. She suggests that they reach out to the elected officials and that they keep an open mind to negotiations. At this stage, the only thing that the Board can do is sympathize – what is needed is action.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Emily Gold of New York Clean Up.

Ms. Gold stated that the organization will be conducting a survey in the coming weeks to ascertain community perceptions on its quality of life. There will be young people, some from Brownsville, clad in gold tee-shirts gathering the information. They ask that the audience be supportive of them and share their perceptions with the youth.

Mr. Kai Smith stated that New York Clean Up has been in the Brownsville community for about eight months. They have responded to requests from the community to remove debris from sidewalks and vacant lots and graffiti removal. They thank the community for its support and ask that the community continues to do so. They have a website at www.cleanupnyc.org where individuals can upload pictures of locations that are in need of clean up. They are seeking to target locations that are repeatedly dumped upon. It is their belief that dirty areas are more prone to crime. They will continually clean the hot spots as part of a public safety campaign. They can be reached at (917) 224-2072.

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

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Medgar Evers Beacon School, located in I.S. / P.S. 323, which is at 210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues. They service youths from kindergarten through high school and operate some adult programs. He invites everyone to attend their first Advisory Board meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m..

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.