

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – January 4, 2011

Attendance

David Alexander

Angela Alexander-Wilson (A)

Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)

Margaret Brewer

Adrainer Coleman

Essie Duggan

Helen Giles

Shirley Gonsalves

Danny Goodine

Chanel Haliburton

Sarah Hall

Kofi Hormeku

Michael Howard

Allene Ingram (E)

Prince Issachar (A)

Daisy Jackson

Minyarn Johnson

Orin Johnson-Griffith (E)

Carl Joseph (A)

Pamela Junior

Rev. Eddie Karim (A)

Eula Key

Bettie Kollock-Wallace

Charles Ladson

Deborah Mack (E)

James Mack

Yolanda Matthews (E)

Linda Mayo

Sadie McNamara

Ted McQueen (A)

Genese Morgan (E)

Rev. Joseph Norton

Deidre Olivera-Douglas

Blanche L. Peltonbusch

Marie Pierre

Rev. Devon Ponds (A)

Mattie Pusey

Linda Rivera

Melaine Rochford (A)

Wendy Rutherford

Beatrice Saunds

Christina Serano (A)

Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)

Ernestine Turner (A)

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu

Alice Vines (E)

Annie Walkes

Yvette Williams-Lawson

Herman Winston (E)

Hazel Younger

E. Jane Coleman, ADM

Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant

Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke

Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery

Alexis Hockaday for Hon. Wm. F. Boyland, Jr.

Karrie Scarboro for Hon. Darlene Mealy

Renee Hasticks-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz

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 7:09 p.m., followed with an invocation by Mrs. Hazel Clark.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker read the first public hearing item: In The Matter of an application submitted by S&H Glazer Bros., Inc. pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for an amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17b:

- a. changing from a C8-2 District to an R6A District property bounded by Eastern Parkway, Howard Avenue, and Pitkin Avenue; and
- b. establishing the proposed R6A District a C2-4 District bounded by Eastern Parkway, Howard Avenue, and Pitkin Avenue.

Representatives of S & H Glazer Bros., Inc. were asked to come forward for a brief presentation.

Mr. Richard S. Lobel of Sheldon Lobel, P.C. stated that he represents Mr. Preston Glazer, who along with his brother Rodney Glazer are the proprietors of S & H Glazer Bros., Inc.. They are here tonight to request the Board's approval of their proposal to change the zoning on the block where their business is located (Howard Avenue between Eastern Parkway and Pitkin Avenue) from a C8-2 District to an R6A District with a C2-4 District overlay – allowing for commercial venues on the ground floors.

This will bring the current residences into conformity with the zoning regulations and create a much more neighborhood friendly zoning district. Heavy commercial uses would not be allowed, new residential properties can be built, and the existing residential properties can be improved (Under the current zoning, major improvements are not allowed on the residential properties.).

Glazer Brothers is a vendor of appliances and hardware goods. The business has been owned and operated by the Glazer family for over seventy years.

A quick glance of the block will show that many of the properties are not being used as commercial venues. This is because many of the properties on the block have been “grandfathered in”, which means that they have been in existence prior to the current zoning being instituted. Eleven of the thirty properties on the block are residential properties and would not ordinarily conform to C8 zoning regulations.

Approval of the application would permit the Glazer brothers to construct a new building that will house their business on the ground floor and have twenty units of residential space in four stories above. Five of the residential units will be devoted to employees of S & H Glazer Bros., Inc.. The Glazers often find themselves seeking housing for some of their employees. They also believe their proposal will be beneficial to the community in that it, along with the new building that the Glazers will erect, will allow other property owners on the block to develop new housing and businesses that previously were forbidden. Conformity to zoning regulations will go from 49% to over 90%.

Chairperson Younger asked how will the apartments be distributed that will be set aside for employees? Will they be for current employees or for new hires?

Mr. Preston Glazer stated that their intent is to provide the apartments as an additional benefit for their employees, other than the usual health, medical, etcetera. He and his brother have been approached by employees who were having issues of finding decent housing or the housing was some distance from their store, or some other hardship. They try to help the employees find appropriate housing and they think that by having four or five units on site would be helpful. Some of their employees may be coming off leases and may want to consider an apartment onsite. It would be the employee’s decision, but they would like to have the option available for the employee.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas asked if there would be any other set asides such as for low-income families?

Mr. Lobel stated that they do not anticipate any other set asides.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas asked if there will be any inducements that would benefit the community as a whole as opposed to just the Glazer brothers and their employees.

Mr. Lobel stated that he understands the concern and that the benefits may be perceived differently, depending on one’s point of view. For example, the owners of the vacant properties may now see it as being financially beneficial to develop their properties, whereas, without the zoning changes it would not be feasible to do so. He suggested that if the Community Board so desires, it could draft a resolution stating their preference and submit the resolution to the Borough Board and City Planning.

Mr. Randy Hudson expressed a concern about the possibility of pricing out prospective business and residential renters.

Mr. Lobel stated that there are no prospective business renters. If approved, Glazer Brothers would construct a new building on the site that they currently occupy with new residential units on the upper four stories. There is no intention of renting the ground floor as they will be the sole occupant.

Mr. Glazer stated that the terms low-income housing and affordable housing have never made much sense to him. It has always been their intent to rent the apartments at a price that would allow them to break-even. Unfortunately, as time goes by in the process, additional costs are being incurred. He cannot provide what the rental price will be without an approval for the zoning change. Once the approval process is complete, he can then request bids and compute the cost.

Chairperson Younger stated that with all due respect to the comments of Mr. Glazer, when one embarks on such an endeavor, there is a general idea of the cost and pricing.

Mr. Glazer stated that when they began the process of looking at redeveloping their property, they were looking at rents of about \$1,000 per month. That was about five years ago and prices have changed.

Someone asked how will parking be accommodated?

Mr. Glazer stated that based on the new zoning, they will be able to accommodate eleven underground parking spaces. The number of parking spaces dictated that they needed to reduce the number of units that they originally had in mind. A by-product of this is that the apartments will be larger than most apartments currently being built.

Someone asked what will happen to the existing residential units?

Mr. Lobel stated that the units owned by the Glazers will be demolished because they have been deemed uninhabitable. The other residential units on the block are not affected by the proposal, other than now conforming to zoning and thus being able to legally make residential improvements.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas asked if they have committed to using local contractors for some or all of the construction of the project?

Mr. Glazer stated that thus far they have only requested bids for the demolition of the condemned building.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas expressed concern that there are no incentives to aid in the economic development of the community, other than for S & H Glazer Bros..

Mr. Glazer stated that he cannot make the type of commitments that Ms. Olivera-Douglas is suggesting at this time. However, they have been in the community since 1934 and would like to remain here. To do that requires that they be able to demolish the current buildings and reconstruct with the residences above the store. The alternative is to relocate.

Ms. Essie Duggan reiterated the desire to have the project use local contractors and sub-contractors.

Mr. Lobel stated that when the Glazer brothers first discussed their desire for this project with him, he mentioned to them that this would likely be a concern to the community. Their response was that they have been in the community for decades and have always supported the local community. They have hired from the community and contracted with local businesses. Their long history with the community should indicate their desire to continue doing so.

District Manager Greene-Walker read the second public hearing item: In The Matter of an application to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals to allow a community facility use Group 3 school to occupy the first, second, third, and fourth floors of a newly altered building at 123 East 98th Street, Brooklyn in a C8-2 zoning district.

Ms. Emily Simons of Simons Wright Simons, LLC., representative of the applicant, was asked to come forward and give a brief presentation.

Ms. Simons stated that she represents Bermuda Realty, LLC., principal owner of a newly constructed vacant 4-story building at 123 East 98th Street. Bermuda Realty is seeking the Board's approval of their application to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals for a Special Permit pursuant to New York City Zoning Resolution §73-19 to allow a school use in a C8-2 zoning district.

The building is bounded by East 98th Street to the west, Blake Avenue to the south and Union Street to the east. The Special Permit will allow the applicant to build out all four floors to accommodate the educational and programmatic needs of Brownsville Ascend, a charter school that approached Bermuda Realty for the use of the building.

Ascend Learning is a charter school management organization based in New York City. The schools that they operate are privately owned and publically funded alternatives to New York City public schools. Ascend Learning currently operates three schools, all in Brooklyn: Brooklyn Ascend Charter School on Rockaway Parkway between Clarkson and Winthrop Streets in Community School District #18, Bushwick Ascend Charter School (1469 Broadway-School District 32), and Brownsville Ascend Charter School (chartered for School District 23) currently located in 24,000 square feet of space within the Brooklyn Ascend Charter School building on Rockaway Parkway.

Brownsville Ascend Charter School was established in 2009 and currently has a student body of 249 children in grades K to 3. The school is required to locate in School District #23, not in District #18 where they are currently located. The location at 123 East 98th Street is uniquely situated to accommodate Brownsville Ascend Charter School.

The building was originally intended to be used for medical offices, but the recent recession prevented this from happening. Bermuda Realty initially worked with another charter school managing organization which decided it did not have the funds to occupy so large a space. Brownsville Ascend Charter School approached Bermuda Realty and entered into negotiations to locate its larger charter school at 123 East 98th Street.

Brownsville Ascend will occupy the entirety of the first, second, third and fourth floors of 123 East 98th Street, along with a rooftop recreation area. It is a tuition free school for children of all races, genders, religious and national origins. Most of the students live in Brownsville and preference is given to Brownsville students. Brownsville Ascend provides disciplined environment and a supportive community of students, faculty, administrators and parents intended to prepare students to excel in high school in order to attend college.

Triple-glazed windows will provide noise attenuation and the building will be equipped with a dedicated heating and air-conditioning unit located on the rooftop. The 46,600 square feet of space at 123 E. 98th Street will allow Brownsville Ascend to expand over the next several years to include the fourth through the 8th grades (smaller middle school classes) for a total student body of approximately 500 students.

Expansion will provide jobs for at least fifteen additional teachers, and six administrative and facility management staff. Brownsville Ascend has committed to notifying the Community Board, on a timely basis, of any job openings occurring within the school. A survey was conducted which determined that sufficient parking existed in the immediate area to accommodate the school's administrators and staff. To ensure safety, there will be a no-standing zone along Blake Avenue in front of the school's main entrance during school hours. The remainder of parking space along Blake Avenue will not be restricted to school staff and will be available for public parking.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas asked if at any point a survey was conducted to determine a need for the school? There are currently seven charter schools serving the K through 5 population in the community. Is another necessary?

Mr. Soly Bawabeh of Bermuda Realty, LLC stated that for the previous lottery, approximately eight thousand applications were received for an available three hundred seats. It was therefore assumed that a need still exist.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if the developers reside in the area, will their children be attending the charter school, and will this be beneficial to the children of this community?

Chairperson Younger stated that the answer to the first two questions is no and that the purpose of locating the school at Blake Avenue and East 98th Street is expressly to benefit the students in the community.

Chairperson Younger opened the floor for additional comments. There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to close the public hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

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

District Manager Greene-Walker reminded the audience that many of the articles found in her report contain time sensitive material. She highlighted an item found on page 14 of her report regarding upcoming parking meter rate changes.

The New York City Department of Transportation has informed us that beginning January 3,

2011 meter rates will begin to be changed with an estimated completion date of June 30, 2011. Rate will change as follows:

- Where passenger and commercial parking rates at muni-meters in Manhattan south of 86th Street are \$2.50 per hour they will increase to \$3.00 per hour.
- Where parking rates at other metered locations, citywide, are \$.25 for 20 minutes they will increase to \$.25 for 15 minutes.

Chairperson Younger stated that there have been rumors circulating insinuating that Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center is closing. In an effort to address these rumors, administrators from Brookdale were invited to tonight's meeting to provide the community with an accurate update. Acknowledging that there are some contentions with the institution, she asked that they be set aside for this meeting in order that we can hear what the presenters have to say as the Hospital is clearly a need for this community.

Mr. Michael Farca, Administrator, stated that he has heard the rumors from varying sources, from fliers distributed in the Hospital lobby, to articles in Newsday, to the grumblings of employees - all indicating that Brookdale was not going to survive 2010. Happily, none of these predictions came to be. He cannot see the future, but he believes that Brookdale will be around for awhile.

The costs of operating the Hospital are on the rise, simply by virtue of its existence. The cost of heating and cooling the buildings, supplies, and utilities all have increased over time. The problem lies in that their reimbursements have not commensurately increased. They have in-fact decreased by approximately fifty million dollars.

When the State legislatures say that they will be cutting funding to Medicare and Medicaid, the Hospital has to ask how will they absorb the cuts. David Rosen, Brookdale's President and Chief Executive Officer, has indicated that they are in for the fight. Among the things that they are doing to plan for the future is to expand services that are doing well.

He oversees a number of services, one of which is cardiac services. The Hospital's cardiologists are known for being good at what they do. He took an opportunity to visit their cath lab (catheterization laboratory) to learn how to read the instrumentation. He did this to assess the value of the lab to the patients. He came to the realization that Brookdale has an opportunity to grow in this area and so they are investing a substantial sum of dollars in that area.

Some years ago, they were granted a waiver by the State to perform primary angioplasty and have done extremely well with their pilot project. So well that they have been granted permission to continue performing the surgeries. One of the requirements to be able to perform the procedures is that the doctors, nurses, and other practitioners must be able to reach the cath lab within ninety minutes; whether or not they live in the vicinity. They were not only able to meet this requirement, they shattered it. By adding a second cath lab, they have seen their numbers grow by forty percent.

They are also endeavoring in other areas. There are often times when patients who come to the Hospital are gravely ill; the end of life process is not an easy one for the patients, their families and loved ones. Brookdale does not currently offer hospice or palliative care, so he has made that a pet project. He seeks to make use of underutilized space in the Hospital to provide these services and give the patients and their families the dignity, respect, and comfort that anyone deserves in their final days.

Ms. Phoebe Layne stated that in terms of the emergency room, Brookdale is the 4th busiest level one trauma center in the City (slightly behind Kings County), with over 100,000 visits per year and over 200,000 ambulatory care visits through their satellite offices. Healthcare is changing and they are trying to change with it. They have been in the community since 1920 and hopefully will be around for the next generation.

Mr. Rosen is very committed to the community and is in regular conversation about the hospital's financial difficulties with our elected officials. She stressed that Brookdale is not closing.

Ms. Sharon Marshall-Taylor of Brooklyn Perinatal Network stated that she recognizes that health care is changing and the need to change with it. As a long time resident of the community, she

applauds Brookdale for the services that it provides to the community. However, she would like to know what the hospital is doing in the way of preventive care, even though the money is not in preventive care. If we are to change health care, we must recognize that intervention is not prevention. Also, while Brookdale may have the fourth busiest emergency room, it needs to be stated that many people in our community use the emergency room for primary care.

Chairperson Younger stated that with regard to the emergency room, and as a member of Brookdale's Advisory Board, she is aware that many are using the emergency room for primary care. She asked Ms. Marshall-Taylor what she would suggest in such cases.

Ms. Marshall-Taylor suggested tracking and outreaching to individuals who use the emergency room for primary care.

Ms. Layne stated that the hospital does outreach and respond to the needs of the community by speaking at senior centers, community meetings and events, and offering various publications dealing with preventive care. In line with preventive care, they also offer a follow-up program for heart disease patients. After a patient has had a heart disease related procedure they are invited back to their heart failure clinic once per week, on Thursday nights. When patients come out of angioplasty and similar procedures, they try to keep them in the system by having pharmacists, dieticians, and social workers available as support groups at the meetings, in an effort to prevent a second attack. Preventive care occurs every day at their satellite locations and they are opening more. Diabetic aftercare programs are also a major concern and they offer preventive care.

Regarding the emergency room being used use as a clinic, they cannot predetermine who is there for a heart attack and who is there for indigestion. Yes, sometimes it is gas reflex and the patient is told to take an antacid and sent home. But they cannot second guess. They must perform all necessary tests even if they will not be reimbursed.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked for clarification about the \$50 million owed from Medicaid.

Mr. Farca stated that their operating budget was reduced by that amount because of the reduced Medicaid funding.

Ms. Layne stated that their reimbursement rate has also been lowered. They now receive \$95 per Medicaid visit but the actual cost is much higher.

Rev. Norton asked if there were any compliance issues that caused Brookdale's Medicaid reimbursement rate to be lowered?

Mr. Farca stated that the cut had nothing to do with compliance. There were cuts throughout the State, nothing to do with Brookdale proper. Some nearby hospitals had to be closed due to lack of funding - St. Mary's Hospital here in Brooklyn and St. John's and Mary Immaculate in Queens were closed. He noted that there were a couple of area hospitals that received additional funding that he believes was disproportionate.

Mr. Danny Goodine commended Brookdale for their efforts. The community cannot afford to take the loss of another hospital. The closure of St. Mary's Hospital was not something that we thought could happen, yet it did. We need to understand that we cannot take these facilities for granted.

Mr. Farca stated that the simple solution is for us to advocate and lobby with our legislatures.

Ms Marshall-Taylor stated that she is not suggesting that prejudgments be made of people coming into the emergency room. What she would like to see are programs designed to keep people from having to come into the emergency room unnecessarily; such as programs to reduce the rate of obesity in children.

Chairperson Younger stated that there appears to be a lack of information in the community - Brookdale offers an obesity program for children. She is suggesting that the Board ask for a commitment from Mr. Farca and Ms. Layne for them to visit the Board every other month to let the community know what is going on. Brookdale has a Community Advisory Board, on which she and fellow Community Board member Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu serve, which she implores its membership to disseminate the information that it receives at the meeting to the community.

Missing, from tonight's discussion, is the fact that there is an indigent population in the community, along with the HMO's trying to discount or not ever pay patients' bills.

Ms. Layne stated that they will gladly come back if that is the Board's desire. However, it may be more beneficial if presenters from the hospital's various outreach programs were invited to come and make a short presentation at every other meeting. For instance, they have one of the largest obesity programs in the nation, Live Light - Live Right. Another interesting program they operate is their sleep center. They are finding that some children are not learning because they have sleep apnea.

Ms. Pierre stated that Brownsville has one of the highest infant mortality rates but it is her understanding that Brookdale's OB/GYN is scaling down.

Mr. Farca stated that Brookdale's OB/GYN program underwent some major changes when they lost their residency program. They have since enhanced the program by employing midwifery programs to provide the services that were performed by the residents.

Tonight, they highlighted some of their more expensive programs that they have chosen to invest in to show that the institution is committed to remaining in the community and will not be closing. They offer dozens of other services and programs at the hospital and are trying to change and adapt to the needs of their patients.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Secretary of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, members of the Committee held a special meeting with Assemblyman Boyland and a representative from the New York State Empire State Development program to discuss options and incentives to promote business development efforts in Community District #16. The meeting was very informative and the Committee is seeking to secure the needed resources for the community such as tax credits, grants, loans, etcetera.

On Thursday, December 16, 2010, members of the Economic Development Committee held their regularly scheduled Committee meeting to discuss economic development efforts specific to the revitalization of Belmont Avenue.

The Committee is happy to announce that progress is underway in developing a plan for business growth and community development. The Committee will be conducting research and looking to form partnerships with community-based organizations to help retain and attract businesses to our retail corridor, as well as design programs and workshops that will offer needed services to the community.

There is a great need for additional volunteers and the Committee asks that anyone interested in joining the Committee please call Mrs. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or email her at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

Additionally, the Committee received and reviewed an application for the YVG68 Discount Liquors which was submitted by Mr. Keverel Young of 68 Belmont Avenue. Mr. Young informed the Committee that he has plans to convert his existing business, Young's Video Games and Internet Services, into a discount liquor store. Because a quorum was not present, the Committee did not take a vote on this item, therefore, the Committee will not offer a recommendation this evening.

The Committee did ask Mr. Young to consider options that are aligned with the growth strategy for Belmont Avenue and to consider the impact that a liquor store would have on the community.

The Committee wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season and appreciates your continued support!

Ms. Brewer further stated that while we complain about the elected officials, they are only as good as we are. We definitely have to work together and be serious about what we are doing. Our presentation is how people are going to respond to us and in order for us to move forward, we cannot be arrogant or ignorant.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to approve the Committee report.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee

stated that, with the consent of Chairperson Younger, and in the essence of time and the fact that many questions were asked and responded to during tonight's public hearing, she will not read her entire report but give a recap (A complete copy of the Committee report is in each Board member's folder). Chairperson Younger consented to the request.

The first proposal that the Committee heard at its December 14, 2010 meeting was from S&H Glazer Brothers, Inc. which has applied for a zoning map change to Block 1475, Lots 35-78 (bounded by Howard Avenue, Pitkin Avenue and Eastern Parkway) from C8-2 to R6A with a C2-4 commercial overlay. The R6A/C2-4 would permit both residential and commercial use, as well as mixed-use buildings with commercial on the ground floor and residential above.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports the rezoning application which will encourage development of vacant properties and facilitate the redevelopment of S&H Glazer Brother's property with a new 5-story mixed-use building having ground floor commercial use and residential use above.

The second proposal heard by the Committee was in the matter of an application to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals to allow a community facility use Group 3 school to occupy the first, second, third, and fourth floors of a newly altered building at 123 East 98th Street, Brooklyn in a C8-2 zoning district.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to approve the Committee report.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on December 21, 2010, he and Mr. Maceau Medozile, Manager of Parks for District #16, visited the parks and playgrounds in the District. Their findings are on the report found in each member's folder, as well as on tonight's distribution table and can be reviewed at your leisure.

The work in the Callahan Kelly Playground has been completed.

There are problems at the Brownsville Recreation Center and at Betsy Head Park that are being worked on.

Volunteers continue to be needed to adopt the parks and playgrounds in our community. Please contact the Board office at (718) 385-0323 to volunteer.

Mr. Medozile reported that during the week of January 9th, residents can bring their Christmas trees to the Betsy Head Park at Dumont and Thomas S. Boyland Street for pick up by the Department.

They are trying to create a stewardship program in Community District 16 to address the lack of community participation in the parks. All of the volunteers in the District are from other communities which gives the impression that the people in this community have no interest in their parks which is not true. They need residents to show an interest in the parks and they will work with them. They have indoor and outdoor facilities that can be utilized by the community to address some of the health issues mentioned earlier such as diabetes and obesity, or for brainstorming, conferences, meetings, etcetera.

Every month Mr. Kofi makes an appeal for the community to become involved with the parks. They are not asking the volunteers to do any work that is normally performed by personnel from the Department. The volunteers will be asked to do minor things such as painting or gardening. They want the community residents to show ownership of the parks by becoming stewards.

Someone asked if there will be a fee associated with a community-based organization utilizing Park's property to conduct a program.

Mr. Medozile stated that he would have the fees waived for community-based organizations utilizing the indoor facility at Betsy Head Park to address health related issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to approve the Committee report.

Chairperson Younger asked if there is a motion to approve tonight's public hearing item #1.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to approve tonight's public hearing item #1: the application submitted by S&H Glazer Bros., Inc. pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for an amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17b for Block 1475, Lots 35-78.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to approve the application to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals to allow a community facility use Group 3 school to occupy the first, second, third, and fourth floors of a newly altered building at 123 East 98th Street, Brooklyn in a C8-2 zoning district.

A vote was taken which resulted in 28 for, 1 against and 1 abstention by Ms. Marie Pierre.

Ms. Karrie Scarboro from the Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy invited everyone to attend the Councilwoman's Advisory Board meetings that will now be held on the third Saturday of every month.

Ms. Alexis Hockaday from Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr.'s office reminded everyone to attend the Assemblyman's monthly advisory meetings that are held the second Saturday of every month.

The Assemblyman is meeting with electricians and plumbers who would like to become licensed and a member of the union on January 13th at 11:30 a.m. at his District Office, located at 467 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

There will be an introduction with neighborhood clergy in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday on January 17th at the Brownsville Community Baptist Church, located at 600 Mother Gaston Boulevard at 11:00 a.m..

She can be contacted at (718) 498-8681 for additional information concerning any of the announcements.

Ms. Renee Hasticks-Motes from Borough President Markowitz's office announced that the Borough President's public hearing regarding S&H Glazer, which was heard by the Board tonight, will be held tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m..

The Borough President is accepting applications for Board membership and she can be contacted at (718) 802-4091 for applications or persons can see her immediately following tonight's meeting.

Ms. Latrice Walker from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke stated that this will be Congresswoman Clarke's first term in the minority which means that we will have to fight harder for services, especially as it relates to "Obama Care" which the Republicans are threatening to repeal. Everyone needs to write letters objecting to this proposal which would mean that students would no longer be able to remain on their parents' health coverage plan until they are age 26 and preexisting conditions would not be covered. Community organizers need to start letter writing campaigns to the Republican members of the House of Representatives, letting them know that repealing the healthcare reform package is not an option.

She can be reached at (718) 287-1142 with any questions regarding the announcements.

Detective Mary Anne Petrizzo greeted everyone and introduced Lieutenant Hopkins from the 73rd Precinct.

Lieutenant Hopkins stated that he is assigned to special operations which consist of 10 sergeants and 48 police officers. They are focusing on such issues as prostitution, which is a problem in the southern part of the district, underage selling of alcohol, and graffiti.

Their anti crime officers took over 36 guns off the streets last year, the narcotics unit made over 400 arrests, and 100 search warrants were executed within the 73rd and 75th Precincts.

Chairperson Younger thanked Lieutenant Hopkins for his updates.

She reminded everyone that the regularly scheduled meeting for January will be held on January 25th. The December meeting was postponed until tonight because of the snow storm.

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