

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – NOVEMBER 22, 2011

### Attendance

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| David Alexander (A)           | Genese Morgan                               |
| Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (A) | Terry Norfleet (A)                          |
| Margaret Brewer (A)           | Rev. Joseph Norton                          |
| Adrainer Coleman              | Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)                  |
| Essie Duggan                  | Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)                  |
| Norman Frazier                | Marie Pierre (E)                            |
| Helen Giles (A)               | Rev. Devon Ponds (A)                        |
| Shirley Gonsalves             | Mattie Pusey (A)                            |
| Daniel Goodine (A)            | Linda Rivera (A)                            |
| Chanel Haliburton (E)         | Melaine Rochford (A)                        |
| Sarah Hall                    | Wendy Rutherford (E)                        |
| Kofi Hormeku                  | Beatrice Saunds (A)                         |
| Michael Howard                | Melina Terry (A)                            |
| Allene Ingram                 | Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)             |
| Min. Prince Issachar          | Ernestine Turner (E)                        |
| Daisy Jackson (E)             | Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu                      |
| Minyarn Johnson (A)           | Annie Walkes (E)                            |
| Carl Joseph                   | Jennifer Williams (A)                       |
| Pamela Junior                 | Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)                  |
| Eula Key                      | Herman Winston (E)                          |
| Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)    | Hazel Younger                               |
| Charles Ladson (A)            | Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager    |
| Deborah Mack (E)              | E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager |
| James Mack (A)                | Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant           |
| Yolanda Matthews (E)          | Hon. Darlene Mealy                          |
| Linda Mayo (E)                | Latrice Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke       |
| John McCadney, Jr.            | Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery |
| Sadie McNamara (E)            | Maurice Phillips for Hon. John Sampson      |
| Ted McQueen (A)               | Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron        |
|                               | Rene Hastick-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz |

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

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the public hearing to order at 7:05 p.m., followed with an invocation by Mr. Melvin Faulkner.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Norman Frazier and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted articles found in her report concerning the availability of applications for The Hegeman, affordable rental apartments currently under construction at 39 Hegeman Avenue. Applications may be downloaded from [commonground.org](http://commonground.org) or requested by mail from: Common Ground Community Housing Operations – The Hegeman, 505 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10018.

No-cost mammograms are being offered by the American Italian Cancer Foundation, in cooperation with P.S. 156, on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. James Broderick from the Center for Court Innovation was introduced to speak briefly on Project Safe Surrender.

Mr. Broderick stated that the Center for Court Innovation is collaborating with the court administration, the Legal Aid Society, the Brooklyn District Attorney, and local churches to bring about Project Safe Surrender. Safe Surrender is a means in which persons with low level summons warrants can appear at Mount Sion Church, located at 365 Ralph Avenue (between Pacific Street and Atlantic Avenue) to clear the warrants. Flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that her report also contains information on available

grants and she urges everyone to read it and take advantage of the offerings.

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

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Glenn Moises of the New York City Department of Probation.

Mr. Moises stated that he is the Branch Chief for Probation's Brownsville Neighborhood Opportunity Network (Neon) which recently opened here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. They are now servicing only probationers who reside in Brownsville. This makes it easier for the probationers to report to their probation officers and for the officers to render services to probationers and their families. Probation will network with agencies located in this building, as well as those in the surrounding community. It is their intent to refer clients to neighborhood resources rather having them going all around the city as they have in the past.

This is a new initiative of Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi. Five communities in the City have been determined to have large populations of probationers: East New York, Harlem, South Jamaica, South Bronx, and unfortunately Brownsville. The program which is called Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) will be implemented in each of these neighborhoods.

The aim is to integrate NeONs with their respective communities. The Brownsville branch is the first to open. As they begin to open the other branches, they will be advertised in the newspapers.

District Manager Greene-Walker asked if everyone on probation will be reporting to this office?

Mr. Moises stated that those who have sex offenses will continue to report Downtown Brooklyn. All others will report here. This includes persons with offenses ranging from petty larceny to felonies. The individuals already reside here in the community. This makes it more convenient for the client. Wait times here will average about fifteen minutes versus about two hours downtown. The probationer is seen by their probation officers and services are rendered as needed. Referrals are made, counseling provided, or whatever other services are needed to wean them away from probation and towards becoming positive citizens of the community.

Chairperson Younger expressed concern about being able to provide all the needed services within a fifteen minute time span.

Mr. Moises stated that the fifteen minutes are average wait times for a client to see an officer, not the amount of time spent with the client. Most clients will report to their probation officer on their individual progress which does not take much time. The officers are familiar with the individual's case and are aware of the type of service that may be warranted for an individual. However, they no longer dictate to the probationers what they should be doing. They now act as facilitators helping their clients to achieve positive goals. Some clients may have unrealistic goals and they help them re-aim their goals towards realistic ones.

Historically, they focused on getting the probationers employed. In today's marketplace, it is difficult for even well trained, educated, and non-offending individuals to find work, let alone someone who has a criminal record and is poorly educated. They seek to focus on getting the individuals trained and ready for opportunities that may arise.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if probationers will be tested for use of illicit drugs and if so, will they be arrested here should they fail?

Mr. Moises stated that individuals will be tested here, however, failing a test is not nor has it ever been grounds for automatic arrest.

Their office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Monday and Tuesday until 8:00 p.m.. They not only work with the probationers but with anyone associated with a probationer in need of services.

Mr. Broderick stated that the Center for Court Innovation will be working closely with Probation to provide social services.

Chairperson Younger thanked Mr. Broderick and Mr. Moises for their presentations.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that the Committee's Inspection Report can be found on tonight's distribution table and can be read at your leisure.

He asked that anyone who has any questions concerning the report to reach out to him after tonight's meeting and he will respond at the following meeting.

Leaves are now falling off the trees and all are cautioned to tread carefully when walking on leaves, especially when they are wet.

Both Brownsville and Betsy Head Recreation Centers have issues of water leaking into the facilities after rainfall. The Committee is working with Parks Department authorities to have our elected officials allocate appropriate funding to address the issues. Some funds have been allocated toward the repair of the Brownsville Recreation Center and they will report as work progresses.

Chairperson Younger asked Mr. Hormeku what is the purpose of the fencing around Brownsville Recreation Center?

Mr. Hormeku stated that the fences were erected to limit entry into the ballfield area while electrical lighting is being installed and they will be removed once the installation is complete.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussions for economic development and revitalization efforts within our community.

The Committee brainstormed about ideas for job growth within the community, given the known facts of the community, some of which are level of education and existence of criminal records. The Committee members recognized that there is a significant need for vocational training, unionized jobs, understanding of job interests and ex-con re-entry assistance. The Committee will continue to work on recommendations for job growth within the community.

Additionally, the Committee would like to report that progress is being made on many of the Committee's projects which include the "Be about Ocean Hill-Brownsville" campaign, Community Banking Survey, Belmont Avenue Revitalization, and Hunter College Studio Project. On November 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., the Committee held a conference call to discuss the initial work plan which was provided by Hunter College graduate students. The Committee submitted a written response on November 7, 2011 which identified important components of the community, a primary project focus, current advantages and disadvantages that exist, ideas for improvement, and a list of community projects and resources. We are currently awaiting the second draft of the work plan.

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is hiring Emergency Snow Laborers. Interested individuals can register at any DSNY garage between the hours of 7:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applicants must be 18 years old, eligible to work in the U.S., and possess a social security card and photo ID. Starting pay is \$12 per hour and increases to \$18 per hour, after completing the first 40 hours. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2011. For more information, please call 311.

The next Committee next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan ([genesemor@aol.com](mailto:genesemor@aol.com)).

Ms. Mabel Davis asked if persons with felony records may apply?

Mr. Moises stated that they can.

Someone asked if the Committee is aware that the New York City Housing Authority offers job training for their residents?

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that the information is available on the Board's website (brooklyncb16.org).

A motion was made by Min. Prince Issachar, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr. and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 9, 2011. The Committee discussed the sanitation updates, examined the outstanding issues on residential recycling especially with multi-residential buildings, and prepared an effective strategy to ensure compliance and enhance the quality of our lives in our community.

All New York City residents are required by law to recycle. The owner or manager of a residential building containing three or more dwelling units must notify the residents of the requirements of the New York City Recycling Law by, at a minimum, posting and maintaining one or more signs in the recycling collection areas. Residents must keep recyclable material separate from garbage and set them out for recycling collection no sooner than the evening before their designated recycling day.

The Committee's summer investigation confirmed that residential recycling remains unpracticed at the Marcus Garvey Housing complex, Atlantic Towers, or other complexes hence, the owners/management are still noncompliant to the law.

The Committee will therefore invite the owners/managements to the next Committee meeting to explain the need for compliance to the New York City Recycling Law and to appear at the January Board meeting to provide a plan to set up and commit to recycling programs at their complexes.

As part of the Committee's plan to educate members of our community at the Community Board meetings, an update of the New York City Department of Sanitation Residential Recycling Law and Requirements and the Department of Environmental Protection's Grease Disposal Stipulation were placed in each Board member's folder and on tonight's distribution table.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m..

Someone asked if a plastic jug filled with waste oil is considered regular garbage?

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that it is considered regular garbage (If it were empty, it would be recyclable). She urged everyone not to allow oil to accumulate. If a gallon or more is to be disposed at one time, special arrangements must be made.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked who is responsible for placing mattresses in plastic bags.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that it is the responsibility of the person who is discarding the mattress.

Mr. Trevor Alexander, Jr. stated that the current recycling laws are good, but they present a challenge for some of our senior homeowners. Is there any leeway available for the seniors?

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that the laws will be enforced and suggested that perhaps a family member or local youth be enlisted to help the senior.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 14, 2011 with representatives from the Department of Design and Construction and DOT to review a School Safety Program proposal for Nicholas Herkimer School (formerly P.S. 155), located at Herkimer Street, Eastern Parkway and Fulton Street, and K518, Kappa V (formerly J.H.S. 275), located at Hegeman Avenue Rockaway Avenue and Linden Boulevard.

These two schools were selected based on 2003-2006 priority School Safety reports which identified some of the safety challenges students face during arrival and dismissal times where 94% of students attending Nicholas Herkimer and 88% of students attending K518, Kappa V walk to school. According to a 1998-2000 NYS DMV accident summary report, there were a total of 357 accidents within a 700 feet radius of the Nicholas Herkimer School and 164 for K518, Kappa V. According

to the 2000-2004 NYPD Summary Accident report, there were a total of 567 accidents within the same 700 feet radius for Nicholas Herkimer School and 356 for K518, KappaV.

The proposal is to install traffic calming devices such as neckdowns and curb and median extensions at some of the intersections in the area of these schools. Full neck downs extend curbs and sidewalk approximately 6 feet into the streets and intersections which tends to calm traffic by narrowing the Street and intersections.

The analysis and recommendations for P.S. 155 is to install traffic calming measures on Eastern Parkway, Herkimer Street and Rockaway Avenue to widen crossings on Eastern Parkway because the existing medians do not extend into crosswalks and there have been several accidents. The analysis and recommendations for K518, Kappa is to install traffic calming measures on Hegeman Avenue, Rockaway Avenue and Linden Boulevard which would widen crossing on Linden Boulevard because the existing medians do not extend into crosswalk.

The tentative final design is scheduled for the summer of 2012 with construction to begin in the summer of 2013.

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed design because it will improve safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Rev. Joseph Norton and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Ralph Blessing of the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP).

Mr. Blessing stated that present with him are his boss, Winston Von Engel, two Planners who were hired to assist on this study, Alex Sommer and Kiyoshi Yamazaki.

DCP, along with seventeen other jurisdictions, received a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to do a sustainable community study. Within New York City, there are three studies to take place under the grant.

The first is a study to identify strategic actions to capitalize on the Bronx Metro-North Corridor, connecting Bronx residents to job centers in the region and maximizing access to commuter rail stations in the Bronx.

The second study will undertake several activities as part of a citywide strategic planning process for building climate resilience. This process will include outreach to a range of stakeholders, efforts to assess the risks, costs, and potential solutions for building climate resilience; and will outline an ongoing, dynamic, risk-based planning process that can take advantage of new information and projections as they become available. The study will also explore in greater detail a range of best practice adaptation strategies that have potential for implementation throughout the region to reduce climate risks to populations and property that are vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge.

Lastly, the study that he is working on, the East New York/Broadway Junction Sustainable Community Initiative (SCI) of which a significant portion is within Community District #16, is funded for two years and DCP seeks to discover ways to make the very important transportation hub at Broadway Junction more accessible to job centers in the region. They will look at ways to improve streetscapes such as sidewalks that are too narrow and badly lit. The study will also look for opportunities to place affordable housing and better access to fresh produce for residents of the community.

A map showing the target area (Broadway to the west, Conduit Avenue to the east, Fulton Street to the north, and Pitkin Avenue to the south) of the study was displayed. The East New York Industrial Development Zone is included in the study because of their belief that it plays an important part of job development for the community. The map also indicated how accessible the Broadway Junction hub is to Downtown Brooklyn and points east.

The study area was selected not only for its great transit access but also because it is an active community where they will be able to get community participation in the study. The City has also placed many resources in the area through initiatives of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for affordable housing and the Department of Transportation's current study of

the Broadway Junction and Planning seeks to take advantage of this public investment. There are a number of un- and under-utilized sites in the area and they want to see how they can be incorporated to develop job opportunities and/or affordable housing.

As was mentioned, Broadway Junction is a great transportation hub with access to five subway lines, the Long Island Railroad, and several bus routes. However, it is not being well utilized. Planning believes that improving the attractiveness of the street will lead to greater utilization and will seek ways to improve the streetscape.

They will be studying ways to improve economic development with two components. One will look at the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) to determine how more jobs can be created and what types of businesses will foster the growth of quality well paying jobs. The second is a look at the local retail corridors. How can they be improved to create additional job opportunities?

They will seek to coordinate projects that are being done in the area; too often different agencies will bring forward plans for projects wherein one project may work against another or create unnecessary duplication. They will work with the different city agencies, elected officials, as well as the community. The community is the expert at what its needs are and should be included in finding solutions to problems.

They are looking to setup a planning event in the early part of 2012 and would love to see a large number of community participants there. In the meanwhile, the community is encouraged to visit the Sustainable Communities section of their website at [nyc.gov/planning](http://nyc.gov/planning) or call them at (718) 780-8280.

Mr. Hormeku commended City Planning for taking on the study and commented that the elevated subway lines in the community are not accessible to persons who are unable to climb the steep stairs. He also expressed concern about safety along the crossing leading from the "2" line to the "L" line and encourage the inclusion of a direct connection between the two lines.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that while the areas Mr. Hormeku is referring to are not part of this study area they should be looked at for accesibility. However, even though the Broadway Junction is such an important transportation hub it remains challenging for persons with physical handicaps to use. Will any focus be placed on making the station accessible?

Mr. Blessing stated that they are aware of the accessibility issue and have broached the subject with the Transit Authority and have been met with the same resistance that Board met. They have someone at Transit with whom they hope to begin some constructive dialogue. When they speak of streetscapes these are the sort of things they consider. Not only are the stations inaccessible but at certain locales even the sidewalks are inaccessible. What they are doing is a planning study. As the Department of City Planning, they can set zoning regulations but there are certain things that they cannot do themselves. However, they can act as advocates for the community with other city agencies and the Transit Authority.

Chairperson Younger stated that while the efforts and the study by City Planning are appreciated what is needed are actions and results. She urges collaboration of all involved and would like to see them return before the Board with some positive results.

Mr. Trevor Alexander stated that the Transit Authority is mostly funded through state and federal money. How can Planning help with issues at that agency?

Mr. Blessing stated that with a solid viable plan the Board can be better equipped when requesting funding for wanted projects. A good example is the study for the area in front of the Broadway Junction Station where funding was made available but without a plan there is trouble.

Mr. von Engel stated that transportation is at the core of this study with the idea being that it will lead to future grants that will help implement the visions that is put together.

Mr. McCadney stated the Transit Authority has not been adherent to the Americans with Disabilities Act. They were grandfathered out based on the existence of the subway system prior to the Act being implemented.

Mr. Hormeku mentioned the Junius Street Station – this station has three flights of stairs and adjacent to a senior citizens housing complex. On the other end of the "2" line at White Plains

Road, there are elevated stations and elevators have been installed. The Broadway Junction Station was renovated but no elevators were installed – there are escalators but escalators are useless to someone in a wheelchair. Someone at the federal level needs to get after the Transit Authority to make these stations accessible to all. Perhaps what is needed is a lawsuit.

Ms. Genese Morgan commented that a well laid out transportation plan for the Broadway Junction will go a long way to energize economic growth in the area. People have a tendency to shop in areas where it is convenient to do so. The placing of exits near shops will cause people to shop there.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy asked if Planning is able to elaborate on the type and number of jobs that they are looking to create.

Mr. Von Engel stated that their efforts are a planning study that seeks to plan for economic development, affordable housing, sustainable communities, and access to fresh foods. What they are creating is a plan to implement these things. They are a planning agency not an economic development agency. As was pointed out earlier, the transportation resources in the community are plentiful. This is an asset that they are trying to build upon. There is no reason why a federal office that serves Long Island could not be located here as easily as it would be in Mineola.

Someone asked how long will the study take?

Mr. Blessing stated that the study is for two years. At the end of that period, they will have a report completed with their recommendations. More importantly, they hope to have the buy-ins of the various agencies stating their support for the plan. Those agencies will plan their budgets accordingly.

Councilmember Mealy asked if they are able to hire community residents to take part in the study?

Mr. Von Engel stated that they reached out throughout the city for applicants and chose two local New York City residents with planning experience.

Chairperson Younger stated that does not address the Councilmember's question of selecting individuals who are community residents.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that there needs to be better lighting and security in the area. The corridor to the Long Island Railroad needs to be made more attractive and secure.

Chairperson Younger requested that everyone continue to think about this issue and invited City Planning to return with their progress and to strongly consider hiring from the community.

Mr. Von Engel agreed and stated that they look forward to working with the community in this effort.

Councilmember Mealy invited everyone to her Advisory Board meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 1753 Union Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). On December 7<sup>th</sup>, they will honor veterans at Tilden Senior Center and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December she is sponsoring a tree lighting ceremony at Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue.

She stated that last month a Town Hall meeting was held where about three hundred people gathered. She was disappointed that with all of those people present not one question was asked of the elected officials present on a panel of speakers. There is something wrong with that picture. We need to be the voice of our own community. Your elect officials represent you. You need to put them to task and hold them accountable. She, Senator John Sampson, and Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr. are planning a joint advisory meeting early in the new year. When the date and venue are set, they will advise the community.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron.

Mr. Faulkner stated that it is time for millionaires to pay their fair share of taxes. The tax breaks for the rich must stop. He asked that the audience join them in letting the rich know that the free ride is over.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson.

Mr. Phillips stated that Senator Sampson will host an advisory meeting for non-profits on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Senator's office, located at 1222 East 96<sup>th</sup> Street.

Regarding the study by City Planning, he was part of a study that took place 35 years ago when Pratt Institute undertook the very first study on the economic development of the Broadway corridor from Myrtle Avenue to Broadway Junction. What was mentioned here tonight is the planning stage on the appearance of the area. It is up to the community to take hold of the economic development side once the projects are in place. Non-profits should collaborate with for profits to undertake the business side of the equation. Otherwise, all we get is an improvement on the façade and will remain dependent on outsiders coming in to give us jobs.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Rene Hastick-Motes, representing the Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Ms. Hastick-Motes announced that Yvonne Graham, former Deputy Borough President, has moved on to become the Assistant Commissioner for the State Department of Health. The new Deputy Borough President is Sandra Chapman who prior to her new appointment, served as head of the Constituent Services Division of the Borough President's office. Anyone who wishes to have an audience with the Deputy may call her (Ms. Hastick-Motes). She can be reached at (718) 802-4091.

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

Ms. Duggan stated that she also took part in the Broadway Corridor study many years ago and concurs that the community needs to take a stake in the development of the area in order to have a say in what comes into the community

Meals-on-Wheels continues to serve homebound senior residents of the community. They do this every day, even on holidays. There is no reason why any senior should not have a nutritious meal every day. It should also be noted that sometimes the only face some of these seniors see for the day is that of the delivery person. She encourages anyone who knows of a senior in need to contact her.

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