

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 - SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and gave an invocation.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted the following articles found in her report:

- Brownsville Youth Court is currently accepting applications for its Youth Court.
- Empowering Youth Towards Excellence, Inc. needs your help to prepare care packages for college students from our community.
- Training for nonprofits
- Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, in collaboration with other organizations, invites you to the Brooklyn Summit and Youth Tribute on Thursday, September 27th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall.
- American Red Cross of Greater New York Region, in cooperation with Hunter College, will host a free 1-hour training that will help you and your loved ones prepare for disasters.

She stated that there are time sensitive grants included in her report and urged that it be read on a timely basis and the instructions followed for programs of interest to the reader. She asked Ms. Pamela Junior, Chairperson of Community Board #16's Women's Committee to report on an event planned by the Committee.

Ms. Junior made an appeal for individuals to join them on Sunday, October 21st as the Committee leads a team of walkers in the annual "Making Strides to End Breast Cancer" walk in Prospect Park, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. This is not strictly a women's issue and anyone willing to walk with them will be welcomed.

If you would like to join the team, please sign the signup sheet on the dais or call Ms. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

If you are unable to walk, but wish to show your support for this worthy cause, please donate online at: cancer.org/stridesonline and support the team: "Women's Committee of Community Board 16". All donations go to the American Cancer Society to fight breast cancer.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jackie Kennedy of Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Kennedy stated that she is the Outreach Coordinator for Brownsville Partnership which is now known as Community Solutions. She operates out of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street- Suite 104. Brownsville Partnership began as a "Single Stop", offering resources primarily to NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) residents in 2008. Along the way, they have added community organizing (working with specific NYCHA complexes to bring about programs for the developments) and eviction intervention (working with residents who are facing eminent eviction). They are no longer Common Ground and do not participate in supportive housing which Common Ground continues to offer.

As Community Solutions, the organization continues to do eviction prevention and community organizing as well as operate a pilot program called "Shelter to Home" with the Department of Homeless Services, a health initiative, and recently, an age friendly initiative.

Through a partnership with the Brownsville Community Justice Center, they also have a job developer to help participants navigate their way to employment. In collaboration with Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, formerly Credit Where Credit is Due, they offer free financial counseling.

GrowNYC is a partnership that has grown from a single farmers' market to three that operates on Fridays and Saturdays in the community. The youth farmers' markets are markets that train and employ youth from the Brownsville community to operate.

They also collaborate with SCO Family services.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Nicole S. Junior, Esq..

Ms. Junior related the stories of a few victims of domestic violence wherein those around them did not recognize the signs of domestic violence that led to homicides. She is an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in the Domestic Violence Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's Office. She prosecutes crimes ranging from attempted assault to attempted murder. Her current caseload as a Felony Assistant is between 70 and 100 cases. When she first started in the District Attorney's Office her caseload was approximately 200 which is typical of the 50 ADAs in the Bureau.

She provided the following statistics on domestic violence: Brooklyn had the highest number of domestic violence homicides in the five boroughs, in 2010 there were over 10,000 domestic violence cases reported in Brooklyn alone, in 2011 there were over 1,000 felony assaults and over 3,000 misdemeanor assaults, more than 30 homicides, not to mention the other domestic violence cases ranging from criminal contempt to violation of orders of protection to aggravated assault to stalking to sexual offenses and more.

She is here tonight to talk about the range of resources that are available through the Kings County District Attorney's Office to victims of domestic violence.

As she pointed out in the cases she mentioned earlier, oftentimes the public does not recognize domestic violence. They tend to think that it always involves visual evidence of physical abuse such as a busted lip or a black eye which is not always the case. Oftentimes, we will not know that our neighbor or a loved one is a victim of domestic violence. Therefore, as a community, we must educate everyone about resources available through the District Attorney's office. Whether it be a heterosexual or homosexual relationship, services are available to them.

The Family Justice Center (the first of its kind in the nation) offers the following services to victims of domestic violence:

- Therapeutic Counseling - licensed professional counseling from a variety of organizations providing clients with additional emotional support.
- Elder Abuse Services - Social workers and lawyers assist any client age 60 years and older who is being abused.
- Legal Information on Family Matters, Immigration & Divorce - lawyers and paralegals meet with clients to provide advice or representation. They assist clients in understanding their legal rights and may be able to assist with family law (custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, orders of protection) matrimonial, or immigration matters, such as visa information or employment authorization.
- Self-Sufficiency Services - self-sufficiency services include information and referrals for on-site and off-site educational training (General Education Development and English as a Second Language classes), job training and placement, Public Benefits (Welfare, Food Stamps, Medicaid, childcare).
- Interfaith Spiritual Caregivers - Spiritual Caregivers are available from a variety of faiths to provide voluntary support.
- Children's Services - children 3 and older can spend time with a child specialist in the Children's Room, Margaret's Place, where organized play activities are available during the day while the parent receives services on-site.

Counseling services are also available from licensed professionals for children 4 years of age and up who have witnessed domestic violence in the home.

Additionally, many victims are immigrants who may not have their paperwork in order. There are civil lawyers available to them to help on their path towards citizenship. If an immigrant victim of domestic violence calls 9-1-1, the District Attorney's Office will get involved and call them in for an interview to get the history of the abuse and offer counseling services.

The services that are available are not based upon the victim cooperating with the prosecution. The victim is still entitled to the services even if they decide that they do not wish to assist in the prosecution of the accused. This is an important point as many people feel that they don't want help in prosecuting their loved ones even if they are being abused by them. They may not want to separate a child from their father which is often the case in domestic violence cases.

She has with her printed material to help spread the word on the availability of these resources. They are available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Kreyol. She asks that the audience take the material back to churches and other organizations so that the information may be used to empower the people that they associate with.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Captain Joseph Gulotta, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Gulotta stated that there were a lot of youth related violence over the summer. He attended a press conference earlier in the day with representatives of the Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and members of the community. At the conference they announced an initiative aimed at reaching out to our youth by using a \$600,000 grant that is in place with CCI (Center for Court Innovation) to combat violent crimes in Brownsville. They will employ place-based crime fighting strategies that focus on hot spots of violence in neighborhoods. The block-by-block approach will allow them to focus on the blocks with the most violent activity, as opposed to targeting the entire community.

He is excited about the program and hopes that it will help reduce the number of youth involved in violent crimes in the community. He is currently seeing children as young as 12 years old carrying guns and 15 year olds being arrested for shooting 13 year olds.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the presenters for all the valuable information provided.

Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. to review the 2011-2012 Committee year and assess the progress of goals set by the Committee for the year. Given the

progress made in the past year, the Committee was able to establish new goals for the 2012-2013 Committee year which includes continued steps toward revitalization of our commercial corridors, information sessions on economic opportunities available to residents and business owners and the facilitation of services for residents and business owners which helps to contribute to improvement of the economic climate of the neighborhood.

As a reminder, the deadline for businesses to certify with the Department of Labor for the New York Youth Works Program is November 30, 2012 and youth must begin working by December 31, 2012. Businesses may earn a refundable tax credit up to \$4,000 when hiring unemployed and disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16-24. Businesses may certify online at www.jobs.ny.gov/youthworks. For more information, please contact (877) 226-5724 or email: info@youthworks.ny.gov.

Workforce1 is a service provided by the New York City Department of Small Business Services that prepares and connects qualified candidates to job opportunities in New York City. You may register at 9 Bond Street, 5th Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Please call (718) 875-3400 for more information.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012 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.)

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Pamela Junior, member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 11, 2012 with Ms. Bonnie Stone from Women in Need.

Ms. Stone discussed the Committee's recommendations for the commercial space which was reported at the June 26, 2012 Board meeting.

The Committee recommends that Community Board #16 supports Women in Need's proposal for a store such as a convenience store with a deli to enable the residents and workers in the industrial park to have healthy food choices with the focus of the store being for the betterment of the community.

The Committee also recommends that Community Board #16 supports the revised housing proposal by Women in Need to construct 160 units of housing in a 6-story building at 81-111 Junius Street which will provide low-income affordable permanent housing on a vacant site that is owned by Women in Need.

The Committee also heard a proposal for a recently renovated residential building at 355 Sumpter Street. The proposal was tabled pending additional information.

The Committee also heard a proposal to construct 121 units of supportive housing on two sites on Broadway and Decatur Street. The proposal was tabled pending additional information.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee with its recommendations.

Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee did not meet due to lack of a quorum. She appealed to the Board and the community-at-large for persons who may have an interest in legislation to join the Committee which meets on the third Wednesday of each month. While some may feel that legislation is boring, you should know that there are pieces of legislation that are languishing in Committee at the City Council. If we passively wait for elected officials to act, the legislation may die there and have adverse effects on our community. Therefore, it is important that we examine these introductions and bills to determine their effect on our neighborhood and to make requests to our elected officials to act in our behalf.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, suggested that members of the audience pick up a copy of his Inspection Report each month. The report may

be found on the distribution table for each month's meeting and contain information about the condition of each of the District's parks and playgrounds. He invites everyone to look at their nearby parks and playgrounds and inform him of any issues that they may come across that has not been reported.

The Brownsville Recreation Center is undergoing major renovations and the Committee will continue to update the community as the work progresses.

He asked for everyone's assistance in reporting persons who are not picking up after their dogs. This presents a health hazard to our youth who play in the parks. He also asks that tree limbs that present a danger be reported to the Community Board office.

He introduced Mr. Gerald Childs the new Director of the Brownsville Recreation Center.

Mr. Childs stated that as was mentioned by Mr. Hormeku, the Brownsville Recreation Center is under renovation. He looks forward to the completion of the work and to working with the community to bring more and better services.

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

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that because of a storm watch, the last Committee meeting was postponed to October 4th. She asks all concerned persons to join them as they discuss a pressing issue concerning the future of the Brownsville Academy High School.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson.

Mr. Philips stated that you or someone you know may have experienced an issue whereby you or they were unable to vote during the primary election at the site where they had previously voted. The reason for this is redistricting. The Senator suggests that you confirm where your polling place is located before the upcoming general election on November 6th. In the event that you go to a polling site and are told you are not on the roll, you have the right to ask for an affidavit ballot and should not let anyone discourage you from using that right. There will be a public hearing held on October 11th at Medgar Evers College. If you have any opinions that you would like to share on the issue, please call the Senator's office at (718) 649-7653 for details on the hearing.

Senator Sampson is the Senate Minority Leader and they are organizing the state budget for 2013. He encourages any non-profit group that is seeking state funding to submit their documentation by December of this year. Senator Sampson is focusing on items that will create jobs, protect our senior population and avoid the closure of Brookdale Hospital.

Someone commented that persons who need to register to vote may do so in person at the Board of Elections office, located at 32 Broadway in Manhattan. They may obtain information on where their polling place is located at the office.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will host her monthly Advisory Meeting on Saturday, October 6th, at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. She encourages the community to come out to the meeting as they are Councilmember Mealy's eyes and ears. They can inform her of what needs to be done in her District.

Beginning October 1st, there will be a lawyer available at Councilmember Mealy's District Office to assist with immigration concerns of her constituents on a weekly basis.

Councilmember Mealy also wants to remind everyone of the importance of their vote. If you have not voted since prior to the general election of 2008, you will need to re-register in order that your name will appear on the voting register.

Ms. Linda Sanders asked how are seniors and disabled persons expected to make it to

Councilmember Mealy's second floor office?

Ms. Mercado stated that she understands the concern and that she and other staff members can come out to meet with those persons to address their concerns.

Mr. David Alexander asked what is the deadline for a person to register in order to be eligible to vote in the general election?

Ms. Mercado stated that they must register by October 12th to be eligible for this year's general election. They have registration forms with pre-paid postage for easy mailing available at their office.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch stated that at one point Councilmember Mealy held her meetings at St. Anthony's Baptist Church which is wheelchair accessible. The Councilmember had stated to her that she would be holding future meetings at another accessible venue. She requested Ms. Mercado to follow up with Councilmember Mealy on the issue.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, stated that it is very important that we exercise our right to vote on Election Day. He asked that we not take the vote for granted and that we encourage our neighbors and friends to go out and vote as well.

Ms. Renee Hastick-Motes, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, announced that Borough President Markowitz will host his annual "Take Your Man to the Doctor Day" on October 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall (210 Joralemon Street). There will be qualified health professional present to provide free health screenings for men. She encouraged the audience to bring all the men in their lives – sons, husbands, nephews, boyfriends, etc. to the event and encourage them to get the screenings done.

On Thursday, September 27th, they will host a Youth Summit entitled "From Tragedy to Triumph", from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. During the Summit, they will honor men and women who have taken the tragedy of losing their child to violence into triumph. Among the honorees will be Community Board #16's very own Daniel Goodine. There will also be workshops for the youth as well as workshops for parents.

Anyone who wishes to contact her with an issue of concern may call her at (718) 802-4091. She handles the areas of clergy, disabilities, and Caribbean issues as well as Community Boards #16 and 18.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, welcomed everyone back from the summer and stated that she will have literature from Senator Montgomery at the October Board meeting. However, anyone who wants to see what Senator Montgomery is working on may visit her webpage: www.nysenate.gov/senator/velmanette-montgomery.

She invites anyone who knows a senior who may not be having at least one nutritious meal a day to reach out to the Meals-on-Wheels program at (718) 443-2574.

Ms. Duggan stated that that she is the Chairperson of Community Board #16's Senior Citizens Affairs Committee and would like to appeal to the audience for persons who may be interested in joining the Committee attend their meetings which are held at noon on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 17th, at the Mount Ararat Senior Center. She is seeking both seniors and younger adults to become a member of the Committee.

Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid, representing Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes, thanked ADA Junior for her earlier presentation on domestic violence. She was happy to hear it explained from a prosecutor's point of view. Kings County's Family Justice Center has amongst the most resources available to victims throughout the nation. District Attorney Hynes invites everyone to come out and take a tour of the facility so that you may see first-hand how the facility functions.

They also have a one-of-a-kind program called ComAlert for persons returning to Brooklyn communities after being incarcerated. She is aware that sometimes things fall through the cracks and asks that she be called upon if you see something not going smoothly. They also offer tours of the ComAlert program every Friday at 2:00 p.m. for anyone interested. The goal of this program is to work with the formerly incarcerated to reduce the rate of recidivism.

Their Youth and Congregation program is a community-based intervention program promoting rehabilitation and the reduction of recidivism among Brooklyn's court involved and at risk youth. This goal is accomplished through the combination of intensive mentorship and comprehensive services. Youth who complete this 18-week program may have their record expunged. This program is over ten year olds and does work. They are always looking for more mentors.

One of the things she often hears, but is untrue, is that there are no programs for youth in the Brownsville Community. They are always looking for ways to interact with the youth and reach out to the community to seek different avenues to do this. They are now working with local business people who are offering introductory training to young people free of charge. One of the trainings teaches youth to be barbers, a skill that they can use to be self-sufficient. The training will be held at the Medgar Evers-Oasis Beacon Program, located at 210 Chester Street beginning in October for youth ages 13 to 17. For more information on any of these programs please call her at (718) 250-3470.

Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that on tonight's distribution table are newsletters from Congresswoman Clarke as well as cards listing the various ways that you can reach Congresswoman Clarke and her staff.

Congresswoman Clarke will be writing to the United States Department of Justice to request that personnel be sent to Brooklyn to monitor the elections. This is to ensure that proper protocols are being adhered to in light of the recent redistricting.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Kevin McCall.

Mr. McCall stated that the Charter School system is overtaking our schools. Present with him are teachers, principals, and parents of student in public schools. Brownsville Academy has a history of producing great students and there is now an effort being made to turn it into a charter school. They are here tonight to appeal to the community to join them in their effort to keep the school a public school. There will be a meeting held at 5:30 p.m. on October 3rd at Brownsville Academy High School, located 1150 East New York Avenue, and they need the community's support.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Tigani.

Ms. Tigani stated that she works for the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA). CCA has a new program that is starting in the Brownsville, Bushwick, and East New York sections of Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Justice Court Program will seek to assist young adults age 18 to 24 who have been incarcerated. The participants will receive up to \$8.00 per hour for spending 35 hours a week in the program which will provide them with a General Education Diploma (GED). Participants will have to attend training sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in preparation to enter the workforce. They will meet with social workers and go out and work on community service projects that teach them new skills as they better their communities.

CCA has hired personnel specifically to find jobs for these young people. When the participants complete the program in a year, they will have earned a GED, will have entered a college or vocational school program, been part of an internship program in a trade of interest to them, and will have someone on the CCA team responsible for insuring that they are employed.

They work with the Department of Parole and the community for referrals. The youth may be sent to their offices at 100 Pennsylvania Avenue in East New York or they may call them at (929) 234-3636.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jane Lee.

Ms. Lee stated that she is from the New York City Districting Commission. The Districting Commission forms once every ten years following the decennial census. Based upon changes in the population of the City, Council district lines are redrawn to accommodate shifts in population within the City.

She distributed maps showing new Council District boundaries and stated that the lines were drawn to reflect changes in population based on the 2010 decennial census aim to maintain approximately 160,000 persons per district. The maps may also be viewed on the Commission's webpages at www.nyc.gov/districting. There you may also propose your own maps and view

other resources. Dates for upcoming hearings concerning redistricting may also be found on the website.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Linda Sanders.

Ms. Sanders stated that she is representing New York Communities for Change and they are holding a meeting on Wednesday, September 26th at 730 Rockaway Avenue to discuss the lack of repairs at New York City Housing Authority buildings. The meeting will end with a “Stop and Frisk” rally.

Mr. Daniel Goodine asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Anthony Stryker.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to adjourn the meeting.