

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 23, 2012

Attendance

David Alexander
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (A)
Margaret Brewer
Adrainer Coleman
Christopher Durosini
Essie Duggan (A)
Norman Frazier
Helen Giles (A)
Shirley Gonsalves
Daniel Goodine
Chanel Haliburton
Sarah Hall
Kofi Hormeku
Michael Howard
Allene Ingram (A)
Min. Prince Issachar
Daisy Jackson
Minyarn Johnson (A)
Carl Joseph (E)
Pamela Junior (E)
Eula Key
Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)
Charles Ladson (E)
Deborah Mack
James Mack (E)
Yolanda Matthew (E)
John McCadney, Jr.
Andrea McCullough (E)

Sadie McNamara (E)
Linda Mayo (A)
Genese Morgan
Terry Norfleet (A)
Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Marie Pierre
Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Mattie Pusey
Linda Rivera
Melaine Rochford (E)
Wendy Rutherford (E)
Beatrice Saunders
Melina Terry (A)
Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Ernestine Turner (A)
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Jennifer Williams (A)
Yvette Williams-Lawson
Patricia Winston
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Latrice Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Maurice Phillips for Hon. John Sampson
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Wanda Mercado for Hon. Darlene Mealy

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

PUBLIC HEARING

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 7:05 p.m. and an invocation was given by Mr. Melvin Faulkner.

It was stated that the public hearing was in pursuant to the New York City Charter, to gather community views and requests with respect to the New York City's Fiscal Year 2014 Capital and Expense Budgets.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker stated that the capital budget allocates funds for physical improvements, land acquisition, and major equipment. The expense budget allocates funds for the ongoing operations of the City, which include personnel, minor equipment and materials, and anything budgeted on a year-to-year basis. The Board may submit up to forty capital budget requests and up to twenty-five expense requests.

She directed the audience's attention to the list of recommended Capital and Expense Budget requests and their suggested priority for Fiscal Year 2014 which are listed on the first six pages of tonight's District Manager's report. Copies of the report can be found in each member's folder and additional copies are available at the sign-in table. Most of the items were included in the previous years' budget request list but were not funded. It is her hope that by continuing to request the items, they will become a priority to City administrators, elected officials, and others.

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan opened the floor for comments and/or any new suggestions. There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to close the public hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

- New York City Housing Authority Brooklyn Community Operations is sponsoring a Women and Men workshop in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month.
- CHANGER is working with New York City homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure.
- LaGuardia Community College is offering assistance to veterans who are interested in earning a college degree or advancing their careers through their Upward Bound Program.

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.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson, and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Mark Toney, CEO of Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center.

Mr. Toney stated that Brookdale has been undergoing some changes. They have separated from Medisys, Inc., their former parent company, and are working to repair their financial status. They are currently losing about a million dollars a week.

They are also fixing patient care. Ninety-eight percent of their patients come in through their Emergency Department. Patients, of course, are not there for vacation but they do expect a certain level of treatment. Local 1199, the union that represents the employees, is funding a program to train the employees on customer relations. While the patients are not there to receive smiles, they have a much better chance of receiving one than they would have six to eight months ago. To achieve their goal, they are focused on three things. Respect – each person should respect the other, from doctors respecting nurses to housekeeping respecting patients. Dignity – must be afforded to all, patients should be treated as if they are family members. Integrity – there has been a loss of faith in the Hospital, lots of negative publicity – they must do everything with integrity going forward to rebuild the trust of the community.

The Hospital also does a lot of good in the community. The cauterization procedures are rated amongst the best in the state. They perform robotic surgeries that reduce the size of incisions from across the stomach to one that is about an inch wide under the navel.

Going forward, having completed their separation from Medisys, they will focus on patient care, trying to provide residents of the community with the best care possible. They are outreaching to area physicians and institutions such as BMS Family Health Center. They are seeking other institutions to partner with - very few hospitals can stand alone today. However, they will not go from one bad marriage to another.

Whatever partnership they enter must improve on the quality of patient care, improve on operational efficiencies (They are still using and paying Medisys for an information technology system that is five generations old.), and financial strength – an organization that is not as distressed as Brookdale. He personally believes that if two financially distressed hospitals merge the result is just a larger institution that is financially distressed.

They will continue to address community needs and want to remain one of the top trauma centers in Brooklyn. They need to be able to address diabetes, obesity (especially amongst our young people), cancer, cardiac issues, and sickle cell.

Brookdale is here to be a pillar of healthcare in Brooklyn. It has the support of the Governor and in fact has received 35.5 million dollars in state funding in the last six months. The State is also seeking to issue a grant to the hospital to help it recapitalize.

He encourages the community to come to the “new” Brookdale, as it is being called by the employees.

Someone asked how many stand-alone hospitals are there in New York?

Mr. Toney stated that there are a few, but the industry standard is moving away from that as it is very difficult to operate as a stand-alone.

Mr. M. Morton Hall asked if they will be publishing annual financial reports that will be available to the community?

Mr. Toney stated that they will gladly do that. They are now sharing financial information with the employees which was not done previously.

They are not looking at cutting jobs. They are in fact hiring. The organization has been starved by the cost cutting measures of previous administrations which cut staffing. They are now implementing a Transport Department which is the department that takes patients to and from different parts of the hospital in wheelchairs or on gurneys. This will improve patient safety, patient satisfaction, and make the staff more efficient. Without the Transport Department being in place, nurses and residents are performing this task.

Mr. Hall asked how is Brookdale informing the community of the availability of these jobs?

Mr. Toney stated that by contract rule, the jobs are filled through the union and the persons hired are from the community. A visit to the hospital will show that the employees are community residents.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked if the hospice unit is still in operation?

Mr. Toney stated that they are seeking to close or find an affiliation that would be able to take it over.

Reverend David Demera stated that he is aware that the hospital host health fairs, but have they considered having symposiums on the health issues affecting this community?

Mr. Toney stated that they had a symposium earlier today on the subject of sickle cell. The target audience was primary care givers but they do intend on having sessions for the community as well.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan next recognized Ms. Sabine Bernards from Citizens Committee for NYC.

Ms. Bernards stated that for more than 40 years, Citizens Committee for New York City has supported volunteer-led neighborhood groups carrying out community improvement projects in the most underserved neighborhoods in all five boroughs.

They are a leading organization in New York City offering funding to grassroots groups—groups such as block associations, tenant associations, gardening groups, and groups that do not have a 501(c)(3) status— working on quality-of-life issues.

They support residents to work on specific projects that help to bring neighbors together, and on the issues that they identify as important to their communities.

They are currently offering two types of grants, the Love Your Block and Community Grants.

Love Your Block is a special partnership between Citizens Committee for New York City and NYC Service that provides a unique opportunity for city residents to transform and beautify their neighborhoods and leverage City services. Resident-led volunteer groups (grantees) receive a grant of \$1,000 to transform a city block. Grantees also receive project-planning and community-building assistance, as well as access to city services provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Sanitation to help improve their block. Past Love Your Block grantees have received assistance with city services such as trash collection, vacant lot cleanup, graffiti removal, dead tree removal, tree planting, providing woodchip mulch for gardening projects, repair of and installation of street signs and street lights, traffic safety surveys, and more.

Through their Community Grants, Citizens Committee awards micro-grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. The next application deadline is January 31, 2013. Recent awards have enabled neighbors to come together to make healthy food available in their communities, transform empty lots into community gardens, organize tenants to advocate for better housing conditions, and start school recycling drives.

Applications for both grants can be found on their website: www.citizensnyc.org.

Ms. Keturah Suggs, member of the Economic Development Committee, in behalf of Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussion of economic development initiatives for Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The Committee reminds everyone that 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, disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16-24. Businesses may certify online at www.jobs.ny.gov/youthworks. For more information, please contact 1-877-226-5724 or email: info@youthworks.ny.gov.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. The Committee will meet with the New York City Economic Development Corporation to discuss new economic development requests for proposals that will become available through the agency in the very near future.

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. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, October 11, 2012 and discussed key health and social concerns in our area, spotlighting youth fitness, mental health, healthy eating, and engaging the elderly.

The short term plans are to address the following issues:

Youth Fitness - The Youth Services Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Economic Development Committee and the Pitkin Avenue BID, are working on an “organized play plan”, and will forward this concern to the Youth Services Planning Committee in the hope that they may incorporate some solutions in their plan.

Mental Health - The Committee is concerned about how our society deals with mental illness. The Committee plans to reach out to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for literature and have public conversations to educate the community on how to recognize, get assistance, and move forward with the various degrees of mental illness and its supporting factors.

Healthy Eating - Access to and knowledge of healthy food choices is another concern of the Committee. They recognize that there are many efforts already in place focused on healthy eating initiatives and will work with some of those organizations to collect information to share with residents of Community District #16.

Engaging the Elderly – How do we get the seniors involved, was the question. The Department for the Aging centers provide day recreation for many of the recipients of the Meals on Wheels program, however, many residents do not take advantage of the services that are provided. In addition to the city’s programs, the Committee has information for the Fiesta Adult Day Center, located at 50 Belmont Avenue, a free resource and recreation center for the seniors. Information is available in the Community Board office.

On August 19, 2012, Towards a Quieter America held a public outreach workshop and discussed the importance of “quiet” as it pertains to mental health and day to day functioning. Considering the noises generated from construction, traffic, emergency vehicles, loud neighbors/music, etc, it all has taken a toll on our children in school, adults at work, our elderly, sick and anti-social.

Towards a Quieter America is a project of the Acoustics Research Council and the Michiko So Finegold Memorial trust fund. The project has three goals:

- A. Change perspectives through continuous, bi-partisan constituency-building;
- B. Organize and mobilize a large and powerful constituency representing government, science, healthcare, law, engineering, education and industry;
- C. Continue achieving science-based, incremental success while avoiding confrontation.

For more information on Towards a Quieter America, go to www.healthcareacoustics.org

On Thursday, September 27, 2012, members of the Health and Human Services Committee attended a workshop held by Sisters of Faith at Muhammad Mosque No. 7C, entitled: “How to Eat to Live: Diabetes Awareness”.

The workshop pointed out and discussed key everyday factors in diabetes such as, too much overall sugar intake and lack of proper exercise. It was noted that these are things that can be somewhat controlled by making substitutions, modifying intake portions, and incorporating exercise into your day to day regime. Also, a very interesting point learned was the actual disease isn’t what is inherited (passed on), but is more the actual eating habits and lifestyle that is inherited. There was also a demonstration of a way to cut or lessen the starch intake by actually washing the rice and browning before cooking.

The “How to Eat to Live” series continues at the Muhammad Mosque No.7C, located at 202 –A Pennsylvania Avenue, in East New York. For further information you may visit www.mosque7.org.

On Monday, October 1, 2012, she attended The Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center Community Advisory Board meeting where the New York Organ Donor Network announced that Brookdale Hospital had the largest participation in the Organ Donor Network of the area hospitals. We also learned that one donor can save eight lives. For further information on becoming a donor, you may go to www.nyhealth.gov/donate.

The Brookdale Family Care Network (BFCN) has offered to have flu shots administered to seniors on site. If you have a group of seniors who can gather in one place, a BFCN clinical team will come out and service the group. Anyone interested in on site flu shots, should contact The Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center at (718) 240-5000.

The Brookdale Family Care Network is happy to announce they have acquired homecare status, and is now able to give specialty services at the clinical sites.

Also, an announcement was made for a job opening for a manager for one of the Family Care sites. The minimum requirement is a bachelor’s degree. You may apply online at www.brookdalehosp.com.

On Thursday, October 18, 2012, the Brookdale University Hospital’s Community Advisory Board held an informational session on the changes at the hospital after the Medisys split. The CEO, Mr. Mark Toney, described what had been a bad and damaging partnership, which required many changes within the entire operation. Mr. Toney acknowledged the lack of patient consideration from the staff and wants to ensure the community that the changes largely have been with the patient care. Mr. Toney also expressed an interest in working closely with our community in the fight against gun violence. He stated that the numbers are very high and this contributes to, not only the Emergency Department staff being overwhelmed, but also diminishes the overall image of the quality of life in our community.

The Health and Human Services Committee will next meet on November 8, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office. All are welcome. If there are any topics, concerns, or ideas you would like to bring to the Committee, please feel free to do so.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 17, 2012.

They continued their discussion of the Prevailing Wage bill that was approved by the City Council, vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg and overrode by the City Council. The issue is currently in court as a result of the Mayor filing a lawsuit.

In a recent Daily News article, Governor Cuomo stated that he supports a raise in the minimum wage but he has not specified how big an increase he wants. Also appearing in the same article, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has sponsored legislation to boost the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 and link future increase to inflation.

The Committee also discussed the Community Safety Act legislation that is being sponsored by City Councilmember Jumaane Williams to combat discriminatory policing and hold the NYPD accountable. The legislation is a landmark police reform legislative package that currently consists of the following four bills:

- Intro 800 – Protecting New Yorkers against discrimination by NYPD
- Intro 799 – Protecting New Yorkers against unlawful searches
- Intro 801 – Requiring NYPD officers to identify themselves and explain their action
- Intro 881 - Establishing an Inspector General for the NYPD to provide independent oversight.

This legislation addresses the “Stop and Frisk” policy of the Police Department and is of great concern to the Committee. We need our elected officials to support this legislation because the “Stop and Frisk” policy greatly impacts the residents of Community District 16, especially our youth. The Committee supports this legislation and hopes to offer a resolution for the Board’s approval at its November meeting.

The Committee also discussed a new, watered-down version of a City Council bill that would give workers in New York City paid sick leave, which is quickly gaining traction among some business groups and union leaders. The changes would require businesses to allow five paid days for employees. It would exclude seasonal workers, and allow employees, especially at restaurants, to swap shifts rather than take a paid sick day. The original bill required most businesses with five or more employees to provide up to five days of paid sick leave a year, but also required that those with 20 or more workers provide each with as many as nine paid sick days.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 21st, and anyone interested in legislative issues is welcome to attend.

A motion was made by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2012 with representatives from the Department of Parks to review the schematic designs of the Powell and Betsy Head Playgrounds.

The rehabilitation of the Powell Playground is being funded by Councilman Erik Dilan. It includes the addition of 4 basketball courts and the refurbishing of the existing handball court.

The rehabilitation of the Betsy Head Playground is being funded jointly by Councilwoman Darlene Mealy and Borough President Marty Markowitz. The overall concept of the rehab is to encourage imagination and interactive play while maintaining opportunities for traditional play.

He introduced Mr. David Martin and Mr. Emanuel Thinde of the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Capital Projects Unit.

Schematic drawings were shown for the rehabilitation of Powell Playground and Betsy Head Playground. The Powell Playground will echo many of the design elements found in the nearby Houston Playground. The Betsy Head project will be an Imagine Playground location and play equipment will be designed to stimulate children’s imagination and foster cooperation.

Mr. David Alexander asked if basketball would be the only sport provided for at the Powell Playground?

Mr. Martin stated that along with basketball and handball courts, there will be a training circuit featuring items such as elliptical machines.

Mr. Alexander asked what percentage of the work force used to rehabilitate the park will come from this community?

Mr. Martin stated that contractors will be obligated to pay prevailing wages to the workers. However, there is no stipulation as to where they come from.

Mr. M. Morton Hall asked if it could not be made a stipulation?

Mr. Martin stated that that is not his area of expertise. However, he believes that the contracts are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and that the bidder must pay prevailing wages. Each contractor will have to use a certain percentage of MWBEs (Minority and Women Business Enterprises). There are no other stipulations to his knowledge.

Mr. Daniel Goodine stated that the plans look very nice, however, the Powell Playground siting area is adjacent to the garbage transfer station for New York City Housing Authority buildings in the area. He envisions rodents and smells making the area unusable. Has any thought been given to this?

Mr. Martin stated that this was also a concern of Councilmember Dilan, who supports the project and has stated that he will reach out to NYCHA. Additionally, the design incorporates vines and other vegetation to help ease the problem.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan expressed concern about the Betsy Head Playground being usable year-round.

Mr. Martin elaborated on the design showing swing sets and other apparatus that are usable year-round.

A motion was made by Mr. Daniel Goodine, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson, and carried unanimously to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee and to support the designs for both Powell Playground and Betsy Head Playground.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, October 15, 2012 with Mav Moorhead of NYH₂O to discuss the important environmental impacts and public health concerns of the radon. It is the opinion of NYH₂O that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) should not award any drilling permits in the Marcellus Shale formation in New York State until the radon in natural gas risk has been appropriately studied and assessed, and its impact on the entire New York State water supply is known. This is of great concern to the NYH₂O organization, especially as ninety percent (90%) of the New York City water supply originates from the Catskill/Delaware watershed, which is within the boundaries of the Marcellus Shale, and is delivered to the city faster.

The organization understands the environmental benefits of the use of natural gas for energy needs as opposed to burning oil or coal. They also understand the need for New York State to be able to benefit from the revenues gained from the mining of natural gas, especially in these difficult economic times. However, the organization also strongly believes that the potential for harm to public health needs to be weighed carefully and studied thoroughly before any permit decisions are made and given in New York State.

Therefore, the NYH₂O organization recommends that all community boards hold the NYSDEC accountable and unequivocally urge them to complete the studies and withhold issuing permits within New York State.

In view of the importance of the above information and the urgency of residents' action, the Committee requested Ms. Mav Moorhead of NYH₂O organization to make a brief presentation.

Ms. Moorhead stated that the Spectra Pipeline will be delivering natural gas from the Marcellus Shale to New York City. This gas contains radon 222 (a radioactive isotope) which does not burn with the natural gas but is inhaled and captured in our lungs where it becomes a carcinogen.

The Bloomberg Administration has mandated the elimination of type 4 and 6 heating oil in the City and as such when property owners speak to plumbers about updating their heating units, they are often directed toward natural gas for its efficiency. However, they are not told about the dangers of natural gas containing radon 222 that will be delivered by the Spectra Pipeline.

The Spectra Pipeline has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and there is a 30-day period in which the public may comment on the proposal. She is urging the Community Board to send resolutions to Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn, and Borough President Markowitz requesting that they not allow groundbreaking until an environmental impact study has been completed.

The next meeting of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee will be on November 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Ms. Patricia Winston, member of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at the Mount Ararat Senior Citizen Center, located at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Eastern Parkway.

The Committee shared information about the Affordable Care Act of 2012 (Obamacare) which makes healthcare much more cost effective by combining medical service needs. President Obama is trying to enhance the quality of life.

This was the first in a series of luncheon meetings that the Committee plans to convene at senior centers throughout the District on a monthly basis. This gives the Committee a firsthand knowledge of the needs of our seniors and also an opportunity to provide them with vital information about their benefits and entitlements.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 21st, at 12:00 noon at the Marcus Garvey Senior Center, located at 1400 East New York Avenue between Amboy and Thomas S. Boyland Streets.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, October 15, 2012 to finalize plans for the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" which was held on Sunday, October 21st in Prospect Park. The Committee met at 9:00 a.m. and was joined by several friends, family and community members. They proudly displayed and walked behind the Community Board #16 banner. Online alone, the Committee raised over \$500 in addition to handing in money on Sunday morning at registration. They would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who walked with them and for those who contributed to this very important cause.

In addition, the Committee discussed some of the issues that women face here in Ocean Hill - Brownsville. The Committee believes that by meeting jointly with other committees of the Community Board they can try and find ways to resolve some of those issues. They plan to meet with the Health and Human Services Committee, Youth Services Planning Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Legislative Committee.

For the next few months, the Women's Committee will not have its own meeting but will instead meet with each of these committees to work on initiatives together.

If anyone has any questions, comments, issues, or suggestions that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please feel free to contact Ms. Junior at pjunior2@aol.com.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson, and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 16, 2012.

Ms. Valarie Babb gave a presentation on the New York City Charter School Center and Charter/Parent Acting Network (CPAN), explaining who they are, what they do, and what they have to offer. Ms. Babb, Director of CPAN, stated that one of CPAN's objectives is to collaborate and share with district schools, along with charter schools, regarding techniques, academic materials, and other endeavors. Ms. Babb left with a list of questions, including the question about collaborating with Brownsville Academy High School on their current issue. The Committee looks forward to Ms. Babb's return with new information.

Ms. Ketisha Peters from Brownsville Academy High School brought to the table their current issue of the co-location of Brownsville Academy High School and Success Academy Charter School. Success Academy Charter School is scheduled to co-locate with Brownsville Academy beginning in the 2013/2014 school year. Initially, this school will be allotted two floors, housing kindergarten

and first grade students, with a potential growth of 128% - 158% (i.e., 434 – 556 students) by 2017/2018 school year and the number of grades up to twelve. In the meanwhile, Brownsville Academy is scheduled to be reduced from 34 rooms (24 classrooms, 6 multiservice rooms, and 4 administrative rooms) in the 2013/2014 school year.

The argument posed by the Department of Education (DOE) is that the building is underutilized. However, reducing Brownsville Academy to eleven rooms interrupts their success that is built on small classrooms and space for other skills training that has up to now been their trademark for their success. In addition, with the expected growth rate of the charter school, Brownsville Academy will be squeezed out of the building. Moreover, while Brownsville Academy has a capacity cap of 250, Success Academy has no cap.

The Committee is collaborating with Ms. Peters on a registration drive, and providing them with the networks in which to reach a broader pool of candidates. Ms. Sandra Johnson, Director of the Medgar Evers Beacon Center, offered to be such a network. They will be reaching out to other such organizations to do the same. In addition, there will be a town hall meeting on this matter on October 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m., at Brownsville Academy High School, located at 1150 East New York Avenue. The YSPC will be there in support. Please join them.

The Committee's other endeavor lies in collaborating with the Economic Development Committee on Play Streets for 2013 and beyond. She and Ms. Genese Morgan have identified blocks that meet the requirements. Ms. Morgan is currently working on permits and possible grants. She is currently working on a petition for the residents of those identified blocks. Ms. Peters, from Brownsville Academy, has offered to supply a student workforce through their work program. Initially, they will use the workforce to develop scheduled activities. They will also reach out to other schools for their support as well. The Committee is reaching out for volunteers to supervise. If you are interested in joining the Committee, their next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 20th, at 6:00 p.m..

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

First Vice-Chairperson Morgan recognized Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr..

Assemblyman Boyland stated that he will be meeting with parents, teachers, the principal, and other stakeholders of Brownsville Academy on Friday, October 26th, to discuss the proposed co-location of Success Academy. It is his understanding that the proposal, while deep in the process, has not yet been finalized. There will be a meeting in Queens on October 30th, where it will be voted on.

He will also be meeting with the new Manager for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to discuss re-opening the community centers within his district. Many of the centers have been idle because there is no programming.

There will be a special session held in Albany next week to work legislation aimed at increasing New York State minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour.

Captain Joseph Gulotta, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct, stated that shootings are at a historical low for the Precinct. There were no reported shootings in the past thirty days. This is something that he had never seen in his two and half year tenure in the Precinct. He credits much of this to the valuable information being provided by neighborhood residents with regard to gang activity. Some of the news is quite good, such as hearing that it is becoming harder to find guns for sale in the community (sources are drying out).

Unfortunately, robberies are up with 7 in the last 30 days. Many of the robberies are youth on youth crimes – youth as young as 12 years of age are robbing their peers. They are attacking this problem by engaging the youth one on one when the incidents occur. They will go to the schools where the children attend and conduct workshops, a type of “Scared Straight” program.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will host her monthly Advisory Meeting on Saturday, November 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. She encourages the community to come out to the meeting and voice their concerns so that together solutions can be forged.

A lawyer is now available each Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Councilmember Mealy's District Office to assist with immigration concerns of her constituents.

Councilmember Mealy publishes a monthly newsletter informing the community on legislative initiatives affecting her district. As Chairperson of the Committee on Contracts, Councilmember Mealy strives to insure that vendors who are awarded contracts to serve our community also hire from within the community.

Councilmember Mealy also wants to remind everyone of the importance of their vote. She advises everyone to call the Board of Elections to confirm their registration and polling place as many of the polling places have changed. She also requests that if possible that you assist a senior or other person who may not be easily able to get to their polling place by driving them there. She is working with some groups to see if she can arrange for pickups for those persons as well.

Ms. Mercado may be reached by at (718) 953-3097 or by emailing wmercado@council.nyc.gov.

Mr. Hall asked why were contracts held by Rev. Herbert Daughtry and others within our community allowed to be taken by those from outside the community.

Ms. Mercado stated that she understands the concern. Councilmember Mealy is passionate about assuring that contractors hire from the community that the contract serves. However, she does not have an answer as to why this particular contract was lost. She will follow up with Councilmember Mealy on the issue.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, stated that the issue of nuisance arrest is a problem for many young black males in our communities. Nuisance arrest arise from the failure to respond to relatively minor summonses such as those issued to persons 14 years or older riding a bicycle on a sidewalk, loitering, or spitting in public. Police officers issue summonses to individuals for the offenses and when they are not responded to an arrest warrant may be issued. The warrant can affect the employability of the person for whom it was issued.

Project Safe Surrender is a way to resolve these warrants. At the last event hosted by Mt. Zion Church, over 500 persons were able to have their warrants vacated. Actual judges, lawyers, and people from the community were present to help this happen. On Friday and Saturday, November 9th and 10th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, located at 365 Ralph Avenue, the opportunity to resolve these minor summonses will again be given. He urges anyone who can benefit from this to attend. Anyone who would like flyers to help spread the word of this event may call him at (718) 257-5824.

Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that as was mentioned at last month's Board meeting, the Senator and his colleagues are working on legislation to increase the minimum wage in New York State. Senator Sampson is also in support of restricting the operation of the Spectra Pipeline until such a time as it can show that it is safe to do so.

He referenced recent Daily News and New York Post articles stating that voters residing in Bay Ridge and Sheepshead Bay were recently mailed notices stating that their polling places had been moved to somewhere in East New York, as a reminder that voters should ascertain where their polling places are in advance of Election Day.

Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that with the new housing developments being made available, many of Congresswoman Clarke's constituents are having credit checks as part of the application process. In doing so, some are finding out that there are fraudulent accounts in their name. Congresswoman Clarke, along with many of her colleagues are working on the establishment of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

She reminds everyone that if they are unable to get to their polling place on November 6th, they have up to October 31st to file an Absentee Ballot. These ballots have the same effect as voting at your polling place. The Board of Elections can be reached by calling (718) 797-8800.

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