

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

Attendance

David Alexander
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith
Margaret Brewer
Lamont Carolina
Adrainer Coleman
Christopher Durosinmi
Essie Duggan (E)
Norman Frazier
Shirley Gonsalves
Daniel Goodine
Chanel Haliburton
Sarah Hall
Jessie Hilliard
Michael Howard
Allene Ingram (A)
Min. Prince Issachar (A)
Daisy Jackson
Minyarn Johnson (A)
Carl Joseph (E)
Derrick Joseph (A)
Pamela Junior
Eula Key
Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Charles Ladson, Sr.
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)
Deborah Mack (E)
James Mack
Yolanda Matthews

John McCadney, Jr.
Leslie McCalla (A)
Andrea McCullough
Sadie McNamara (E)
Genese Morgan
Terry Norfleet (A)
Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Marie Pierre
Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Mattie Pusey
Linda Rivera
Melaine Rochford (E)
Wendy Rutherford (E)
Beatrice Saunds (A)
Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Yvette Williams-Lawson
Patricia Winston
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. John Sampson
Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Jessie Hamilton, III for Hon. Eric Adams

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and an invocation was given by Evangelist Hellen Thomas-Purdie.

There was a roll call of the Board members and it was noted that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

Victims' Compensation Fund - October 3, 2013 is the last day for most people to register with the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). All injured and ill 9/11 survivors and responders who might be eligible to apply are encouraged to do so.

Over 15,000 responders and survivors have been treated in the WTC Health Program just last year due to the harmful toxins released at Ground Zero.

Those who have lost loved ones to a 9/11-related injury or illness can also register and make a claim on that person's behalf.

There are two ways to register: online or by mail. The online registration can be completed on the VCF website at www.vcf.gov. Applicants can also call the VCF Help Line at (855) 885-1555 to have the form mailed to them directly.

Additional information about registering, including a list of frequently asked questions, can be found on the VCF's website at <http://www.vcf.gov/filingdeadlines.html#ace1>.

The City's World Trade Center Health Coordinator's Office is also available to help answer any questions folks have about registering for the fund. They can be reached by telephone at 311 or by email at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/wtc/html/contact/contact.shtml>.

CPR Training - On October 5, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Rising Son Worship Center, located at 99 Liberty Avenue (between Christopher Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard) will offer CPR training for adults and children. Courses are open to anyone who wishes to learn CPR lifesaving skills. Certification is available.

For additional information and registration, call (718) 346-0264.

Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk - On Sunday, October 20, 2013 at Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the American Cancer Society will host its annual "Making Strides to End Breast Cancer" walk. Please join the "Community Board 16 Team" of walkers. The walk will begin at 10:00 a.m..

You can register online by visiting "makingstrideswalk.org" and entering "Community Board 16" in the "Find Team" field. You can also fill out a registration form at the Community Board Office.

If you are unable to walk on Sunday, October 20th, but wish to support the team of walkers who will represent Community Board #16, you may go to "makingstrideswalk.org" and donate by using a major credit card. If you prefer to write a check or money order to this worthy cause, please make it payable to "American Cancer Society" and submit it to Viola Greene-Walker at the Community Board Office.

Your support will be most appreciated.

Brownsville Youth Court - The Brownsville Youth Court is recruiting new members for its next cohort. Application deadline is September 30, 2013.

The Brownsville Youth Court trains teenagers 14-18 to serve as advocates, jurors and judges. Members hear real-life cases of other teens that have committed low-level offenses. The goal of Youth Court does not assess guilt or innocence; but through use of positive peer pressure, helps ensure that young people who have committed minor offenses pay back the community and receive the help they need to avoid further involvement in the justice system.

Youth Court hearings are open to the public. Please feel free to attend a hearing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Room 106 at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Since opening its doors in May 2011, the Youth Court has heard 309 cases with a current successful compliance rate of 95%. This year to date, Youth Court members have completed over 200 hours of community service within the Brownsville area.

If you would like a member of the Youth Court staff to speak to a group of young people who are or may be interested in joining Youth Court, please contact Sharese Crouthers at (347) 404-9582.

National Preparedness Month - September is National Preparedness Month, a month-long campaign to promote emergency preparedness. CERT 16 (Community Emergency Response Team 16) encourages all community residents to be ready for the unexpected by developing and practicing a household disaster plan and preparing and maintaining a "Go Bag". For more information on preparing for emergencies please take one of the "Ready New York" pamphlets on tonight's distribution table or call 3-1-1.

Farmers' Markets - A variety of fresh fruits and vegetables are available at local farmer's markets in Brownsville and East New York.

A list of the locations and schedules of the markets may be found in her report.

She encouraged the audience to read the entirety of the report and noted that there are other time sensitive items contained therein.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to approve the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Patricia Barrera of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Ms. Barrera thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Prospect Hope VI update. She has been involved with the project since 2010. In June 2010, NYCHA had a three day visioning workshop with members of the community. There were over 100 participants including community leaders.

The Re-Vision Prospect Plaza workshop gathered input from participants on a vision, goals, designs, and implementation steps that provide a blueprint to remake Prospect Plaza into a vibrant place to live. The result of the collaboration was a guide for the redevelopment of Prospect Plaza. The community plan includes a mix of housing types, open space, community facilities and retail space to replace the remaining vacant Prospect Plaza towers.

In December 2011 NYCHA, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), issued a request for proposals (RFP). The plan developed by the workshop participants served as the guideline for the RFP. The RFP basically called for the design, construction, and maintenance of a high quality mixed use project. Additionally, it should be an outstanding example of a sustainable design.

The project is composed of approximately three-hundred and sixty rental housing units that will result in a minimum of eighty NYCHA public housing units and approximately two-hundred and eighty affordable housing units (Households cannot earn more than 60% of the area median income (AMI)). There will be ground-floor retail with preference for supermarket along Saratoga Avenue, community facility space and open space integrated throughout the development.

Twelve proposals were received and the agencies selected Blue Sea Development Company, Pennrose Properties, Duvernay + Brooks, and Rosenberg Housing Group (Blue Sea & Partners) to develop the approximately 200,000 square feet, 4.5-acre area. They were selected because their proposal reflected 100% of the goals that were developed during the re-visioning workshops.

Ms. Barrera introduced Ms. Amy Marcus, Director of Demolition Unit at HPD.

Ms. Marcus stated that the demolition process has started with the first step being asbestos abatement. Two contracts were awarded to one contractor. This will allow them to work on both sides of the street and complete the demolition faster. The asbestos abatement being done on the first building (1765 Prospect Place) should be completed by October 5, 2013 and the demolition of that building beginning around the third week of October. That building should be razed by the end of November or the beginning of December. The remaining two buildings should have asbestos abatement commence in December and be razed during January and February of 2014.

They have communicated with all concerned agencies and have the necessary approvals to begin demolition work. The streets will be closed during the demolitions which will take place during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There may be instances where work may be performed on weekends, however, approval from the Department of Buildings must be obtained prior to weekend work. Regarding the asbestos abatement, there are two crews (day and evening shift) working to complete the abatement process as quickly as possible.

Someone asked if there will be notification to the neighboring facilities such as the nearby daycare center and schools?

Ms. Marcus stated that notification is sent to neighboring facilities and residences. There are also protections in place to guard neighbors from demolition hazards.

Mr. M. Morton Hall expressed concern for the open windows of the buildings with the asbestos abatement.

Ms. Marcus stated that the asbestos abatement is done within a highly contained area with several monitors in place to ensure safety.

Someone asked what can be expected to happen with the rodent population during the demolition?

Ms. Marcus stated that there will be pre-demolition abatement done to control the rodent population. They do not expect to see a change in the activity of rodents in the area. As with any location within the city, residents can call 3-1-1 to report rodent activity and it will be addressed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Balinda Harris stated that since the fence was erected she has noticed an increase in the rodent population visible on the street. She also requested that a crossing guard be posted at the intersection to assist the youth in navigating the detours.

Ms. Marcus stated that during demolition this will be a non-issue as the streets will be closed. She will make inquiries with regards to the possibility of having a crossing guard while the street is still open.

Mr. Charles Ladson made a plea for employment opportunities to be given to residents of this community for the construction jobs that will be involved in the demolition and development of these sites.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas asked who oversees the compliance officer and how can the community receive copies of their reports to ensure that job opportunities are in fact being given to community residents?

Ms. Barrera stated that NYCHA ensures that their contractors comply with Section 3 requirements. Asbestos abatement is a highly skilled trade and the contractors tend to work with a set crew. During the entire process, NYCHA has communicated that they will monitor all contractors to ensure compliance and are doing so.

Ms. Yashaanyah Hill, Assistant Director of NYCHA's Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability office, stated that in her office they have a component that monitors the Section 3 regulation. They also have an Assistant Director of Business Development who monitors and looks for opportunities for employment and procurement for NYCHA residents.

In the case of this specific project, they monitor and enforce that 30% of any new hires that the contractor needs are given priority in the following order: 1) former residents of Prospect Plaza, 2) residents of other NYCHA housing facilities, 3) participants in YouthBuild programs, and 4) other low-income residents of the community.

Her office has been monitoring the pre-demolition work for compliance and thus far the work that is being performed is being done by members of Local 79. They have gone through their list of persons in the community that have reached out to them and have presented a list to the contractors of qualified members of that union who are currently out of work. They have placed one person and five more have been interviewed and they are awaiting the results of the interviews.

Once demolition is complete, there will be expanded opportunities for employment for persons with varying skill sets. They are actively recruiting and asking residents to focus on Section 3 opportunities while also looking for other opportunities for work. They will also be offering training for residents who are seeking to learn building trades in November.

She encourages anyone with questions regarding compliance to reach out to her.

Someone asked when will the project be completed?

Ms. Barrera stated that they are aiming to convey the first site over to the developers by December this year and phase one completed by December 2014. The remaining two phases are expected to be completed in 2015.

Someone commented that most times the contractors will come in with their own crews and while they may be in compliance, it is not providing much needed jobs to residents of this community.

Ms. Blanche L. Peltonbusch asked how are the available jobs being made known to the community? She noted that only one union was mentioned. Are there other building trade unions that they work with?

Someone asked how can the community be assured of a transparent compliance of the Section 3 regulations.

Ms. Hill stated that while she cannot give information about individual residents, she can report to the community the number of new hires and the number who are hired from the community.

Ms. Mabel Davis stated that she has attended three meetings regarding the future of Prospect Plaza and at those meetings she has only seen three former residents of Prospect Plaza. It is important that they come out and attend the meetings in order to be informed.

Ms. Barrera stated that NYCHA maintains a list of former residents of Prospect Plaza. They send out over 230 notices to every meeting along with notices to local elected officials. The last meeting was on September 4th with invitations going out three weeks prior. She was amazed that only five former residents attended.

Someone stated that she is a former resident at 1765 Prospect Place and has never received notification to these meetings.

Ms. Barrera offered to take her contact information.

Ms. Barrera introduced members of the development team who gave a brief presentation of the project. They stated that past projects have included rooftop gardens and they hope to incorporate them within this design as well. They like to include the use of recyclable, sustainable materials and orientate sites to maximize natural sunlight. The units will have programmable learning thermostats that “learn” the usage pattern of occupants.

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed showing some of the previous works of the architects. They try to design with the community in mind. As an example, instead of installing a non-aesthetical fence around a property, they will have children of the community draw a design and then have iron workers make a fence using the design.

Ms. Kathy Gordon of Good Sheppard Services stated that the project will include a 4,000 square feet community center that they will manage. Good Sheppard Services is a youth development, education and family services agency with a large network of services in Brooklyn and the Bronx. In Brooklyn, they are primarily clustered in the Red Hook, East New York, and Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhoods. It is their intent to work with the community and offer the things the community wants. They foresee afterschool programs for youth and teens, a teen center, and summer camp. They will offer arts and culture programming for adults.

To address the concern mentioned earlier about jobs, she wants the community to know that at all of their sites the vast majority of employees are from their local communities. It is part of the way they operate.

A representative of the architectural firm of Duvernay + Brooks showed schematic drawings of six buildings. Phase one will consist of two townhouse style and midrise buildings incorporating 111 mostly 2- and 3-bedroom units. Phase two and three will include the retail and the community center. The integrated landscaping will incorporate dynamic features that will have interest year-round and not just a spring summer peak.

They have worked on two Habitat for Humanity projects in this community and he lives nearby. They do their level best to hire from the community.

Someone asked what will the height of the units be?

The architect stated that the townhouse units will be 4-story walkups and the midrise buildings will be 6-story elevator buildings.

Someone asked if the presenters could elaborate on the sustainability technologies that will be employed.

The architect stated that they will make use of condensing boilers which are highly efficient, co-generation which takes advantage of waste energy from electrical appliances to help heat water, solar panels may be used, and they are looking at rainwater harvesting.

The questioner asked if classes would be offered to residents to teach them how to make the most of the technologies?

The architect stated that is beyond his purview.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that in the interest of time, any additional questions may be submitted to the Board's office for answers at a later date.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Barrera and her associates for their presentation.

She recognized Mr. Bruno Iciano from the New York City Department of Sanitation's Community Affairs Unit.

Ms. Balinda Harris stated that she has brought to the attention of District Manager Greene-Walker the placement of clothing collection boxes illegally placed on the sidewalk. Each time the box is removed, another is placed in the same location. What can be done to resolve this?

Mr. Iciano stated that currently the process requires that they tag the illegal collection box, wait thirty days and then remove the box. Unfortunately, if the box is replaced they must repeat the process. He suggested that legislators be contacted to change the process.

Someone asked what is the process to obtain a litter basket at a particular corner?

Mr. Iciano stated that the location must first meet the Department of Sanitation's criteria which is that it must be in an area well-traveled by pedestrians in a commercial zone. Litter baskets are not placed on residential blocks as people tend to illegally place household garbage in them.

Ms. Deborah Williams stated that on her block there is a vacant building in front of which garbage is constantly being dumped. What can be done to eliminate this problem?

Mr. Iciano stated that a call should be made to 3-1-1. Each call is reported to the Commissioner of the respective agency. As patterns appear, resources can be allocated to them. Sometimes a simple phone call will resolve an issue. Other times, the problem requires ongoing actions. They are not magicians but do try to resolve these issues.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that there are dog walkers in the community who walk their dogs on non-commercial blocks. Can litter baskets be placed?

Mr. Iciano stated that the walkers have a duty to collect their dog's waste and place it in their own garbage cans at their residence, not in litter baskets. Litter baskets are intended as depositories for pedestrian trash such as candy wrappers, cigarette packages, fruit skins and similar light refuse. Litter baskets may NOT be used for the disposal of household refuse, for the disposal of sweepings, or for the disposal of commercial refuse by storekeepers.

Someone spoke about a truck which is said to be on a lot for years and is being dumped in. How can the truck be removed?

Mr. Iciano stated that the Department of Sanitation cannot enter private property. If a vehicle is on a street without a license plate they will remove it. If it is on a private property, the Department of Buildings may be able to address the issue. In this instance, he doubts that it is on the street as it would not have been allowed to sit there for so long.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu asked Mr. Iciano to speak about the procedure to properly dispose of paint cans.

Mr. Iciano stated that considering the price of paint, if he has a can of paint he makes sure he uses every drop of it. However, if you decide not to use the paint, the Mayor's office has a paint donation program you can donate to and it will go to a good cause. If you simply wish to dispose of it then place cat litter in the can to absorb the paint, empty the can in regular garbage and place the empty can with your recyclables.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked how does one dispose of unused medication?

Mr. Iciano stated that the Department's website (www.nyc.gov/sanitation) has a section that will tell you how to properly dispose of just about anything.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku asked what can be done about a neighbor whose backyard is filled with weeds?

Mr. Iciano stated that the Department of Sanitation has no jurisdiction over yards that are not visible from the street. The Department of Health may be able to assist under certain circumstances. He can be reached at (646) 885-5022 for additional concerns or questions.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked tonight's presenters for the information provided to the community.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting via conference call on Thursday, September 18, 2013.

In an effort to bridge the gap between the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community and economic resources, the Committee discussed its plan to increase community outreach for the 2014 fiscal year by hosting a series of seminars for residents and businesses. The seminars will be informational seminars related to Small Business Services and Employment Services such as:

1. Minority and Women Business Enterprise Certification
2. Workforce 1
3. Applying for Government Contracts, Procurement and Request for Proposals

Furthermore, the Committee is working diligently to issue a community Economic Report to keep the community abreast of pertinent information that drives our local economic climate.

Lastly, the Committee is happy to share an update regarding last spring's New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) Vacant Lot Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP included fifteen (15) lots of which three were for permanent disposition and twelve (12) were for temporary disposition. The NYCEDC received zero proposals for permanent disposition and eleven (11) proposals for temporary disposition with 98% of the proposals being received from community based organizations.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report may contact her at genesemor@aol.com.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, September 12, 2013.

The Committee reviewed two events held in the District over the summer:

Brownsville Community Corners Initiative (BCCI)
Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District's Summer Streets

The BCCI was enacted by the 73rd Precinct Clergy Council to take to the streets once a week with encouraging words and information on available resources. This summer's efforts were led by Mount Ollie Baptist Church.

In review of the efforts, questions were asked by the Committee and responded to by Rev. Reginald Bachus.

The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) Summer Streets program was a 5 week, weekend program aimed at engaging the community in safe constructive interaction and play. The BID director was unavailable for details on program results.

She thanked the BID's Director for his efforts in this endeavor.

The Committee also discussed session plans, the issues they would like to cover in this session are:

1. Relationship Forum for Teens. They would like to create discussions covering:
 - a. What it Takes
 - b. How to Relate
 - c. Healthy vs. Toxic Relationships
 - d. When to Get Out
2. “Drink Up” - A White House initiative to encourage drinking water.
3. Bringing CERT to the District. Community Emergency Response Training

Finally, the Committee discussed the health topics they will cover:

1. Obesity
2. Healthy Eating Choices, the Dangers of Quick Foods.
3. STI's, no longer STD's: What they are and how to protect yourself and others.

The Health and Human Services Committee will meet again on October 10, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street - Room 103. All ideas are welcome, if there are any topics or concerns you would like to bring to the committee, feel free to do so. Please take information from tonight's meeting out into our community and share.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Pamela Junior, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 10, 2013 with representatives from the Brownsville Partnership who informed the Committee about their plans to acquire a privately-owned building at 519 Rockaway Avenue to create a community hub to provide an array of services such as job training, multipurpose meeting rooms, and a café.

The Committee also met with representatives from the Department of City Planning who gave an update on the East New York Sustainable Community Study for Cypress Hills, Broadway Junction and the industrial business area. They've had several visioning sessions in the East New York and Ocean Hill – Brownsville area and heard recommendations on how the area can be made more thriving and vibrant. Suggestions include rezoning several blocks in the Broadway Junction area to develop housing and retail businesses, redesign streetscape to improve walking and biking, install more streetlights, trees, and delineate crosswalks and bike lanes.

As City Planning continues the East New York Sustainable Community Study, there will be further outreach to the community to share their findings and get feedback from the community.

The Committee also met with a representative from MHANY who presented a proposal for rental housing on five vacant lots on Pacific Street between Saratoga and Howard Avenues. When they first presented the proposal in 2007, it was for homeownership. Subsequently, the housing market changed and they could no longer make the units affordable to residents in the community. In 2012, MHANY had another discussion with HPD (The Department of Housing Preservation and Development) and revised their plan. Using the original designs, they will merge the lots at 2103 and 2105 Pacific Street to create eight rental units, 2095 and 2097 Pacific Street to create eight rental units, and 2040 Pacific Street to create 3 rental units.

They are projecting rents at three different levels to accommodate families with incomes at 40, 50, and 60% of area median income. Rents will range from a low of approximately \$550 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$675 for a two-bedroom to approximately \$875 for a one-bedroom and \$1,075 for a two-bedroom.

The matter was laid over pending additional information from MHANY.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee reported that the Committee met on September 18, 2013 and discussed the potential health hazards that exist in nail shops and how this can be addressed through legislation to make it safe for consumers.

The Committee continues to work on the petition for gun control legislation.

On October 8, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Francis College, Founders Hall, located at 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Senator Bill Perkins, and Assemblyman David Weprin will hold a legislative forum to solicit comments on legislation that proposes sweeping school governance reform.

The bill seeks to restore a democratic system of checks and balances by changing the composition of the Board of Education, ending mayoral control of the school system, and giving parents greater involvement in education policy creation and decision making.

Persons wishing to comment on the legislation should RSVP to Senator Montgomery's office at (718) 643-6140.

She encouraged parents to participate.

Mr. David Alexander commented that one need not be a parent to participate.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be on October 16th, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Genese Morgan and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that Parks Department personnel worked hard throughout this past summer with very limited resources. He is happy to say that the sprinklers were working at all available parks to help keep the children cool.

He reminds everyone to pick up a copy of the parks condition report that is available on the distribution table at each Board meeting and report any discreptencies to the Board's office.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Patricia Winston, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at the Board's Office. Since this was their first meeting following the summer recess, they took the opportunity to review, discuss, and plan for future agenda items that will include continued updates about such things as Obama Care, Medicaid benefits, and other services and programs for seniors.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th, at Seth Low Senior Citizen Center, located at 137 Belmont Avenue.

Anyone who would like to join the Committee should contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323 to receive a notice for their next meeting.

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

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on September 16, 2013, the Youth Services Planning Committee (YSPC) met and continued working on their new initiative, Coop United for the Possibilities of Youth in District 16 (CUPYD-16).

On September 4, 2013, a letter was sent to thirteen identified afterschool youth programs regarding this initiative. After which, and during their meeting, each member of the team adopted at least two of these programs to work with. They will perform as liaisons, gather information, and bring it back to the table so that they may brainstorm ways in which these programs can partner together in order to participate in an event greater than what each can do as a standalone.

Their next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.. They invite you to join them in this exciting venture.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Wendy Rutherford and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Mr. William Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, stated that another shelter is being planned for the East New York neighborhood. What is different about this shelter is it is being proposed by an organization operated by the sister of Governor Cuomo.

It is imperative that we take the fight to the Governor, Mayor, and whomever else to let them know that we do not want the shelter in our communities. Let them place them next to Bloomingdale's or Madison Avenue.

Ms. Latrice Walker, Esq., representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that Republican members of Congress are threatening a shutdown of the federal government. They are doing this because beginning October 1, 2013 the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will allow people to register for healthcare coverage and they seek to not fund this program. Some are saying they will fund Obamacare but only if funding is cut from the food stamp program.

If you do not currently have health care coverage or you are unhappy with your coverage, you will be able to buy insurance from your state's healthcare exchange beginning October 1, 2014 (Coverage becomes effective on January 1, 2014). Each state has their own exchange. Everyone must have healthcare coverage; if you do not obtain coverage you will be fined. This year the penalty is \$95 and it will increase to over \$600 by 2016.

Congresswoman Clarke is making personnel from her office available to come out to forums and meeting to help people understand how the program works and help them with the enrollment process.

She reminded everyone that October 1st is primary day. Please go out and vote.

Senator John Sampson congratulated Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas on the publication of a local newspaper covering Brownsville and Ocean Hill. Newspapers are an important source of information for our communities.

The issue of homeless shelters is also of concern to him as is the Prospect Plaza project. The Prospect Plaza project has been floating around for over ten years and he is hoping that it is finally coming to fruition. In any case, it is vitally important that any economic development opportunities include members of the community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Lieutenant John Hopkins of the 73rd Precinct.

Lieutenant Hopkins stated that on behalf of Deputy Inspector Gulotta, he is pleased to report that overall crime in the Precinct is down 12% year to date. They received a number of complaints with regard to noise; he reminds the audience that it is important to furnish exact details when filing complaints. They received a number of complaints concerning an illegal club that was operating out of 133 Dumont Avenue and were able to effect three arrests and the condition appears to be resolved.

They also received complaints concerning parking at Dean and Sackman Streets wherein a commercial venue was using the street to park client vehicles illegally. He and District Manager Greene-Walker were able to reach out to the business and work out a resolution.

Someone stated that there is drug activity taking place on their block and wishes to speak to someone about it.

Lieutenant Hopkins stated that he can be reached at (718) 495-5505 and the information will be kept confidential.

Mr. McCadney stated that there is an issue with commercial trucks parking along Linden Boulevard and a rental facility along Rockaway Avenue.

Lieutenant Hopkins stated that they are aware of the situations and are working on them.

Ms. Genese Morgan asked if they are aware of a rash of thefts taking place where the thieves are stealing the back of side view mirrors off cars?

Lieutenant Hopkins stated that he is not and asked that she report the incidents so they can determine if there is a pattern.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Malcolm McDaniel from the Brownsville Heritage House.

Mr. McDaniel stated that, contrary to what some people are saying, the Brownsville Heritage House is functional. He is a member of the Board and serves as head of the Programming Committee.

They are currently running an economic development series entitled "Empowerment Mondays". Last month's topic was "Fix Your Credit". They had a guest speaker from the Pratt Area Community Council who provided excellent information. The event was well attended.

This month, on September 30th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., they will have a forum on creating block associations and neighborhood watches. He encourages anyone who would like to form an association or watch to join them.

They host Jazz Saturdays every third Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. They are located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard (Second Floor of the Brownsville Library) and the telephone number is (718) 385-1111.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas asked everyone to pick up a copy of "The Brownsville Collective", a newspaper that she is publishing. In travelling around the community, she often hears that Brownsville needs this or that. While it is true that there are needed programs and those that need funding, there are also a great many resources available that the community may not be aware of or has misinformation about.

The paper is not hers, it is the community's. She invites anyone with something that is beneficial to the community to contact her so that it can be printed. There is no charge to print anything that is free and beneficial to the community.

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