

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 28, 2014

### Attendance

David Alexander	Leslie McCalla (A)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Andrea McCullough
Margaret Brewer	Sadie McNamara (E)
Lamont Carolina (A)	Genese Morgan
Adrainer Coleman	Terry Norfleet (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (E)	Rev. Joseph Norton (A)
Essie Duggan (E)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Norman Frazier	Marie Pierre
Shirley Gonsalves	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Daniel Goodine	Mattie Pusey (E)
Chanel Haliburton	Linda Rivera
Sarah Hall)	Melaine Rochford (A)
Jessie Hilliard	Wendy Rutherford
Michael Howard	Beatrice Saunds
Allene Ingram (E)	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Min. Prince Issachar	Ernestine Turner
Daisy Jackson	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Carl Joseph	Patricia Winston
Derrick Joseph (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Pamela Junior	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Eula Key	Hon. Inez Barron
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Maurice Philips for Hon. John Sampson
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Hon. Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Springer
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Fernando Fernandez for Hon. Leticia James
Deborah Mack	Roopesh Ramjit for Hon. Rafael Espinal
James Mack	Wanda Mercado for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Yolanda Matthews (E)	Anthony Drummond for Hon. Eric Adams
John McCadney, Jr.	

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

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer.

There was a roll call of the Board members and it was noted that a quorum was not present.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan stated that since a quorum was not present all motions and voting will be set aside until such time that a quorum is present.

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

Grants - The Citizens Committee for New York City has announced that applications are now available for the “Love Your Block Grants”. These grants provide a unique opportunity for city residents to transform their neighborhoods

Block Watchers - The New York City Police Department has a community participation program called the “Block Watcher Program”. This program is open to all members of the community and is free of charge.

Free Computer Workshops - The Veterans Upward Bound Program at LaGuardia Community College is offering FREE computer workshops for veterans only on February 4th, 6th, 11, and 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room C-337 at 31-10 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, New York.

CUNY Fatherhood - The CUNY Fatherhood Academy is offering an opportunity to create a brighter future for young fathers. This 4-month, 3-days a week program is open to fathers between the ages of 18 and 24 years old with or without a high school diploma or GED.

Mammograms and Clinical Breast Exams - In cooperation with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, the Office of Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr. will host no-cost digital mammograms and clinical breast exams on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 467 Thomas S. Boyland Street. This service is being offered to women over age 40 with a New York City mailing address and who have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months.

Youth Action Community Leadership Course - Every fall and spring, 25 high school students from throughout all five boroughs of New York City participate in CCC's YouthAction Community Leadership Course (YCLC) - an after-school program for high school students interested in learning how to make a difference for New York City's children and youth.

The YCLC is a FREE 10-week course for high school students, which meets on Monday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at CCC's office, located at 105 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at Park Avenue South in Manhattan.

Behind the Athlete - On Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mott Hall Bridges, located at 210 Chester Street (between Sutter and Blake Avenues) will host an event for men of all ages that explores the sports beyond the player and the many opportunities that exist in the sports industry.

Free Tax Preparation - Community Tax Aid, Inc. (CTA) provides free tax preparation for 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 for New York City's individuals with income up to \$25,000 and for everyone else with income up to \$50,000. Many of these individuals and families face special tax problems and do not receive the refunds they deserve unless they file.

Job Training - Brooklyn Woods is holding two more orientations to apply for their next cycle starting in early February.

The final chances to apply are on Wednesdays, January 29 and February 5 at 10:00 a.m. at 125 8th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues) in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Woods trains individuals in the basics of woodworking, preparing them for entry-level jobs in woodworking and related fields. Upon successful completion of the program, job placement assistance is provided.

This free 7-week, full time training course meets Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

She encouraged the audience to read the entirety of the report and noted that there are other time sensitive items, including various employment opportunities being offered by the Brownsville Community Development Corporation, contained therein.

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan recognized Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy, Ms. Nupur Chaudhury, Ms. Lujuanda Rush, and Mr. Bryan Woll of the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Kennedy stated that last February, the Brownsville Partnership, in conjunction with the Municipal Art Society, hosted a HOPE Summit on neighborhood safety and community development. Residents gathered together and shared ideas for short term improvements and long term development to help shape the future of Brownsville.

The purpose of the Summit is to mobilize residents and local and citywide organizations to work collectively to make Brownsville a safer, healthier and more prosperous neighborhood.

On Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Brownsville Partnership will host an information session, here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. During the session, they will review some of the actions they have taken over the course of the year to implement the ideas brought forward by the community at the last Summit. They encourage members of the community to join them at the information session and provide feedback and further suggestions.

Ms. Chaudhury stated that a couple of years ago, Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace applied to the Department of Transportation for bike lanes to facilitate riding from the Brownsville

neighborhood to Prospect Park. Through her efforts and that of others in the community, the bike lanes have been installed.

As a follow-up to this first phase, Brownsville Partnership, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's District Public Health Office, will host two forums to present a progress report as well as discuss ways to further improve walking and biking in the community. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Rainbow Social Day Care, located at 1518 Pitkin Avenue. The second meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> in the East New York neighborhood. She encourages everyone to come out and participate.

Ms. Rush stated that Brownsville Partnership's Brownsville FamilyLink addresses the needs of families living in the Brownsville neighborhood's New York City Housing Authority units who are facing the most challenging problems. FamilyLink will help families work through complicated situations, connect to needed services, and provide advocacy and support as they work toward stability. They can assist with connecting families to needed services that they may not be aware of or have trouble accessing. She encourages anyone living in a NYCHA development in Brownsville who may need these services or is seeking assistance of any nature to reach out the Partnership's FamilyLink program.

Mr. Woll stated the Brownsville Partnership's Homelessness Intervention Program (HIP) in the past six years has been able to help over 600 families living in the NYCHA developments in Brownsville stay in their apartments.

In that time, they have come to the conclusion that there is much more that they could do to help the community. Beginning March 2014, they will be making three changes. The first change is that they will now serve the entire Brownsville community, not just NYCHA residents. Secondly, housing will continue to be their main focus, however, they will now also provide other services such as helping people get connected to employment or helping them with public assistance issues. Lastly, what they feel is the most exciting change is that they will have a program wherein Brownsville residents will be the ones assisting their neighbors one on one. They know that there are many talented and knowledgeable individuals in the community and they want to use those talents to let neighbors help each other and together build a better Brownsville. He can be reached at (718) 282-7123.

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

She welcomed Hon. Inez Barron who introduced herself as the new Councilmember for Council District #41 - the seat formerly held by her husband, Hon. Charles Barron. She stated that she is happy to be with the audience, to hear what the issues are affecting the community and looks forward to working together to resolve problems.

She is proud to have been selected to be the Chairperson of the Council's Committee on Higher Education. She also sits on the Education, Land Use, Health, and Juvenile Justice Committees as well as the Landmarks Subcommittee of the Land Use Committee. Having recently served as an Assemblywoman, she is knowledgeable of the community and many of its needs. She is acquainted with Community Board #16's Chairperson, Bettie Kollock-Wallace, having worked with her during their tenure as educators in School District #23 where she served in many levels including as a teacher and as a principal.

She continues her service to the community now as an elected official. We have a new administration and new legislators in office. It is important that we as a community make it known to them what the issues are in the community and make demands to address what is happening. We know that our communities have been underserved for many years, particularly as it pertains to education. One of the issues in which she is very much involved with is fighting to have New York City get the monies which are due it from the State. The Campaign for Fiscal Equity fought a 13-year court battle in which the court held that the State was underfunding New York City schools. Governor George Pataki had the City paid, first five million dollars and then another million. However, the Administrations of David Patterson and Andrew Cuomo have ceased making payments.

The City is due an additional three billion dollars and we must fight for these funds. The Governor is capable of finding billions of dollars for projects he wants. If he chooses, he can

find the funds for the schools. It is important that we apply pressure to have the funds come into the City so that we can provide our children the education they deserve.

Councilmember Barron stated that she and five other former New York State legislators, who represented New York City residents, were elected to other posts and their seats in Albany are vacant. Governor Cuomo has stated that he does not intend to hold special elections to fill these seats. If the Governor does not call for a special election, the seats will remain vacant until after the next general election in November. Thousands of New Yorkers, many of whom are people of color, will not have proper representation in Albany. This is unjust and she urges the community to let Governor Cuomo know that he cannot disenfranchise our communities by not allowing them to have representation of their choosing in Albany. She is putting together a petition and has drafted press releases and will be seeking the support of the Community Board to help get the Governor to call for the special elections.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

The Committee encourages all residents of NYCHA that are seeking to be connected to Employment Preparation, Vocational Training, Adult Education, Financial Counseling and Resident Business Development to please contact the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) division at (718) 289-8100.

The Committee is encouraging all residents who are seeking employment to utilize Workforce1 which is a service provided by the NYC Department of Small Business Services to prepare and connect qualified candidates to job opportunities in New York City. You may register at 9 Bond Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Please call (718)875-3400, for more information.

The Ocean Hill-Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association Inc. is seeking vendors to participate in "The MGB Pops" which is a pop-up retail market that will be located along Mother Gaston Boulevard beginning May 2014. Any interested small business owners may call (347) 762-4755 or email [info@oceanhillbrownsville.org](mailto:info@oceanhillbrownsville.org) for more information concerning these opportunities.

The Committee is working with the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation to establish a credit union within Community District 16. We are kindly asking that residents complete the online banking survey that has been distributed via email by our district manager as soon as possible or the paper version. The results of the banking survey are of utmost importance to solidifying the outcome of this project.

Ms. Morgan stated that at the November 2013 Board meeting, she reported on Party Life Lounge & Bar Corporation which is requesting a letter of support for a new liquor license for retail liquor and wine at 31 Truxton Street. The business is a bar/restaurant that will operate Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The Committee, having met with the business owner on November 21, 2013 and visited the business establishment, has no objections to the application and recommends that the Board support the application. There being no quorum present at the November Board meeting the matter was held over.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of her report may contact her at [genesemor@aol.com](mailto:genesemor@aol.com).

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, to discuss the status and next steps of the forum that they will host on Saturday, March 8, 2014, from noon through 4:00 p.m. at the Brownsville Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard.

Some of the issues that guest speakers will cover at the forum will include:

- Adult survivors of child abuse
- Mental health
- Economics
- Women's Incarceration
- Civilian Complaint Review Board

- Domestic Violence
- Unemployment
- Affordable quality apartments
- Drug abuse / alcoholism
- Self-esteem
- Teaching children etiquette
- Taking marriage vows seriously
- Women's urinary incontinence - options

The Committee is presently working with local elected officials to ensure that medical mobile vans will be available on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> outside of Heritage House during the forum. As to the Mammogram Mobile Van, because of their funding source, there is a requirement that there will be at least 25 women who want to receive a mammogram. The Committee is therefore asking all women who want to receive a mammogram to provide their name and address to Mrs. Greene-Walker at the Community Board office so that they can have a record.

Over the next five weeks the Women's Committee will be meeting weekly at 7:00 p.m. via conference call to finalize the forum plans. The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Junior at [pjunior2@aol.com](mailto:pjunior2@aol.com).

The Committee welcomes you to join them, as your voice is the voice of the community, and they are here to serve you.

Having attained a quorum, a motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2013 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Norman Frazier and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to support the application by Party Life Lounge & Bar Corporation for a new liquor license for retail liquor and wine at 31 Truxton Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Youth Services Planning Committee (YSPC) met on December 12, 2013.

The newly formed citywide program called the NeON (Neighborhood Opportunity Networks) Arts Program held its kick-off meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at the Dempsey Center in Harlem. This program is a collaborative effort between NEON and individual art providers of the Carnegie Hall Consortium in an effort to generate projects for youth created art extravaganzas in as many neighborhoods as possible throughout the city. NeON Arts have established groups in Jamaica, Queens, the South Bronx, Brownsville, East New York, and Bedford Stuyvesant. NeON Arts will continue developing their program in groups. The Brownsville NeON Neighborhood Stakeholder Group (NSG) will collaborate with the New York City Department of Probation. They held a brainstorming session on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Brownsville Multi-Service Center, 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The YSPC has also kicked-off a collaborative effort, CUPYD-16 (Coop United for the Possibilities of Youth in District 16). While data gathering has been slow, we have established two love connections. The Calvary Bridge Afterschool and Summer Program, a newly established Cultural Center, is located at the Riverway Houses, 230 Riverdale Avenue. Mr. Steven Hutchinson, Program Director, announced at our last meeting that the facility is open to the community and they are willing to collaborate with other youth organizations. By the end of the meeting, he was able to connect with two such organizations, Praise Blessing Educational Enrichment Program/FLEX, and the Panther C.U.B.S./Panther Queens.

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.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested that the audience give a hand of applause to her First Vice Chairperson, Genese Morgan, in recognition of the fine job she did in chairing the first part of tonight's meeting.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace, assumed the chair and recognized Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Ms. Mercado announced that Councilmember Mealy's Monthly Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at her District Office, located at 1757 Union Street between Utica and Rochester Avenues. Special guests from Living Above Disorder Consulting and Safe Horizon will discuss support services for children and their families who are educationally challenged as well as services available to families of homicide victims, sexual assault, domestic violence and all crime victims.

In recognition of Black History Month, you are invited to attend Councilmember Mealy's Black History Celebration on February 13, 2014, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue. There will be special performances by students from Mott Hall Bridges Academy and a tribute to Louis Armstrong by jazz musician, Joey Morant.

Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, led by Dr. Valerie Oliver-Durrah will host Councilmember Mealy's 3rd Annual Training and Capacity Building Workshop to help empower not-for-profit organizations on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 203 Ralph Avenue, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. For more information call (718) 455-3784.

In collaboration with Food Bank for New York City and the City University of New York, Councilmember Mealy invites you to St. John's Bread of Life, located at 795 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> for free tax preparation for qualified individuals. For more information, please call (646) 315-7703.

She encouraged the audience to pick up a copy of Councilmember Mealy's newsletter, available on tonight's distribution table, to read about other events and constituent updates. Constituents are also encouraged to visit their office at 1757 Union Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues) or call (718) 953-3097 to express their concerns or seek assistance.

Mr. Fernando Fernandez, representing Public Advocate Letitia James, stated that he worked with Public Advocate James while she was a Councilmember and is pleased to have been selected to continue working with her. They are still in transition but are available to serve residents of the City.

The role of the Public Advocate is to ensure that all New Yorkers receive the City services they deserve and have a voice in shaping the policies of their government. In instances where services are not being provided properly or timely, the Public Advocate will personally work to resolve the issue. He can be reached by calling the Public Advocate's office at (212) 669-7250 or via email at ffernandez@pubadvocate.nyc.gov.

Mr. Roopesh Ramjit, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., stated that Councilmember Espinal is the new representative of Council District #37 and like Councilmember Barron was an Assemblyman. Councilmember Espinal, regrettably, could not attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Councilmember Espinal's District office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664. He, Mr. Ramjit can be reached either by calling the office or via email at r.ramjit@council.nyc.gov.

Mr. Anthony Drummond, representing Borough President Eric Adams, reported that Borough President Adams was pleased to see many Board Members at his inauguration. He wants to be engaged with community issues and will be heavily involved.

Borough President Adams is in the process of reorganizing his Office and wants residents to be involved in their communities. Revamped Community Board Applications are available on his website (brooklyn-usa.org) and he encourages community residents to apply.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that there have been a few changes in committee chairmanships and that anyone, who resides in, works in, or have some other significant interest in the District, may apply for membership to a committee of the Board. As part of the reorganization mentioned by Mr. Drummond, the manner in which persons are appointed to committees is changing slightly. Any eligible person seeking to join a committee must now submit an application to the Board's office. The application will be reviewed and a written response will be sent to the applicant.

Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, announced that Senator Sampson, in collaboration with Brooklyn Housing and Family Services will host a One-on-One Mortgage Counseling Session on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1222 96<sup>th</sup> Street. Counseling is by appointment only; please call (718) 649-7653 to make an appointment or more information.

Available on tonight's distribution table are flyers listing scheduled dates for suspension of alternate side street parking regulations for New York City and pamphlets with tips for lowering your energy bills.

Ms. Frances Brown asked what is Senator Sampson's position on the call for special elections?

Mr. Phillips stated that Senator Sampson is in favor of holding a special election to elect persons to the vacated seats in the legislature.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Captain Charles Minch, Executive Officer of 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Captain Minch stated that he wants to bring attention to pedestrian safety in the Precinct. Last year, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct had an increase of 24 pedestrian involved accidents. If you travel about the Precinct, you will notice many people walking with headphones on, walking while texting, crossing either while the light is red or somewhere other than in pedestrian crosswalks. The vast majority of pedestrian involved accidents in the Precinct were the fault of the pedestrian. He asks the audience to carry this message to the community. While walking in the streets, pedestrians should stay alert and not cross in the middle of the street. Drivers should be cognizant that someone may unexpectedly cross in between cars or elsewhere. They want to greatly reduce the number of people struck by vehicles in the community.

This an initiative that is supported by both Mayor Di Blasio and Commissioner Bratton. They are stepping up enforcement of drivers failing to yield to pedestrians, making improper turns, etcetera.

Ms. Nupur Chaudhury asked if the data on pedestrian involved accidents is available from the Precinct?

Captain Minch stated that he can make arrangements for it to be available with the Community Affairs Unit.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that everyone should be aware that the mayor has issued an initiative to increase the number of tickets issued for jaywalking. There are persons who are not even aware of what jaywalking is. Recently, they have issued tickets in the amount of \$250 for jaywalking on the Upper West Side.

Captain Minch stated that this was not an initiative of the Mayor's Office nor the Commissioner. It was an action taken by a Precinct Commander in one of the Manhattan North precincts, perhaps the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct, in response a rash of pedestrian involved incidents with fatalities.

Ms. Mack stated that we should still have something in place to inform the community that this could happen here as well.

Captain Minch stated that is his reason for speaking on the subject tonight and requesting the help of the audience to spread the word.

Police Officer Keoma Boone, of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct's Community Affairs Unit, reminded the audience that persons who are in a high-rise (Defined as having occupied floors located more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.) where there is a fire that is not within their unit, should shelter in place. Meaning that the safest place for them is in their

apartments. If the building does not have a fire escape stay in your apartment with doors and windows closed (place a wet towel at base of door to keep smoke from entering).

Mr. Corey Provost, representing Comptroller Scott Springer, stated that he has been assigned to cover Central Brooklyn which includes Community District #16. He can be reached by calling (212) 665-3811 or via email: cprovos@comptroller.nycgov.

In commemoration of her retirement after more than 20 years of service on December 31, 2013, a Citation from former Borough President Marty Markowitz was presented to former Assistant District Manager E. Jane Coleman by Mr. Anthony Drummond, followed by the presentation of a Proclamation from Senator John L. Sampson by Mr. Maurice Phillips, a plaque of appreciation from Community Board #16 signed by Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace and District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker, and a token of appreciation and friendship from District Manager Greene-Walker and Community Assistant Jimmi Brevil.

Ms. Coleman, present with her husband Wayne Coleman, son Maurice, and daughter Zuri, thanked the presenters, the Board, and members of the audience for the awards and well wishes and stated that that it was her pleasure to have worked with Chairperson Kollock-Wallace, District Manager Greene-Walker, Mr. Brevil, and the members of the Board.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Michael Hooper of Roots Revisited.

Mr. Hooper stated that his organization has several projects they are involved with and flyers are available on tonight's distribution table. He announced that will soon be hosting their Baltimore College Tour featuring stops at Coppin State University, Morgan State University and the Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Round trip transportation and meals are all included at a price of \$50.

Over thirty million dollars in scholarships per year which are allocated for Black and Latino students go to waste. This needs to be reformed. They are working on a program to teach students hydroponics and solar technology with a goal of helping them earn scholarships in these growing fields.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas of the Brownsville Collective.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas stated that she has launched a project to place posters honoring the achievements of Black people in the windows of stores along Pitkin Avenue. This is being done so that the community will have a sense of pride. The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District is in support of the project. She encouraged everyone to read the posters and to ask the merchants who are not displaying any, why they are not?

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Maria Hertneck of the ASPCA.

Ms. Hertneck stated that the ASPCA is seeking to increase the number of cats and dogs that it spays and neuters in New York City. Spaying and neutering is an effective way to reduce the number of strays that are on the streets. Reducing the number of strays that they euthanize saves money and the waste of an animal's life. Pamphlets are available on tonight's distribution table and she is available to do group presentations and tabletops for groups who may want them to present.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Laquan Smallwood of Year Up.

Mr. Smallwood stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for Year Up New York. Year Up New York is a one-year, intensive training program that provides low-income young adults, ages 18-24, with a combination of hands-on skill development, college credits, and corporate internships. Located near the New York Stock Exchange in the heart of New York City's financial district, the site serves urban young adults from across the five boroughs. Flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. George Addison of New York Communities for Change.

Mr. Addison stated that he is the Brownsville Coordinator for New York Communities for Change which is a coalition of working families in low and moderate income communities fighting for social and economic justice. They lobby our elected officials on various issues



affecting our communities. On March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, they will have buses leaving from Pennsylvania and Livonia Avenues for Albany where they will meet one on one with legislators to discuss Universal Pre-K and education funding. Anyone interested in going should call (347) 506-5330.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. M. Morton Hall.

Mr. Hall stated that there is an environmental crime taking place on Prospect Place. Demolition is taking place and creating harmful dust in an area with five nearby school. He and Mr. Daniel Goodine were on Prospect Place, last weekend and the dust gave him a headache. He contended that there is asbestos in the dust and this dust is being inhaled by students and teachers at P.S. 12. He is urging the community to fight to stop this from continuing by forcing the contractors to shroud the site.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jan Hub of Groundswell.

Ms. Hub stated that Groundswell is a Brooklyn-based mural art organization. They have two installations in Brownsville (Rockaway and Sutter Avenues and Strauss Street at Pitkin Avenue), at present. They are collaborating with the Department of Probation and the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District to install five more in the community around the theme of "Hidden Treasures". They are looking to form partnerships with businesses and members of the community to find the best ways of highlighting the best of Brownsville. The muralist will be young probationers and the murals will be restorative therapy for them. She can be reached by calling (718) 254-9782.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Daniel Goodine.

Mr. Goodine stated that a former student from the community, Zion Campbell, is currently at Ronald McDonald House where he is battling sickle cell disease. He has suffered a stroke and has undergone brain surgery. McDonald's Restaurant on Pitkin Avenue is donating a portion of today's proceeds to the family. There is also a GoFundMe campaign ([www.gofundme.com/52s0jc](http://www.gofundme.com/52s0jc)) in his name which Mr. Goodine is requesting that anyone, who has the ability to do so, contribute to as an aid to the family.

Councilmember Barron led the audience in a closing prayer.

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