

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Attendance

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

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

Second Vice Chairperson Pamela Junior called the meeting to order at 7:05 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.

Second Vice Chairperson Junior 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:

Business Mentoring Program - The Local Development Corporation of East New York (LDCENY), located at 80 Jamaica Avenue, has announced the launch of their new Business Mentorship Program where they will pair entrepreneurs with seasoned business professionals in their industry.

Information sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Monday, March 3rd from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

For more information and to register, please contact Isabelle at (718) 385-6700 Ext 17 or by email: isabelle@ldceny.com.

Community Board #16 Street Activity Permit Guidelines - "Street Activity Permits" are required for Street Fairs, Block Parties, Farmers' Markets, Block Cleanups, and Sidewalk Closings. In planning your event, please be reminded of the following:

At the request of the 73rd Precinct and for reasons of public safety, events will not be scheduled on the following dates:

- June 8th, 15th, and 22nd
- July 4th, 5th, 6th, 25th, and 26th
- August 10th, 24th, 30th, and 31st
- September 1st and 2nd

Informational flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Free Tax Help - Community Tax Aid, Inc. (CTA) provides FREE tax preparation for New York City's low income taxpayers. CTA will prepare tax returns for 2008, 2009, 2010 as well as the current year of 2011.

Brownsville Community Justice Center - The Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street is recruiting 16 to 24 year olds (both males and females) who have justice system involvement in the last 12 months. There's strong preference for Brownsville residents who live in Community District #16.

To apply, contact Benjamin Smith at (347) 404-9585 or visit the office at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Room 106.

Bridging the Gap Grant 2014 - Youth Bridge New York has announced their Bridging the Gap Grant 2014: an up to \$2,000 grant program supporting New York City based organization committed to youth diversity and leadership.

For more information or to apply, visit www.youthbridgeny.org, contact Hannah Weinerman at WeinermanHjrcny.org or (212) 983-4800 x144.

Applications must be received by Friday, March 21, 2014.

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.

Second Vice Chairperson Junior recognized Mr. Bobby Bell of H.E.L.P. USA.

Mr. Bell stated that H.E.L.P. USA will be starting a pilot veterans' outreach program at Genesis House, located at 330 Hinsdale Street.

The inspiration for the program grew from a conversation between H.E.L.P. USA's Director and the Pastor of St. Paul's wherein the pastor indicated that there are many veterans in the community who are underserved or not being served at all.

They have decided to create a referral service to assist veterans in four general categories: health care, entitlements, housing, and employment services. In establishing the program, they also found that there are many veterans who are operating underground because they have Less than Honorable Discharges. They will try to assist these individuals by connecting them to free legal services that can assist them with the possible removal of their Less than Honorable Discharge statuses in order that the veteran may become eligible for other services.

Currently, they are operating with a small team of four persons, himself, a program director, and two case managers. The catchment area includes Brownsville, East New York, Bushwick, and Ocean Hill. They are a referral service and do not provide direct services, however, for some services such as rental assistance they can refer clients to their parent organization.

Oftentimes, organizations such as his are met with skepticism by the community; because the organization makes promises and fails to keep them. He wants this community to know that he is committed to making this program work. He has personal ties to the community and is a veteran as well. There is over \$2.5 million in funding available to veterans to assist them in the categories mentioned and much of it goes unused. He asks that the community help them by letting veterans they come in contact with know of their services. The veterans do not need to be homeless, they only need to prove they served however long it may have been. They can be reached by calling (646) 581-5703.

Second Vice Chairperson Junior recognized Mr. Michael Swinton of Pest @ Rest Exterminators.

Mr. Swinton stated that Pest @ Rest has been contracted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to perform Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Brooklyn homes where at least one person in the household has asthma. The service is free to households that meet this criteria.

IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. When they make an appointment for their services, they will ask the occupants to clear out the cabinets and closets. Trained Pest @ Rest exterminators will come in and remove droppings and eggs of insects and rodents. This is done using a vacuum so as to reduce the amount of the residue that becomes airborne – airborne residue is thought to be a trigger for asthma.

They will also apply environmentally friendly pesticides, seal openings that allow the pest to enter the home, and teach the occupants methods of safely mitigating further infestations. Pamphlets about their service with some way you can use to help keep your home pest-free are available on tonight's distribution table. They can be reached by calling (718) 309-6223.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 20, 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 or attend the upcoming information session that will be held on this coming Friday, February 28, 2014 at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m..

The Committee is encouraging all residents who are seeking employment to utilize Workforce1 which is a service provided by the New York City 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, 5th Floor; Brooklyn, NY 11201. Please call (718) 875-3400 for additional 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 for more information concerning these opportunities.

The Committee is working in partnership with Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Co-op Federal Credit Union to establish a credit union in our community. They are asking all area residents to complete a banking survey if you have not already completed one. The results of the banking survey are of utmost importance to solidifying the outcome of this project.

The Committee reviewed one (1) "new" application for a retail license in regards to Armond's lounge. The establishment is a lounge and is located at 2065 Fulton Street; Brooklyn, NY 11233

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit.
- The establishment has no existing complaints on file with the 73rd Precinct.
- The establishment is not within 200 feet of a place of worship or 500 feet of a school house.

The Committee reviewed one (1) "change" application for a retail license with MUSIC in regards to DJ's Bar & Grill. The establishment is a lounge and is located at 460 Chester Street; Brooklyn, NY 11212

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit.
- The committee has determined that the establishment currently holds a retail liquor license with NO MUSIC.
- The establishment has no existing complaints on file with the 73rd Precinct.
- The establishment is not within 200 feet of a place of worship or 500 feet of a school house.

With the above-mentioned stated, the Committee is asking that the Board support these applications which will encourage economic growth in our community.

There being no quorum present the matter was held over.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met in a joint session with the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 and continued discussions on nail salons in our area. As previously stated, we are concentrating on the dangers of nail salons in our community and working to put together meaningful legislation to have some form of regulation of nail salons. This evening, they will share with the audience some guidelines to bear in mind when using nail salons:

- When entering a nail salon, check to see that the surroundings and technicians are clean and sanitary
- The place should be well ventilated
- Tools should be sterilized in a conclave that is a container that uses superheated steam under pressure
- Footbaths should be free of scum, hair or any debris, and should be cleaned with EPA approved disinfectant, i.e.; Pine Sol or Clorox just to name a few
- Nail salons are required to keep a material safety datasheet (MSDS) that is a manual containing information on products used, risk of each product, and what to do in the event of accidental exposure.
- Patrons should be offered a mask in order to strengthen this point Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas has put together an article entitled "Nail Salons Dangers (Why aren't You Wearing a Mask)" which we will share with you and ask that you read it.

In order to help the Committee continue the project, they are asking anyone who goes to the nail salons in our area, especially on Pitkin Avenue, to call the Community Board office at (718) 385-0323 and share your good or bad experiences and be sure to give the address. You can also email Ms. Pierre at mvpierre@aol.com.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be on Wednesday, March 19th in the Community Board Office.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 for their first meeting of the New Year to introduce the new chairperson, discuss the community's safety challenges and possible resolutions.

However, this could not be done due to poor attendance. The 73rd Pct. along with one Board member elected to attend the Committee meeting.

The agenda was followed as set, however, very little was accomplished.

The Committee is aware that this community has great needs and many voices. A large part of our duty is to hear the voices and meet the needs as best they can.

This is not possible if they are not working cohesively. It's understood that members may not be able to make every meeting, but as community leaders, it is imperative that commitments are fulfilled as best as possible in order to affect positive changes in our community.

Change will only come if they do something different. She asks that Committee members show up for the District. Show up, be well informed and ready to make things better for the people who are counting on them.

The Public Safety Committee is looking to form a Community Safety Patrol, utilizing willing and able bodies of the District. There will be well rounded, conflict resolution training as well as other necessary training to properly equip the patrol to serve our community. As the concept is developed, more information will be presented to the Board.

The Public Safety Committee's next meeting date is to be determined. Please look for notices or contact the Community Board's office by calling (718) 385-0323 or emailing bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Black Women's Footprint Forum will be hosted by the Women's Committee of Community Board #16 on Saturday, March 8th, at Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard, from noon to 4:00 p.m.. To plan this initiative, for the month of February, the Women's Committee met on Tuesday, February 6th, Wednesday, February 12th, and Wednesday, February 19th. Additionally, on Saturday, February 15th, Committee members visited Heritage House and met with Miriam Robertson. The Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 26th and Wednesday, March 5th to finalize the plans for the Forum.

Thus far, Borough President Eric Adams, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Senator John Sampson, Councilwoman Inez Barron, Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr., and the Kings County District Attorney's Family Justice Center are supportive of the Forum. Senator Sampson's office will try and secure a Medical Mobile Van and Congresswoman Clarke's office will try and secure a Legal Mobile Van.

Some of the presenters include: The D.A.'s Office / Family Justice Center, Civilian Complaint Review Board, Jericho Road, Inc., Women's Prison Association, GRAAFICS, Black Women's Blueprint Organization, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Brownsville Partnership, Dr. Olivera, Rev. Cheryl Anthony, Judah International, and the Department of Probation. The Committee is still in discussion with a few other organizations.

Additionally, a local artist, Ms. Sophia Dawson is generously donating two pieces of framed artwork that will be raffled. The Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium will be performing. Brookdale Medical Center is securing a medical mobile van and Pinknot will be providing mammograms on their medical van. As to the Mammogram Mobile Van, because of their funding source we will need to guarantee that there will be at least 25 women who want to receive a mammogram. We are therefore asking all women who want to receive a mammogram to provide your name and address to our District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, here at Community Board #16 so that we can have a record.

Flyers for the Forum have been created and have been sent out by the Community Board to the community. For Board members there is a flyer in your package. A black and white flyer has been placed on all chairs. If you would like to receive a flyer in color please either contact myself or the Community Board and we will e-mail one to you.

The Committee invites everyone to attend the Forum and ask that you spread the word about the Forum to women in the community to include your families, block associations, neighbors, and tenant associations.

She acknowledged members of the Women's Committee who have been extremely instrumental in putting the Forum together. Without their help the Forum would not have been possible.

- Margaret Brewer
- Danny Goodine
- Michael Howard
- John McCadney
- Genese Morgan
- Mirline Desir
- Maxine Dotxon
- Ernestine Hodges
- Deidre Olivera-Douglas

Committee members, thank you so much.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact her at pjunior2@aol.com. We welcome you to join the Women's Committee, as your voice is the voice of the community, and we are here to serve you.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Youth Services Planning Committee (YSPC) is announcing the following:

The New York City Department of Probation - Brownsville NeON Stakeholder Group (N.S.G.), in conjunction with the Carnegie Hall Arts Consortium, reviewed thirteen (13) arts program applications for services to be provided to the youth of the community. It was decided by vote that the first phase of a two-year arts program would be, "Young New Yorkers", a restorative educational arts program, focusing on the issues of the effect of violence within our youth community.

This initial program is set to run as an eight (8) week curriculum, consisting of four (4) hour workshops per week. It is inclusive of a mixed media art activity (music, dance, digital media, painting, photography, spoken word, and poetry) tailored to develop the emotional and behavioral skills of the young participants by developing creative self-expression. This program will be primarily housed at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, Brooklyn, New York, with other Brownsville community sites to be established.

The initial phase will accommodate 15-20 persons. Participation will be open to youth between 14 to 21 years of age, and not necessarily those subject to probation or other court involvement. Participants will be provided with all arts related materials and equipment. Food and refreshments will be provided at each session as well. This program is scheduled to begin the week of March 31, 2014 and continue until May 19, 2014 (dates are subject to change).

At the end of the eight (8) week curriculum, participants will partake in a promotional video, an arts exhibition, a symposium, and an auction of their works.

For applications and details, please contact S.P.O. Jacqueline Simmons of the New York City Department of Probation, at (718) 345-1351. The Department of Probation will begin the application process on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 11:00 a.m..

The next scheduled Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be held on March 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m..

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested that the audience give a hand of applause to her Second Vice Chairperson, Pamela Junior, 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 Mr. Maurice Phillips.

Mr. Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that since 2012, Senator Sampson has been fighting for \$10,000,000,000 in appropriations to help keep Brooklyn's distressed hospitals operating. They were able to raise \$8,000,000,000 thus allowing Brookdale University Medical Center, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, and University Hospital of Brooklyn at Long Island College Hospital open to provide much needed care to Brooklyn residents. Senator Sampson and his colleagues continue to work on funding Universal Pre-K.

The minimum wage in New York State has begun to be increased and funding that was cut for summer youth employment programs have been restored, making it possible for thousands of young people to have jobs this coming summer.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked if the sessions will be group consultations or strictly one on one consults?

Mr. Phillips stated that they will be one on one consultations.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked if the participants be time limited? Will all persons who have registered be able to have meaningful consultation sessions?

Mr. Phillips stated that he does not have complete answers to the questions. However, he believes that the providers will have enough consultants present to offer the appropriate time to each individual seeking their advice.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked if persons who do not currently have mortgages can make appointments for consultation?

Mr. Phillips stated that they could and that he recommends it for people who are in the market or planning to purchase a home?

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that he is hearing conflicting information regarding the State's minimum wage. Some are saying it will be \$10.10 while others are saying \$9.00. What will it be?

Mr. Phillips stated that it is a progressive increase that will lead to the minimum being \$10.75 by the year 2016.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that she did not have any literature available for the evening's Board meeting, however, at next month's meeting she hopes to have information from Senator Montgomery's office relating to one of the Senator's most passionate causes – our at risk and incarcerated youth. She will have information about available programs and organizations where youth may enroll in order to clear their record.

Mr. Anthony Drummond, representing Borough President Eric Adams, stated that applications for appointment and re-appointment to the Board are due by Thursday, February 27th.

He announced that Borough President Adams will host a number of events commemorating Women's History Month and they will be posted on his website: www.brooklyn-usa.org.

Mr. Anthony Newerls stated that he is the President of the 73rd Precinct Community Council and they will host a dinner/dance on Saturday, April 26th, amongst this year's honorees is the Board's own Ms. Sarah Hall who has staunchly served this community for over 40 years. He also announced that the next Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on March 20th, at the Riverway Senior Center.

P. O. Shirma Daniel-Spiers from the 73rd Precinct's Community Affairs unit, stated Deputy Inspector Joseph Gulotta, Commanding Officer of the Precinct, sends his regrets on being unable to attend tonight's meeting. He thanks the community for their assistance in keeping crime low in the Precinct and asks for their continued support by advising the Precinct when they see illegal activities taking place.

P.O. Daniel-Spiers stated that the Community Affairs office encourages members of the community to come in and speak to them about their policing concerns or just to say hello.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that she understands that there was a situation involving the two schools along Blake Avenue and that the response time was lengthy. Has the Precinct done anything to resolve the issue?

P.O. Daniels-Spiers stated that she will inform the School Safety Sergeant, Sergeant Beatrice Shafidya of the concern. There is only one unit within the Precinct handling school safety issues. If there is a specific location that requires attention, Sergeant Shafidya can have her team focus on preventative measures there.

Ms. Ineisha Williford, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that in collaboration with Borough President Eric Adams Councilmember Mealy will host a Black History Celebration on February 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Community Center. Invitations were sent to all the local senior center and they hope that as many as possible can attend. There will be special performances by students from Mott Hall Bridges Academy and a jazz tribute.

On March 1st, Councilmember Mealy will host her monthly Advisory Board meeting and scheduled to present are representatives from New York Peace Institute who will speak about mediation and conflict resolution, and the Hope Program who will talk about their program which helps New Yorkers with resume writing and job search skills that can improve their lives.

She reminded the audience that it is discretionary funding season and encouraged those who have a 501(c) (3) to complete applications. Funding will be done on a first come, first served basis. As Councilmember Mealy's Director of Youth Programs, she can assist persons who may

not have a 501(c) (3) by putting them in contact with an organization who they can collaborate with.

During the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus in Albany, Councilmember Mealy, in collaboration with Watchful Eye, presented a workshop on HIV and youth which went quite well. She wants the Brownsville community to be aware that HIV is on the rise within the youth population. Any organization that is interested in hosting a workshop on the subject may reach out to Councilmember Mealy's office by calling (718) 953-3097.

Mr. M. Morton Hall stated that there is a crisis in the community wherein troubled children in our schools are becoming a direct pipeline to populating jails. There is a strong need for mentors at P.S. 275 and at P.S./I.S. 327. A 72 year old man was assaulted in an elevator on Powell Street by some of our youth because of lack of mentorship.

There are organizations spending money on programs to rehabilitate youth who have had court involvement which is good. However, over \$130,000 a year per inmate is spent on incarceration; we need to have resources directed on programs that keep our youth from getting there in the first place.

Ms. Frances Brown asked if such a mentoring program be an item that could be funded with discretionary funding from City Council?

Ms. Williford stated that there are some guidelines for obtaining discretionary funds. If a valid request is presented by an organization with an existing 501(c) (3) it can be funded. Smaller groups without 501(c) (3) status may use a fiscal sponsor (provided that the fiscal sponsor is a registered nonprofit) through which to receive their funding.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked if Councilmember Mealy's office can bring the parties together?

Ms. Williford stated that they do have a database of resources, however, they are there to teach you how to fish, not fish for you. If she comes across someone who has a worthwhile idea but may need guidance, she will of course suggest that they reach out to another person or group that they may be able to form a symbiotic relationship with.

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

Ms. Kennedy stated that the information session which was scheduled for February 13th was postponed to February 26th at 6:15 p.m., due to inclement weather.

She announced that their bereavement support group will begin meeting again on Friday, March 7th, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. The sessions are open to anyone who desires the service.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that there are many persons in the community that could benefit from such sessions but cannot attend during those hours. Can Brownsville Partnership provide it at latter hours as well?

Ms. Kennedy stated that due to the availability of the counselor, who is a student, they don't have that capacity at this time. However, they may be able to make arrangements on a case by case basis for a Friday at no later than 6:00 p.m..

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Jesse Hamilton, III, District Director of the 20th Senatorial District of the State of New York.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he was legal counsel to Borough President Eric Adams when he was a State Senator. Because Governor Andrew Cuomo has not called for a special election there are 12 legislative seats in Albany that will remain vacant for a year. These offices represent over one million residents of New York. This is taxation without representation.

He reached out to Senator Dean Skelos, Speaker of the Senate, and informed him that the 300,000 residents of the 20th District could not do without constituent services. He was able to secure the \$400,000 needed to keep the office open and they will continue to provide services to the 20th District. Here in Brownsville they are working on a few cases wherein the New York City Housing Authority is denying parents the right to house their adult children who are sick in order to keep the children from attaining succession rights.

Along with Borough President Adams, he is working on employment initiatives to bring living wage jobs to Brooklyn residents. There are many well-paying jobs available and going unfilled because people do not have the required skill sets. They are working on providing training for our youth so that they can acquire the skills needed for these jobs. Not everyone can go to college and there are good jobs available for persons with proper training that don't require a college degree.

The District Office is located at 1669 Bedford Avenue (at Montgomery Street) and the telephone number is (718) 284-4700.

Mr. Corey Provost, representing Comptroller Scott Springer, stated that Comptroller Stringer is inviting the community to celebrate Women's History Month with him on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Emigrant Bank Building, located at 49-51 Chambers Street in Manhattan.

They will also be hosting a series of workshops in the near future and will inform the community as the events approach.

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