

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – APRIL 22, 2014

Attendance

David Alexander	Leslie McCalla (A)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Andrea McCullough
Margaret Brewer	Sadie McNamara
Lamont Carolina	Genese Morgan
Adrainer Coleman	Terry Norfleet (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Rev. Joseph Norton (A)
Essie Duggan (E)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Norman Frazier	Marie Pierre (E)
Shirley Gonsalves	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Daniel Goodine (A)	Mattie Pusey
Chanel Haliburton	Linda Rivera
Sarah Hall	Melaine Rochford (E)
Jessie Hilliard	Wendy Rutherford (E)
Michael Howard	Beatrice Saunds (A)
Allene Ingram (E)	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)
Min. Prince Issachar	Ernestine Turner (A)
Daisy Jackson (E)	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. John Sampson
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Latrice Walker, Esq. for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Kicy Motley for Hon. Bill de Blasio
Quardean Lewis-Allen	Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Stringer
Deborah Mack (A)	Dalton Robinson for Hon. Nick Perry
James Mack	Ineisha Williford for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Yolanda Matthews	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
John McCadney, Jr.	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the public hearing to order at 7:03 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer.

There was a roll call of the Board members.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mrs. Blanche Peltonbusch and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

Public School Pre-K - New York City children who will turn four by December 31, 2014 are eligible to attend free pre-kindergarten in public school or community-based settings.

The deadline for public school applications is April 23, 2014. Apply online at schools.nyc.gov/prek or at a Borough Enrollment Office. For more information, for the directory of available programs, and to apply call 3-1-1 or (718) 935-2009.

Community-based organizations (CBO) pre-kindergarten programs manage their own admissions. Families must contact CBOs directly to submit an application.

Summer Youth Police Academy 2014 - The New York City Police Department is now accepting applications for their Summer Youth Police Academy. Applications are available at the Community Affairs Office at the 73rd Precinct or visit www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/downloads/pdf/ypaapplication2014.pdf to download the application.

Brownsville Community Justice Center – Youths between the ages of 13 and 24 who are in need of help with homework, studying for a test, composing a resume or job searching, are encouraged to take advantage of a new Learning Lab at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Suite 305. Space is limited, so please call Ionna Jimenez at (718) 484-0680 to reserve your seat.

Financial Management - Brownsville Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard (on the 2nd Floor of the Stone Avenue Branch Library) will host a workshop on Financial Management on Monday, April 28th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. For more information, please call (718) 385-1111.

Free SNAP - The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly known as Food Stamps, helps people make ends meet and put healthy food on their tables.

In response to the fact that government food assistance not being utilized by nearly half of all eligible seniors, the Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS), AARP Foundation, and the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA), offer FREE SNAP application assistance at large events several times a month in senior centers and libraries across New York City.

On May 8, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., CSCS will be hosting a SNAP application assistance event at the Brownsville Public Library, located at 61 Glenmore Avenue.

If you know of someone in need of food assistance who is unable to attend this event, please ask them to call Jennifer Brown at CSCS SNAP Outreach Office at (347) 815-5930 to find a time and place that is convenient for them.

Nonprofit Resources – Persons who are looking for resources to strengthen their nonprofit organization can find out where to get free information on private funders, what funders look for in grant proposals, where to get low-cost space, who can help them manage their grants and much more. Meet other community leaders and get valuable free resource guides. These events are presented in collaboration with the Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NAB) and are free to attend.

Events are held in each borough. The event in Brooklyn will be held on Thursday, April 24th at St. Francis College, located at 180 Remsen Street. The event in Manhattan will be held on Tuesday, May 20th at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), located at 156 Williams Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium. All events are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..

For additional information and to register, call (212) 442-5880.

Housing Resource Fair - Neighborhood Housing Service and Flatbush Development Corporation will host a Housing Resource Fair on Saturday, May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Brooklyn College Student Center, located at Campus Road and East 27th Street on the 2nd Floor.

The Housing Resource Fair will inform you of all you need to know about how to buy, keep and maintain your home. For more information and to register, call (718) 469-4679 or email: infoef_01@nhsnyc.org.

District Manager Greene-Walker requested that everyone read the remainder of her report. If there are any questions pertaining to the report, please feel free to call her at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Carlmais Johnson from the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is an independent city agency that is tasked with investigating allegations of police misconduct. It is not part of the police department. The agency handles complaints about four kinds of alleged police misconduct:

1. Force: this refers to the use of excessive or unnecessary force; behavior that includes punching, shoving or choking a civilian, using pepper spray and up to and including the use of deadly force.

2. Abuse of Authority: this refers to abuse of police powers to intimidate or mistreat a civilian; for example, an officer's refusal to provide name and badge number, an improper strip search or vehicle stop and search, or an improper "stop, question and frisk" .
3. Discourtesy: this refers to cursing and using other foul language or gestures.
4. Offensive Language: this refers to slurs and derogatory remarks or gestures based upon race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical disability.

The CCRB does not consist of police officers and is not affiliated with the Police Department. They are civilians who investigate the Police. They also have the power to administratively prosecute officers who they have found to have committed misconduct.

For more information, please visit their website (www.nyc.gov/ccrb). Informational flyers are also available on tonight's distribution table. Call 1-800-341-2272 or 311 and ask to be forwarded.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2014.

The Committee encourages all residents of NYCHA who 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.

They also encourage 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, 5th Floor; Brooklyn. 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. Any interested small business owners may call (347) 762-4755 or email info@oceanhillbrownsville.org for more information concerning these opportunities.

The Committee is encouraging all youth ages 14-24 to apply online at www.nyc.gov/dycd for the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program. The deadline to submit applications is April 25, 2014

The Committee met with the owner of DJ's Bar & Grill to further discuss an application to change its existing retail license with "No Music" to a retail license with "Music". The establishment is a lounge and is located at 460 Chester Street, Brooklyn, New York 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.

Additionally, it has been determined that the owner rents commercial space to a church for which the Pastor has submitted a letter in writing to the Community Board stating that the church is not opposing the liquor license application.

Following our February 20, 2014 Community Board meeting, when this application was originally presented to the Community Board for a vote, the Committee received a nuisance complaint from a resident of the 400 block of Chester Street; as well as the 73rd Precinct expressed concerns about public safety given that the establishment is located very close to Marcus Garvey Village Houses where there have been criminal activities.

Given the above stated facts, the Committee does not recommend that the Board support this application. The matter is now turned over to the Board for a vote.

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

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to not support the application of DJ's Bar & Grill to "Change" its existing retail license with "No Music" to a retail license with "Music".

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met jointly with the Public Safety Committee on April 9, 2014 which will be reported on later by the Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Ms. Margaret Brewer.

At the March Community Board meeting, she reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 with a representative from Nurse-Family Partnership, a service from the SCO Family of Services, and she shared information about the services NFP provides.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based community health program that helps transform lives of vulnerable mothers who are pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday.

The Committee decided that residents of Community District #16 should be aware of and take advantage of the NFP services. Due to the length of the Board's March 25th agenda, the NFP representative was invited to speak this evening.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on May 14, 2014 at 6.00 p.m. The Committee is in need of more members and always encouraged by your support. Please join them in the service of our community.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu introduced Maggie Petrosky, Director of SCO's Nurse-Family Partnership.

Ms. Petrosky stated that she is very excited by this program. Not just because she is a part of it, but because she believes that if every first time mother and their family participated in the program, we would have a much improved nation.

Nurse-Family Partnership gives first-time moms valuable knowledge and support throughout their pregnancy (mothers to be must enroll by their 28th week of pregnancy) and until their babies reach two years of age. Partnering first-time moms with caring nurse home visitors empowers the mothers to confidently create a better life for their children and themselves.

This a national evidence-based program which is now considered the gold standard in home visiting. In other words, there is scientific evidence that this intervention really works.

They work with the mothers, fathers, and anyone else who is in the life of the mother and focus on helping her have the best possible health that she can have during her pregnancy – a critical part of having a healthy baby. They cannot predict the future and there are certain things which they cannot impact. However, the information imparted by the nurses to the families is huge and the results show in clinic and doctor visits. More than that, it plants seeds for the future success of the children.

The program is an anti-poverty initiative. Many of the women start out in less than ideal situations and the people around them are often not excited about the fact of the pregnancy. The nurses often function as life coaches during this time, they are there step by step helping the mother get ready for her baby. When she gives birth they help her plan for her and her baby's future. The model is the same whether the mom lives in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Idaho, or California and the results are incredibly powerful.

SCO is the only agency providing the service in Brooklyn and have two teams serving the borough. One is based at Saratoga and Livonia Avenues which serves Brownsville and East New York. They have another team which serves Crown Heights, Bushwick, Flatbush, and Bedford-Stuyvesant. They are prepared to serve 400 families at a time.

She cannot give too much praise to the program; one needs only to attend a graduation to see and hear directly from the mothers, to know how powerful the experience is for them. They have a trusting relationship with the nurses who are not there to judge them, but rather offer assistance. In terms of development of language skills, physical development, and readiness for the next

level, the children involved in the program are doing considerably better than those who do not receive the intervention.

There are many people in the community and in Brooklyn as a whole, who are unaware of the program and they want the audience to assist them in spreading the word. She left pamphlets with information on the various programs provided through SCO specifically for the Brownsville community as well as fliers on the Nurse Family Partnership initiative on tonight's distribution table.

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

Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 8, 2014 with representatives from the Federation of Multicultural Programs, Inc. which is requesting a letter of support from Community Board #16 to enable them to obtain site control of City-owned vacant land on Block 3499, Lots 17, and 52-58 (bounded by Rockaway Avenue, Pitkin Avenue, Chester Street, and East New York Avenue) where they intend to develop affordable housing in two buildings, one of which will face Chester Street and the other will face Rockaway Avenue.

The proposal was tabled pending additional information from the Federation of Multicultural Programs, Inc.

The Committee subsequently held a teleconference on April 14th and requested additional information regarding the apartment distribution.

The information was provided and reviewed by the Committee.

The unit distribution will be: 40 studios, 40 one-bedrooms, 40 two-bedrooms and 10 three-bedrooms in the building fronting on Chester Street. The building fronting on Rockaway Avenue will consist of 95 assisted living units with shared bathroom and dining facilities.

By a majority vote, the Committee recommends that the Community Board provide a letter of support to the Federation of Multicultural Programs, Inc. to enable them to obtain site control of vacant City-owned land and develop 225 units of affordable housing, commercial retail space on the ground floor of the Rockaway Avenue building, a cultural center on the first floor of the Chester Street building and a day care center on the second floor. Both buildings will have multiple floors of underground parking for public use as well as tenant use. The proposal offers 266 parking spaces.

At the Board's October 22, 2013 meeting, the Committee reported that MHANY (Mutual Housing Association of New York) presented a proposal to construct 3 three story buildings on existing vacant lots on Pacific Street between Saratoga Avenue and Howard Avenue as follows:

- 4 two-bedroom apartments at 2040 Pacific Street
- 4 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments at 2095-2097 Pacific Street
- 4 one-bedroom apartments at 2103-2105 Pacific Street

Because a quorum was not present, the proposal was tabled.

At subsequent meetings of the Community Board, the Committee neglected to bring the matter back to the Board for a vote. At this time, the Committee recommends that the Community Board support the proposal by MHANY which will develop 12 units of rental housing on vacant City-owned land.

A motion was made by Mr. James Mack, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. James Mack, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried by a vote of 14-in favor, 7-against, and 1-abstention to provide a letter of support to the Federation of Multicultural Programs, Inc. to enable them to obtain site control of vacant City-owned land on Block 3499, Lots 17, and 52-58 to develop 225 units of affordable housing, commercial retail space, a cultural center and a day care center.

Brother Paul Muhammad asked if there are any agreements in place that would call on the

developers to hire local contractors for the construction of the project?

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that there were none.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried by a vote of 20-in favor, 2-against, and 3-abstentions to support the proposal by Mutual Housing Association of New York which will develop 12 units of rental housing on vacant City-owned land.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met jointly with the Human Services Committee on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 86 Mother Gaston Boulevard.

The Public Safety Committee continued the conversation of forming a community team to provide safe passages in school zones, naming the team, and determining the mission to accomplish.

The Committee has developed a name and a mission statement that will outline its functions. It reads as follows:

The mission of the Community Impact Safety Team (CIST) is to discourage violence and undesirable actions while promoting cooperation and consideration in the community through community members.

The Committee is currently developing plans for training and recruiting. Anyone who may have suggestions for the CIST requested to email them to bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

The Public Safety Committee will meet again on May 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee and its recommendation.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, April 7, 2014 and discussed strategies to get the NYC Transit Authority to install elevators or escalators at the IRT -3 stops along Livonia Avenue. The Committee will be preparing a sample letter and asking residents to join us in this campaign. The letter will be disseminated at next month's Community Board meeting.

The Committee is urging everyone to attend a "Vision Zero" Pedestrian Safety Workshop to:

- Learn more about Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative
- Prioritize street projects
- Discuss streets where you live, work, and travel

The Brooklyn Workshops will be held on:

Thursday, April 24
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Plymouth Church Willis Hall
75 Hicks Street, Brooklyn

Tuesday, April 29
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Brooklyn College Student Center, 2nd Floor
Campus Road and East 27th Street.

The next Transportation and Franchises Committee will be held on Monday, May 12th, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Board Office.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that according to the Board's by-laws, during its April meeting, a Nominating Committee is to be appointed. The following Board members have been asked to serve on the Committee: Eula Key, James Mack, Prince Issachar, Marie Pierre and Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu.

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back recommendations to the May 27, 2014 Board meeting a slate of names of persons to fill the Executive Officers for the period of June 2014 to June 2015.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Dr. Gisele Shorter of ROADS (Reinventing Options for Adolescents Deserving Success) Charter High Schools.

Dr. Shorter stated that she is a founding member of ROADS Charter High Schools. She and a group of colleagues met about four or five years ago to gather ideas on how they could best serve youth who are over age and under accredited, particularly young people that have multi system involvement. Those involved in the child welfare systems; i.e., foster care, PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision), protective services, young people who are court involved, as well as youth who are homeless. They understand that there are typically educational gaps between youth who have multi system involvement and those who don't.

The group launched their schools two years ago, one in the Bronx and the other in Community District #16 near Broadway Junction. In the last two years, they have on boarded new cohorts of students. This year, they have pushed the state to allow them to change how they do their enrollment and allow them to pull from a waitlist. They found that young people who were not promoted from the 8th grade, oftentimes, did not have an opportunity to get into a lottery. If the lottery were to be closed on April 1st and students don't get notice, until late April or after state exams, that they are not being promoted, those students do not have the chance to take part of the lottery. This means they have to wait another year to apply to the schools.

They will not hold a lottery this year. Instead, they will pull from their waitlist. This is through the issuance of a special waiver from the state. They will only be able to pull from the waitlist based upon the order in which students' applications were time stamped. They anticipate the pulls to begin in May until August for the fall semester and again prior to the spring semester. Applications and FAQ's are available on tonight's distribution table.

Someone asked if the student's address has any bearing on their being accepted?

Dr. Shorter stated that if it were a lottery, preference would be given to students who reside in the same school district as the school is located. However, because they are pulling from the waitlist, that preference is not given. They pull strictly based on the earliest applications received. She encourages young people who are 15 or 16 years old in the year in which they apply and have less than 11 credits to apply. Students who turn 17 while on the list will be eligible.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked why is there a need for lotteries?

Dr. Shorter stated that within the Department of Education, there are districts (Typically, with several schools within each.). Each charter school is formed through special legislation allowing them to function as district unto themselves. Lotteries are done to allow all students a fair opportunity at a limited number of seats. This year, ROADS High School is not doing a lottery because they found that there were many students who were not given an opportunity because they received late notice that they were not being promoted.

Someone asked how many seats are available?

Dr. Shorter stated that they have a capacity for 200 students and have approximately 100 openings.

Someone asked if a 16 year old who is already in high school, but behind, may apply?

Dr. Shorter stated that as long as they have less than 11 credits they can apply.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Kicy Motley from the Office of the Mayor.

Ms. Motley stated that she is the Brooklyn Borough Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. Mayor de Blasio takes community affairs seriously and wants to hear directly from communities. If there are issues or events in the community which you think they can help with, they want to hear from you. Also feel free to reach out to her if you need assistance in navigating the city's agencies.

Tomorrow is an important day in terms of the public school Universal Pre-K. It is the deadline for registering for public school Universal Pre-K. All children born in 2010 and are residents of New York City are eligible for Universal Pre-K. Even if you do not have children who are four or five years old, this is important to know, as it is highly likely that someone you know does. Getting the children a good head start in education is good for everyone.

Senator John Sampson asked if there might be an extension to the registration time period?

Ms. Motley stated it had already been extended and she is unaware of any plans to further extend it. If you need to reach her, call (347) 331-2337 or email: kmotley@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Senator John Sampson.

Senator Sampson stated that the State Legislature passed their budget and he is pleased to say that they were able to allocate \$1.5 billion to fund full day pre-k for at least the next three to five years. He is hopeful that some of those funds will also reach afterschool programs. Afterschool programs are extremely important in our communities. Much of the criminal offenses committed by youth occur between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Thus, if we are able to create afterschool programs to engage the youth it will be helpful.

There has been much discussion concerning public schools versus charter schools. The budget also increases the educational budget by \$1.1 billion to ensure that our public schools do not get left out. He is pro education for all our students, but oftentimes, we get caught up in the argument of charter schools versus public schools. However, the bulk of our students are in public schools and they need to receive the bulk of the funding as well.

They were able to acquire \$8 billion in federal waivers which will allow Brookdale, Inter-faith, and Downstate Hospitals to remain open to serve the public and save many jobs.

They were also able to secure about \$100 million for housing which will go toward creating and rehabilitating about 3,000 units of affordable housing. There is the question of what is considered affordable? He often hears that what is being called affordable, is not truly affordable to people of the community. He is hoping that with these funds and the help of Darryl Towns, Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal and the de Blasio Administration, these units will be truly affordable. They are working on programs to incentivize developers to remain in the Mitchell-Lama Program. In October, renters and property owners will receive a tax credit from the State.

Ms. Frances Brown asked how one may obtain a copy of the State Budget?

Senator Sampson stated that it can be found online. However, he will see if he can obtain a hardcopy of the voluminous document for the Board's office.

Someone asked if the funding for after school program apply to programs for high schoolers?

Senator Sampson stated that it will be dependent upon how the Department of Education chooses to allocate the funds. He agrees that this is an area of concern.

Someone asked what the criteria will be for the property tax credit?

Senator Sampson stated that he is unsure at this time, but he will look into it and respond to the community at the next Board meeting.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked what will some of the incentives be for developers to remain in Mitchell-Lama programs?

Senator Sampson stated that they allocated an additional \$40 million to help with capital improvements. They are also offering options for lower interest rates to incentivize the developers, who may be thinking of leaving the Mitchell-Lama for financial reasons.

Someone asked what is being done regarding developers hiring contractors from within the community?

Senator Sampson stated that community benefits are often spoken of when it comes to developing property within our communities. It is important that the community work with the

Board and develop some realistic goals that can be brought to the developers when they meet with the committees and the Board.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch and Ms. Yolanda Matthews expressed their concerns regarding the management of Marcus Garvey Village (a Mitchell-Lama rental complex). They stated that meetings are called without proper notification to tenants and their board. Ms. Matthews indicated that tenants are being illegally evicted in order to bring in market rate renters. Prospective renters are being refused if they have subsidies. Forty percent of the units are vacant.

Senator Sampson suggested that they organize a group of tenants and request a meeting with the management.

Mr. David Alexander asked if residents of Mitchell-Lama programs are allowed to purchase homes in the Nehemiah Homes program?

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. related a situation wherein a former co-worker who was a Mitchell-Lama resident was denied based upon the premise that as a Mitchell-Lama co-op owner he was not eligible for first-time homebuyer programs.

Senator Sampson stated that he will research the issue and get back to the community.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked what is the status of Long Island College Hospital (LICH)?

Senator Sampson stated that the parties that won the bid to buy LICH has agreed to provide a full service hospital at the current location. It is still in the early stages of the process and nothing is set in concrete at the moment.

Ms. Davis asked if the \$8 billion in federal monies will be divided amongst the three hospitals he mentioned?

Senator Sampson stated that the monies will be used to help ailing hospitals throughout the State. Approximately \$1.1 billion will be used to help the three hospitals.

Mr. Charles Ladson expressed concern about mentally ill persons being released from hospitals without proper care? City shelters are treating individuals inhumanely. These organization are supposed to be helping people in need, but are not doing so. We need to get these institutions to do the right thing.

Senator Sampson stated that he recently had the opportunity to visit two shelters in the community. His perceptions versus reality were different. Some of operators of shelters actually do a good job. He is hopeful that, under the leadership of the new Department of Homeless Services Commissioner, there will be improvements.

Homelessness is supposed to be a temporary condition. He is hopeful that some of the funding being provided by the State will allow for housing for some of the individuals who are currently homeless. Many in the room are just one paycheck from homelessness. This is an issue that needs to remain on the front burner.

Brother Paul Muhammad stated that he would like to see solutions to the gun crisis affecting our community, not just by locking up our children time after time. There are no gun manufactures headed by people of color anywhere in the world; yet, they proliferate our communities. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries stated that there are over 250 million guns in America but there are 250 million registered owner. Funding is needed for programs to help reduce the gun violence in the community.

Senator Sampson stated that the recent budget provides funding for the SNUB program which allocates funds to different programs to reduce gun violence. However, the issue has to be addressed on multiple fronts. True, we do not manufacture guns, but we buy them. There were several arrests made recently of parties who brought guns from southern states to sell to youth in our communities.

Having lost family members to gun violence, he has no tolerance for those who use guns illegally. He believes that persons caught in possession of illegal guns should do a minimum of 10 years in prison. However, there should also be a balance between the penalty phase and providing opportunities for employment and education for our youth. There needs to be a

holistic approach, involving elected officials, clergy, and the community, for the problem to end. Guns don't kill people. People making poor judgments involving guns do. Parents and grandparents need to be the front line on the issue. Parents of children coming home at 12:00 a.m. or 1:00 a.m. on a school night should be raising eyebrows. Serious questions need to be asked. We have to take back our communities. It is about us. The police can only do but so much.

Senator Sampson stated that he can be reached by calling his office at (718) 649-7653 or his cell phone at (646) 418-3362.

Ms. Pamela Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee of Community Board #16, thanked Senator Sampson for him and his staff's assistance at the Committee's recent forum.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Cory Provost from the Office of City Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Mr. Provost stated that he attended 4th grade at P.S. 12, located at Howard Avenue and St. Mark's Place. At the time he was enrolled, the school had, what he recalls to be, a good arts program. Today, an analysis of public schools in the city shows that 28% do not have arts instruction. Arts are an integral part of well-rounded education. Students who have arts instruction have a greater success rate than those who do not. Schools in the South Bronx and Central Brooklyn make up 34% of public schools in the City. Of these schools, 42% do not have arts programs.

This has been a systemic problem for over 12 years. The Comptroller's Office created some initiatives for the Department of Education to try and rectify the situation. Copies of the report can be obtained by providing him with an email address. (You may also visit <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/state-of-the-arts/>, to download a copy). He can be reached at (212) 669-3811.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson.

Mr. Jones stated that District Attorney Thompson has created additional units to focus on crimes against seniors, immigrants and fraud. The District Attorney is taking a strong interest in crimes perpetrated on individuals in these classes. He asks that constituents continue to make use of the Citizens' Action Center to file complaints of any illegal activity or quality of life issues

District Attorney Thompson will hold his first town hall meeting sometime in June and as more information is available the community will be advised.

He can be reached by calling (718) 250-3146.

Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that Black women represent the largest demographic in the workforce of America. However, they are only paid 64¢ for every dollar earned by a white male performing the same job. The Obama Administration has expressed support for a bill: the Paycheck Fairness Act which has been proposed to Congress.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will help secure equal pay for equal work for all Americans. The bill would update the Equal Pay Act of 1963, a law that has not been able to achieve its promise of closing the wage gap because of limited enforcement tools and inadequate remedies. The Paycheck Fairness Act would make critical changes to the law, including:

- requiring employers to demonstrate that wage differentials are based on factors other than sex;
- prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about their employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages;
- permitting reasonable comparisons between employees within clearly defined geographical areas to determine fair wages;
- strengthening penalties for equal pay violations;
- directing the Department of Labor to assist employers and collect wage-related data; and
- authorizing additional training for Equal Employment Opportunity Commission staff to better identify and handle wage disputes.

She is encouraging everyone to call their Senators and House Representatives and let them know that the time has come to make equal pay a reality.

Congresswoman Clarke's District Office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142 and the Washington D.C. Office at (202) 225-6231. Informational pamphlets on the bill can be found on tonight's distribution table, along with calendars from Medicare which contain interesting information on Medicare for seniors.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Borough President Eric Adams, stated that Borough President Adams is in the process of setting up a town hall meeting in Brownsville to discuss some of the issues affecting the community. We hear about crime in the community; but the crime issue cannot be solved without addressing the issue lack of resources.

In preparation of the possible closure of some senior centers, Borough President Adams has established a Senior Outreach Initiative. He (Mr. McDaniel) and some of his colleagues will be visiting the senior centers to ensure that they have contact information and to let the seniors know of the constituent services that are available to them through the Borough President's Office.

He reported that Borough President Adams joined Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. and HealthFirst in hosting a Garifuna heritage reception at Brooklyn Borough Hall, to celebrate the culture of the Garifuna, descendants of West African, Central African, Carib and Arawak people; who today, live primarily in Central America, along the Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

Borough President Adams will host the launch of "Art of the 5 Brooklyn: In Unity There is Strength", on Wednesday, April 23rd from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall. This is the third of five annual exhibitions presented by The Galleries at The Interchurch Center to highlight artists from each of the five boroughs.

On Thursday, April 24th, there will a free Stop 'N' Swap community reuse event, in partnership with GrowNYC, at Brooklyn Borough Hall. As part of the celebration of Earth Month this April, they are inviting the public to bring portable, reusable items to share or simply come see what is free to a new home.

A Teen Summit will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Radio personalities from Hot 97 will be in attendance.

As part of the Safe Sleep Campaign, they will be distributing 200 cribs to low-income families to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). If you or someone you know needs a crib, you can contact him at (718) 802-2681 or via email at mmcdaniel@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

Borough President Adams has declared April to be Financial Literacy Month with a host of events taking place throughout the borough. For a list of the events, please visit the Borough President's website at www.brooklyn-usa.org.

Mr. Dalton Robinson, representing Assemblyman Nick Perry, thanked the Board members for their volunteerism and stated that Assemblyman Perry represents the 58th Assembly District which encompasses the southwestern edge of Community District #16. Their District Office is located at 903 Utica Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 385-3336. Constituents are urged to contact them for assistance with issues from housing to immigration.

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

Ms. Kennedy stated that they are moving their offices to 519 Rockaway Avenue (the former Paul J. Cooper Building). They have made previous announcements concerning this move and are here with an update. They are seeking the community's input on how to best utilize the building.

A signup sheet was circulated for those who wish more information or want to express their opinion on what they have heard about the building. A forum will be held in early May to discuss the plans for the building's utilization.

Ms. Meagan Moore was introduced and stated that she works with their physical development group and focuses on Brownsville. As was stated, they will be moving to 519 Rockaway Avenue along a few other agencies – SCO Family Services and CCI (Center for Court

Innovation). The first phase of the project is expected to be done by October 2014, which some may say is quick. This is because the building is in good condition and does not need much done as compared to a ground up construction. The second, third, and fourth floors are being moderately renovated to accommodate Brownsville Partnership and its partners: SCO Family Services and CCI. The first and cellar floors will only be minimally renovated; as they want the space to be a representation of what the community wants to be there. They want the building to have meaning and truly impactful on the community. They cannot promise what will be there, but they want it to be reflective of the community.

Ms. Nupur Chaudhary stated that they will also be seeking local contractors to bid on the work to be done on the project. Interested persons should contact Erin Forrest of Bernheimer Architecture at (347) 763-0861.

She announced the following job openings: 1) a salaried position working with her as a Coordinator for their Healthy Living Program and 2) Bike NY is seeking instructors who can teach kids in Brookdale Hospital's Live Light, Live Right program how to ride a bike, bike handling and traffic safety skills, and to lead rides in the Brownsville community. This is a part-time seasonal position, and reports to the Director of Operations of Youth Programs. This position requires approximately 12-15 hours per week, May 2014-August 2014.

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