MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JUNE 24, 2014

Attendance Yolanda Matthews David Alexander John McCadney, Jr. Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith Leslie McCalla (A) Margaret Brewer Andrea McCullough Genese Morgan Rev. Mark Broomes (A) Lamont Carolina Blanche L. Peltonbusch Adrainer Coleman Marie Pierre Christopher Durosinmi Rev. Devon Ponds (E) Norman Frazier Mattie Pusev Daniel Goodine (A) Linda Rivera Melaine Rochford (A) Chanel Haliburton Sarah Hall Wendy Rutherford (E) Jessie Hilliard **Beatrice Saunds** Michael Howard Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A) Celina Trowell Allene Ingram (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) Sylvester Yavanna (A) Pamela Junior Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager Eula Key Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant Bettie Kollock-Wallace Hon. John Sampson Charles Ladson, Sr. E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery Quardean Lewis-Allen Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson Albion Liburd Charles Barron for Hon. Inez Barron Deborah Mack Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams James Mack

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 said an invocation.

There was a roll call of the Board members.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Administration for Children's Services and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the acquisition of property located at 265 Sumpter Street (Block 1520, Lot 51) for continued us as a child care center.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker further added that the program is known as the Shirley Chisholm V Advent Child Care Center and is located on Sumpter Street between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Saratoga Avenue. They presently serve 55 preschoolers from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. They have been in the community since the early 70's and are seeking to continue to provide services from the location.

She asked if anyone from the center was present to comment.

Mr. Kenneth Robinson from the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), stated that he is with ACS's General Counsel Office and they are requesting that Community Board #16 continue to support the acquisition under the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) In this instance, the agency intends to lease the aforementioned property.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated, for the record, that she met with the center's Director, Ms. Perkins, and toured the facility. She wants to note that the building's roof tiles are in need of replacement and hopes that the repairs can be done. Also, as part of the ULURP recommendation

she is including a request that a tree be planted in the existing empty tree pit in front of the property.

There being no further comments, the next item on the agenda was IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the City Charter, for the site selection of property located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street (Block 3496, Lot 4) for use as a community justice center.

District Manager Greene-Walker invited Mr. Elan Parra from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and Mr. James Brodick from the Center for Court Innovation to come forward and give a brief presentation of the project.

Mr. Parra introduced the architect for the project, Mr. Ranabir Sengupta of Urbahn Architects.

Mr. Sengupta stated that Urbahn Architects have been charged with the restoration and redesign of the building as a justice/community center.

Mr. Brodick stated that idea of a Justice Center in Brownsville grew out of a visit to the Red Hook Center by the late Greg "Jocko" Jackson in 2009. After his visit, he inquired if a similar center could be placed in Brownsville. In 2010, the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) conducted a series of communitywide surveys to gather the community's perception of the criminal justice system, and what programs and opportunities they would like to see come into Brownsville. For the past three years, CCI has brought about several tremendous operations into Brownsville. They have started a youth court which hears real cases that are referred by the Department of Probation or the Law Department. They have 60 individuals per year, who have had some kind of involvement with the criminal justice system in their background, who are doing community benefit projects in the community – they have created murals, community clean up, and internships. They are doing an anti-violence campaign in the community.

The goal is to have a community justice center in Brownsville. He has had the opportunity to bring several members of the Community Board over to the Red Hook Community Justice Center so that they could get a sense of how it looks and operates.

To make a justice center work, a few things are needed. A building is required. The building serves as the body of a justice center. It is a hub where persons who are arrested for low-level crimes will come and stand before the same judge, with the same prosecutor, and the same defense attorney. It is about holding people responsible for their actions, but moreover, it is about how we get this person's life on track. Do they need drug treatment? Do they have a mental health issue that needs treatment? Do they need education? How do we keep them from reoffending? The first opportunity that is available to help someone from entering this cycle is the best opportunity to do so.

When the individual is in front of you, you need to have the resources to assist them there as well. They have case managers, social workers, educators, and many city agencies such as the Department of Education, HRA, and ACS will be collocated within the building. There is a term often used within the justice system "simple case, complicated life". The cases heard by the judiciary are often easy to adjudicate, but understanding the underlying causes is not.

They are anticipating construction to begin by the end of 2014 and have the building in use by summer 2016. In the interim, he invites the community to visit the Red Hook Center to see how the center operates.

Mr. Parra stated that the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) has worked closely with the CCI on this project. They really believe in the justice center. The Red Hook Center and the first Community Court in Midtown Manhattan have done incredible things for New York City.

The proposed project building has been a multi-service building for quite some time and is in a state of disrepair. There are many mechanical issues with the building. One of the goals in completing this project is to spruce it up for the community and return to service the community as it was intended. Another goal is to have the building open beyond court hours.

In previous meetings with the community, they have heard the question: "What will it do for the community?" The City as contracted the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York

(DASNY) to perform the construction of the project. DASNY has an incredible jobs program which Mr. Michael Clay will elaborate on later this evening.

The design calls for there to be a secure side to the building for court operations and a community-centered side for programming. The third floor will not include any court operations and the goal is to populate it with service providers.

Mr. Sengupta stated that as was mentioned earlier the building, as it stands today, is antiquated in terms of mechanical systems. The building was constructed in the early seventies and a number of things are not up to code. For instance, the elevator is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rules. One of the things they will be doing is replacing the current elevator with a larger one that will comply with ADA guidelines. The same thing with the bathrooms which will be redesigned with accessibility in mind. The roofing system is deteriorated and will be replaced. The curtain wall in the lobby will be replaced with a new one. They will recreate the lobby space and incorporate new glass offices there (Architectural renderings were passed around the room.). The concrete paving that is used to enter the building will also be replaced.

Mr. Michael Clay, Director of the Opportunity Programs Group of DASNY, stated that the Opportunity Programs Group is the arm that facilitates and advocates for Minority and Womenowned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) participation within DASNY. The agency issues taxexempt bonds and provides construction-related services for public agencies and private not-for-profit institutions. They do construction work throughout the State of New York. Examples include: courts, nursing homes, hospitals, schools for the State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York. They build dormitory residence halls for SUNY and other facilities that provide services to New Yorkers.

DASNY has offices at Penn Plaza in Manhattan and also in the cities of Albany and Buffalo. The President of DASNY is Paul T. Williams, Jr. who is a past president of One Hundred Black Men, Inc. and founder of the Eagle Academy Foundation. Mr. Williams is also the first African-American to head the agency in its 70 year history.

As Director of the Opportunity Programs Group, he manages the M/WBE for DASNY across its portfolio of work. On this particular project, they will do a couple things. First, DASNY will be handling the construction phase of the project. They will ensure that minority- and women-owned businesses participate in this project. They will put bids out on the project and manage the contractors. There will be people participating as subcontractors and suppliers on the project who look like people who live in the community.

Secondly, there is a work force component. In all of their contracts, they require that minorities and women represent and make up a portion of the hours worked on the project.

The Mayor's Office has had numerous conversations with him and others at DASNY to discuss ways of reaching out to the community and informing them of available opportunities, understanding that here, in Brownsville, unemployment is extremely high. One of the things that DASNY does (They did it in Harlem with the work they did at Harlem Hospital and in the Bronx at the Bronx Psychiatric Center.) is to have a Community Workforce program. One of the initial things that they decided to do with this project was to collaborate with an entity from the Brooklyn area, namely, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. He introduced the Chamber's Director of Workforce Development, Ms. Tondalaya London. The Chamber will help DASNY identify businesses in and around this community with the capacity to participate on this project. They will ensure that contractors on the project are familiar with those businesses.

The Chamber will also assist them with facilitating an application process for individuals who wish to become involved with the construction. If the individual's skillset matches those required to work on the project, they will help them get hired. If an applicant's skillset does not match those required, they will offer referral to the applicant to help them gain the skillsets and/or perhaps help place them on other projects for which they are qualified in the borough.

He has had discussions with the unions. DASNY has a project labor agreement regarding all of its work in New York City. This was done for a number of reasons, including it being a means of ensuring that women and minorities are not blocked out of participation in the projects. DASNY will identify qualified union members who live in the community or the surrounding zip codes and are available for work and have them work on this project. They have also discussed pre-apprenticeship training to help interested individuals become qualified to join the unions.

About 7 years ago, New York City passed a law which now requires that anyone, regardless of their experience, must be certified as having successfully completed the training course given by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in order to work on any public work projects in New York. DASNY will help residents of the community in obtaining the training.

District Manager Greene-Walker requested that Mr. Parra inform the audience of what will take place once the ULURP application is approved.

Mr. Parra stated that construction is expected to take approximately 18 months. Their goal is for construction to begin in January of 2015. There are some not-for-profits located in the building and they recently met with them. They are working with the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to identify locations where they may be able to relocate during the construction. This is also true for the Department of Probation and Community Board #16.

With respect to the Community Board, the goal is that they will return to the building upon completion of construction. The process of seeking temporary space for the Community Board to occupy during construction has already begun.

Their goal is to relocate as many of the current tenants to locations in close proximity to the building, in order that it is not any more of an inconvenience than it needs to be.

The building is being vacated so that the work that needs to be done can be done in a manner that is cost and time effective. This happens best with an empty building.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that several persons have requested time to speak on this proposal. She asked Ms. Shirley Washington of Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation to come forward and give her comments.

Ms. Washington stated that Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (CBEDC) is a non-profit organization that has operated in this building for the past 24 years. They administer a GED (General Equivalency Diploma) program and a healthy families program. CBEDC collaborates with the Community Justice Center and has assisted six individuals referred by the Department of Probation get their GEDs. Thus far this year, they have assisted 20 adults in getting their GEDs. While she heard what Mr. Parra stated and realize that growth demands change, CBEDC has yet to be contacted regarding relocation assistance. In seeking locations to relocate to on her own, she is being quoted prices upward of \$7,000. Her agency cannot afford such rents and will be displaced if assistance is not provided.

She is calling upon the affected not-for-profits to unite and reach out to the Mayor's office and find out what they are going to do for these agencies to assist them with the cost of relocation.

Mr. Parra stated that he will be in touch with her tomorrow. He promised to work with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to find comparable space for the agency.

District Manager Greene-Walker requested Ms. Dovie Matthews, Manager of the Brownsville Multi Service Center, to come forward and give her comments concerning the proposed project.

Ms. Matthews stated that she has worked as a community activist for over 50 years. Whenever she observes that the community is not being treated fairly, she has to speak out. She is supportive of the project and believes it will be beneficial to the community. However, she takes issue with the displacement of so many programs which are serving the community. She has been here for 15 years and can say that the programs have served the residents of the community well.

It is her understanding that the proposed project will serve probationers, whereas, the agencies now serve probationers as well the general population of the community. That balance needs to be preserved. She is troubled that so many agencies are being displaced when there are other facilities that can be utilized for the project.

Mr. Brodick stated during their process of bringing the program to Brownsville, they looked at several sites including the Verizon building on Livonia Avenue, the bank on Pitkin Avenue, and the school on Rockaway Avenue. For various reasons, the locations did not fit their needs. There were many cases where the property owners were unwilling to sell at a reasonable price. When approached about 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, HRA asked what the Center for Court

Innovation could do to raise capital funding for needed repairs to the building. HRA did not have access to money needed to repair it.

It is CCI's goal that all the non-profits currently housed in the building return upon completion of the renovations. They are not seeking to relocate them permanently.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that rents paid by the non-profits is affordable to them. Will the rental rates remain affordable to them?

Mr. Parra he does not have numbers at this time. However, the building has been operated by HRA, an agency that does not have the resources required to properly maintain it. There is no stationary engineer assigned to the building to upkeep its systems. The building will be transferred to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services' portfolio. DCAS is the agency responsible for maintaining city-owned property. Whether it is the HRA or DCAS portfolio, the building is still city-owned. The differences DCAS will be providing permanent maintenance staff who respond to the needs of the building's tenants on a technical level in terms of maintenance.

DCAS also has a leasing division which negotiates below market rate rents for non-profits which deal with the city. While he does not have numbers at this moment, his experience has shown that DCAS can negotiate much lower rents than what can be garnered on the open market.

The other thing is, this building is not been maximized. There are several vacancies. In part, due to the deficiencies of the building i.e.: poor heating and air conditioning, a leaky roof, and lack of handicap accessibility for the upper floors to name a few.

The goal is to make things better and provides services for every population.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked that the Mayor be informed that the community is not interested in being lied to. We have heard it told similar tales before. Renters are told by realtors that they need to move from their apartment and can return when renovations are done. Only to find that the apartments are downsized and are no longer affordable.

Mr. Lorenzo Andrews stated that he is a thirty-five year resident of Brownsville and is against the building of a Justice Center at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. The building has served as a mecca of information for the community and should remain as one. It should be a placed that offer learning opportunities for our youth that will allow them to obtain competitive careers.

Harlem has such a center and yet recently there was a drug sweep that netted nearly 200 individuals. How effective is that? Such a center cannot work if the spirit of the community is broken. Why is the spirit of the Brownsville community broken? Look at the condition of our parks where the ballfields look like a third world country. Look at his child's school and see the missing keys on the computer he needs to use. Look in the doctors' offices where we are being treated, how we should be treated.

Mr. Brodick stated in working with members of the community he has heard many of these things and is not here to debate these issues. However, he invited every member of the Community Board to visit the Red Hook Community Justice Center and those members got to see how, for the first time in the history of Red Hook, city agencies were being accountable to the residents who they are supposed to be serving.

What a justice center is, is very different than what is being described here. A justice center is a hub for hope. It is a place where people who may have touched the system Currently, someone who lives in Brownsville is arrested they are brought before a random judge at 120 Schemerhorn Street who is not thinking about the individual in front of him or how the crime impacts the community-at-large.

A small percentage of the people in the Brownsville community are causing a lot of the problems. The reason we have not been able to bring many of the offenders back on track is because there are not enough resources in place to serve them. This means that when someone in foster care is arrested, they are more likely spend the weekend in jail because no one from the Administration for Children's Services appears at the precinct. The justice center can resolve that situation. Perhaps someone is hindered from returning to school after they get out of jail. The justice center will be able to make certain that the Department of Education accepts them back.

The justice centers are not about making people's lives more difficult. It is about holding city agencies responsible. As an example, the Police Department, a month after the Red Hook Justice Center opened its doors, arrest dropped by 25%. For the first time in police history, the same judge would hear every case. If the same officer's name keeps coming up as being harassing, someone can get on the phone with the captain of the local precinct.

He is passionate about this because he has personally seen the effect of the Red Hook Justice Center in that community. The community is not the same as it was twenty years ago because people now have a phone number to a judge, a prosecutor, and others at the justice center. This is the positive change they want to bring to the Brownsville community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the evening's presenters for their presentations.

The Secretary called the roll and it was noted that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

Hon. Charles Barron in behalf of Councilmember Inez Barron administered the oath of office to new Community Board members Albion Liburd and Celina Trowell.

District Manager Greene-Walker reported that starting July 1, 2014, the income threshold for SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) will increase from \$29,000 to \$50,000 per household.

If you apply before July 1, 2014, your household income must be \$29,000 or less. If you apply on or after July 1, 2014, your income must be \$50,000 or less.

If your household income is less than \$50,000 it does not guarantee that you will qualify for SCRIE. There are other requirements; i.e., your rent must be more than one-third (1/3) of your household income, you must be 62 years old or older, and be the tenant of record. Additional requirements can be found in the SCRIE/DRIE Guide for all of the program requirements you may obtain a guide online at "www.nyc.gov/scrie" or contact 3-1-1 so that a guide can be mailed to you.

A chart showing examples of Annual Household Income, Monthly Household Income, and the minimum amount the rent must be to qualify for SCRIE can be found in her report.

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is committed to supporting their residents by offering them opportunities to further their education at The City University of New York (CUNY).

Apply for a \$1,000 NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship or gain further information by visiting www.nyc.gov/nychacunyscholarship or www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship.

The application deadline is June 30, 2014.

Columbia Pre-Med Program is currently recruiting high school students from the New York City area for the 2014 - 2015 academic year session of the State Pre-College Enrichment Program (S-PREP) at the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

S-PREP is a rigorous academic year program designed for students who are seriously interested in pursuing a career in medicine or related health professions. Students must be New York residents who are minority (e.g., Black, Hispanic, Native American, or Alaskan Native) or economically disadvantaged (see economic eligibility guidelines) enrolled in high school grades 9 - 12.

The long range objective of the program is to increase the number of minority physicians and health care professionals. The program offers a schedule of basic and medical science courses. The courses may include, but are not limited to the following: Anatomy, biochemistry,

embryology, calculus, chemistry, genetics, neuroscience, organic chemistry, physics, physiology, and pre-calculus. In addition, the program offers a SAT preparation course provided by Kaplan.

Classes start in October and the application deadline is Tuesday, July 22, 2014. For additional information regarding the State Pre-College Enrichment Program (S-PREP), visit http://ps.columbia.edu/education/node/1996 or e-mail sprep-ps@columbia.edu.

Additional information on various grants, some of which are time sensitive, can be found on her report along with various complaints received by the Community Board's office during the month.

The United States Postal Service will be begin hiring for temporary holiday workers in July. Applications can be completed by visiting their website at usps.com.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. carried to accept the District Manager's report.

A motion was made by Mr. James Mack, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried by a vote of 27-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions to support the application submitted by the Administration for Children's Services and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the acquisition of property located at 265 Sumpter Street (Block 1520, Lot 51) for continued us as a child care center.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried by a vote of 27-in favor, 2-against, and 2-abstentions to support the application submitted by Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the City Charter, for the site selection of property located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street (Block 3496, Lot 4) for use as a community justice center.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 to discuss its Fiscal Year 2015 going forward approach. At this meeting, the Committee re-visited its purpose, issues, approach, goals, and projects.

The purpose of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same.

In the course of its work, which began with its efforts to revitalize Belmont Avenue and establish a review process for liquor license applications, the Committee has identified several of the underlying issues that perpetuate high unemployment, high storefront vacancies and lack of business diversity. Community Issues are poor retail attraction, lack of employment training, lack of commercial banks, lack of small business resources, lack of tax incentives, high commercial rents, and high real estate taxes.

The task of stimulating economic development in a community that is considered "undesirable" is a major undertaking. In the past six years, the efforts to revitalize the community has been met with additional challenges as a result of the 2009 economic recession, changes in government administration and other local problems. However, in spite of these challenges, the Economic Development Committee, with the assistance of Hunter College and Pratt Institute Graduate Urban Planning Schools, broke ground on the planning work that was necessary to give the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community a future advantage. Today, given its work and increased knowledge, the Committee is more prepared than ever to advocate for economic resources on behalf of the community.

During the Fiscal Year 2015 capital and expense budget requests process which took place in October 2014, Brooklyn Community Board 16 requested the establishment of a local Workforce 1 Center. The purpose for requesting a local employment center is to address high unemployment in the District and make the search for employment more convenient given the challenges that unemployed residents face such as lack of money to travel.

In response to this request, the New York City Department of Small Business Services has stated "We will try to accommodate the request within available resources." and therefore, a meeting

with the Commissioner for Workforce 1 has been requested to determine the next steps for bringing a Workforce 1 Center to the Community.

The members of the Economic Development Committee are committed to the journey of bringing economic equality to Ocean Hill-Brownsville and we invite members of the community with interests in economic development to attend our next meeting which will be Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m..

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

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 11, 2014 and reviewed the health concerns of our community especially the seeming prevalence of mental health issues.

It was resolved that the Committee revisit and examine all the health-related agencies specifically funded by the Federal, State, and City government and request updated reports on their services in the community.

At the May Community Board meeting, she reported that the Committee met with representatives from Parachute NYC Respite, Brooklyn, New York, an alternative to hospitalization in a short-term home-like environment that supports people who are experiencing mental health crisis and helps them restore optimal mental wellness.

They shared information about the services Parachute NYC Respite provides. However, due to the length of our May 27th agenda, the representatives were invited to speak this evening.

The Committee also met with a representative of Longlife Unity Food Cooperative a non-profit Food Coop in our community whose main objective is to provide residents with healthy fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items at minimal package prices.

The Committee decided that residents of Community Board #16 should be aware of and take advantage of the Parachute NYC Respite services and the Longlife Unity Food Coop services.

Representatives from the two programs were asked to come forward to address the audience.

Mr. Gerald Jenkins, in behalf of Mr. Marlie Paul of Parachute NYC Respite, stated that he is a Respite Specialist with the Parachute NYC program. They offer respite services free of charge at 2118 Union Street to persons who are between 18-30 years old, experiencing a first episode of any serious mental illness. First episode is defined as within approximately one year of onset of symptoms.

Respite is available for up to 14 days. Informational flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Next Mr. Omare Kinsey of Longlife Unity Food Coop came forward and stated that the Longlife Unity Food Coop is a food collective which has been in existence since 2009. As a collective, they buy produce wholesale and distribute the fruits and vegetables to their members who contributed to that month's order. They have plans ranging from \$15 to \$30 and are located at Ralph Avenue and Fulton Street.

They were formed as a way to combat the disproportionate health issues facing the Brownsville and East New York communities and unavailability of fresh produce in the communities. They encourage the community to take part in the program.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on September 10, 2014 at 6.00 p.m. They are in need of more members and are encouraged by the community's support.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 with representatives from the African American Planning Commission, Inc. (AAPCI) who gave an update of their proposal (which was first presented to the Committee in March 2010 and the Community Board gave a letter of support to AACPI to develop 125 units of senior housing on City-owned land on Glenmore Avenue between Christopher Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard (Block 3692, lots 1-4, 23-32, 34, 35, and 37).

AACPI has revised their proposal to increase the number of units to 148 (59 studios, 88 one-bedroom, and 1 two-bedroom for an onsite super).

AACPI is requesting an updated letter of support from the Community Board. The Committee recommends that the Community Board provide a letter of support to AACPI.

The Committee also met with a representative from the Brownsville Community Development Corporation who provided additional information on their proposal to develop housing on the former school building site at Rockaway and Blake Avenues. The proposal remains tabled until the Committee meets in September.

Community Solutions has requested a letter of support and resolution from Community Board #16 to submit with their application to the New York State Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the 2014 New York Main Street Downtown Anchor Project. These funds will assist them in developing the Greg Jackson Center for Brownsville to be located at 519-521 Rockaway Avenue.

The Committee submits the following resolution for the Board's approval and vote:

WHEREAS, the Common Ground Communities, Inc. d/b/a Community Solutions desires to apply for financial assistance through the 2014 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the 2014 New York Main Street Downtown Anchor Project; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist the property owner of 519-521 Rockaway Avenue to complete the building renovation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will contribute to ongoing community revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of Community Board #16;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board #16 approves and endorses the 2014 New York Main Street Downtown Anchor Project for assistance prepared and to be submitted by Common Ground Communities, Inc. d/b/a Community Solutions.

In a letter dated May 24, 2014, Rand Russi, Chief Executive Officer of Acacia Network Housing, Inc., notified Community Board #16 of its intent to operate a New York City Department of Homeless Services funded stand-alone transitional residence for 120 adult homeless families at 2416 Atlantic Avenue.

The following letter was sent in response:

Dear Mr. Russi:

I write in behalf of Community Board #16 to acknowledge receipt of your May 21, 2014 letter in which you inform us of your agency's intent to operate a stand-alone transitional residence for 120 adult homeless families at 2416 Atlantic Avenue.

Please be advised that Community Board #16 vehemently opposes your proposal for the following reasons:

 2416 Atlantic Avenue is adjacent to Atlantic House located at 2402 Atlantic Avenue which currently provides shelter for 200 homeless men and is also a DHS – Drop In Center

- 2416 Atlantic Avenue is within a ¹/₂ mile radius of Junius Street Family Residence at 25 Junius Street which provides shelter for 216 families.
- 2416 Atlantic Avenue is within a ¹/₂ mile radius of Liberty Avenue Residence at 49 Junius Street which provides shelter for 203 families.
- 4) 2416 Atlantic Avenue is within a ¹/₂ mile radius of Magnolia House at 1424 Herkimer Street which provides shelter for 200 women.

The close proximity of 2416 Atlantic Avenue to four existing homeless shelters will lend to an over saturation of homeless shelters in our community.

It should be noted that 2416 Atlantic Avenue is also known as King's Hotel.

Since opening several years ago, King's Hotel has provided temporary housing for homeless individuals.

In an effort to stop the proliferation of buildings such as King's Hotel being used as shelters for homeless individuals, the Committee proposes the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee to work closely with the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board to review/entertain all land use matters relating to zoning and existing or proposed usage of property in the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same;

WHEREAS, New York City Department of Buildings code classifies Residential Hotels as Class J-1 and defines Residential Hotels as primarily occupied for the shelter and sleeping accommodations of individuals on a day-to-day or week-to-week basis (e.g. hotels, motels, lodging houses, rooming houses);

WHEREAS, New York City Department of Buildings does not clearly distinguish Class J-1 building occupancy classifications as leisure stay or transient housing stay to make more transparent the intentions of the individual occupancy;

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Community District 16 has a high concentration of homeless housing facilities located in and around the district;

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Community Board 16 is not notified of applications filed with the Department of Buildings to develop homeless housing on privately owned land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board16 does not support the development of Class J-1 Residential Hotels that are developed within the district to be transient housing for the purpose of sheltering homeless individuals;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board 16 seeks the establishment of a separate Class to identify building occupancy classification by the New York City Department of Buildings for transient housing that will be developed for the purpose of housing homeless individuals.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that regarding the request by Community Solutions, the resolution states that the application proposes funding to assist the property owner of 519-521 Rockaway Avenue to complete the building renovation. Who is the owner of the property?

Ms. Meagan Moore, representing Community Solutions, stated that Community Solutions is applying for assistance from the State to purchase and renovate the building. In the application, it states that they are in contract to purchase the building which will close in July 2014. For the purpose of this application, it is understood that Community Solutions is the owner.

Ms. Morgan asked if they are currently the owners?

Ms. Moore stated that they are not.

In a roll call vote, with a quorum present, the vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed, and 22 abstentions on the resolution to approve and endorse the 2014 New York Main Street Downtown Anchor Project.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions to accept the recommendation of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee that the Community Board give a letter of support to AACPI to develop 148 units of senior housing on City-owned land on Glenmore Avenue between Christopher Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard (Block 3692, lots 1-4, 23-32, 34, 35, and 37).

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 23-in favor, 1-against, and 5-abstentions to accept the recommendation of the Committee to approve a resolution to decline support of the development of Class J-1 Residential Hotels that are developed within the district to be transient housing for the purpose of sheltering homeless individuals; seek the establishment of a separate Class to identify building occupancy classification by the New York City Department of Buildings for transient housing that will be developed for the purpose of housing homeless individuals.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee and its recommendations.

Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee reported that the Committee held a conference call on June 19, 2014 and briefly discussed devising a check list for customers to use when visiting nail salons in our community. The Committee will be handing out this brief survey and asking everyone who visits any salons in our area to fill it out and return it to the Community Board or fax it to (718) 342-6714.

In previous presentations, the Committee educated the community on the danger signs to look for in nail salons and asked that you go back and review your notes.

The Committee thanks those who worked with us on the Legislative Committee and hope that you have a safe summer, and when you get your nails done, please fill out the survey form and help us to improve these services in our community.

The Committee will next meet on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

Someone asked if the salons are aware that the surveys will be taking place?

Ms. Pierre stated that a letter was sent to all of the nail salons in the community.

Someone asked if the Committee was working on any plans to have the salons hire from within the community?

Ms. Pierre stated that their focus is on the making the salons safe. Perhaps in the future they may work on plans to make it easier for residents of the community to open their own salons.

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

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, to approve the informational literature for the CIST initiative.

The Committee continued the conversation of the importance of safety in every community.

As Chairperson of the Public Safety, she feels it is important for you to know that based on the numbers provided by arrests in our precinct, 98% of the crimes committed in District 16 are committed by residents of the District. Additionally, a large percentage of the arrests of the residents of the District are here in the District.

With this, she suggests that we do what we (as individuals) can do. That is, to contribute our own behavior to the change of our community. Be kinder, more considerate of others. Be reflective (see yourself). Don't give anyone anything you wouldn't want. Acknowledge the discomfort, and adjust yourself to be comfortable. Maybe the adjustment is physical (remove yourself) or maybe the adjustment is a reassessment of things. Whatever it takes within you is worth a try to reshape the future of our community.

As to the Committee's Year End reporting, she assumed the position of chairperson in January of 2014. Since then, there have been several disturbing occurrences in our District involving victims ranging in age and associations. There have been several actions by organizations in the District that were counterproductive because often times, conflict occurs due to miss or no communication with the many groups.

Considering all of the happenings, large and small, I then took a long, slow look at the district. Taking many things into perspective, I came up with a few facts:

- 1) People are creatures of habit.
- 2) People do better with a process of order.
- 3) Trust and honesty are rare.

These are a few things that were used as baselines for organizing the plans for CIST. The initiative will utilize this information as tools to be effective in communicating, organizing and galvanizing our community.

Please read the information provided for the Community Impact Safety Team initiative.

If you are a member of a group or an individual who would like help form safe zones in our community, please register right away. The sooner we get together, the sooner we can expect the necessary changes to begin.

I'd also like to remind you all to be alert and safe throughout the summer. Keep your eyes on your belongings at the beach (large gathering). Be sure to extinguish all charcoal in the proper place. Dress your children in bright, easy to see colors when on outings. Check on the elderly.

The Public Safety Committee will not have the summer months off. The next meeting will be held on July 2, 2014 here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland St. in Room 103 at 4:30 p.m..

Ms. Helenka Harrison stated that one of the reasons that gangs are able to recruit our young people is that the youth are seeking someone to say positive things about them. They a seeking love, to feel wanted. If we open are hearts to them, children who may not have a two parent household, someone who will help them with their homework, show them how to ride a skateboard or bike the children will behave positively.

Ms. Brewer thanked Ms. Harrison for her comments and invited her to come to a Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee and to its recommendation.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on met on Monday, June 2, 2014 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation who gave updates on:

1) Highland Park-East New York Study which encompasses the area bounded by Mother Gaston Boulevard to Eastern Parkway on the west, Bushwick Avenue to Highland Boulevard on the north, Cleveland Street on the east and Sutter Avenue on the south.

The objectives of the study are:

- a. Identify the travel and traffic characteristics.
- b. Assess existing and future traffic conditions.
- c. Provide detailed traffic analysis to inform of the initiatives.

d. Develop recommendations and improvement measures to: 1. improve safety and traffic circulation; 2. facilitate the use of transit and alternative modes.

A draft final report will be completed in September for presentation to the Community Board.

2) Proposed Brownsville-East New York Slow Zone which encompasses the area bounded by Rockaway Avenue on the west, Sutter Avenue on the north, Pennsylvania Avenue on the east and Livonia Avenue on the south.

DOT is proposing 13 speed humps, narrowing Blake Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street, and Dumont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Powell Street, and lowering the speed limit to 20 miles per hour.

3) Proposed routes for Phase II of bicycle lanes

a) Southbound along Saratoga Avenue between St. Mark's Avenue and East New York Avenue and both directions on Saratoga Avenue between East New York Avenue and East 98th Street.

b) Northbound on Thomas S. Boyland Street between East New York Avenue and Pacific Street and both directions on Thomas S. Boyland Street between East New York Avenue and Hegeman Avenue.

The proposed bicycle lanes will connect to existing bicycle lanes on Pacific Street, Bergen Street and St. Mark's Avenue.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve:

- 1) the proposed Brownsville-East New York Slow Zone, and
- 2) Proposed routes for phase II of bicycle lanes

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. commented that bicycle laws are enforced differently in this community than in others.

Ms. Mack stated that if someone sees rules being enforced differently they should address it in real-time by making a call or making a cellphone video.

Ms. Louise Peltonbusch commented that she has seen bicyclist on the sidewalk in front of Atlantic Center Mall.

Mr. Lamont Carolina asked if there are plans to expand the Citibike program into this community? He is opposed to them coming here as the pricing is prohibitive to many in our community.

Ms. Nupur Chaudhury of Community Solutions stated that there are no current plans to site Citibike share stations in Brownsville.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, announced the following:

In a joint venture with the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association (OHBNIA), our request for a Summer Play Street has been approved by the Department of Transportation.

The play street will be located on Christopher Avenue between Sutter and Belmont Avenues, and will be in operation Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. beginning July 9th and ending August 29th. There is a police surveillance camera located on that block, which ensures safety during our hours of operation. We look forward to this event.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Min. Prince Issachar, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, stated that questions have been asked as to why the Committee made the recommendations that they did for fellow Board members to serve as Executive Officers for one year beginning June 24, 2014.

During their discussion, the Committee considered the following criteria:

- 1) Number of years the member has served on the Community Board.
- 2) Does the member live, work or have a professional interest in the community?
- 3) Is the member actively serving on a committee of the Board?
- 4) Is the member in regular attendance at Community Board and committee meetings?
- 5) Is the member in Conflict of Interest according to the New York City Conflict of Interest Board or appear to be indicative of impropriety? The Committee feels strongly that a member who holds an Executive Office should not be in conflict, nor give the appearance of being in conflict.

After careful deliberation, the Nominating Committee made the recommendations that they did because they felt that the following Board members were best qualified to hold the positions as follows:

Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace 1st Vice Chairperson – Adrainer K. Coleman 2nd Vice Chairperson – Michael Howard Secretary – Daisy Jackson Treasurer – Sarah Hall Parliamentarian – John McCadney, Jr.

Because there were additional nominations from the floor during our May 27, 2014 Community Board meeting, tonight there will be an election for the following positions:

- 1) Chairperson
- 2) 1st Vice Chairperson
- 3) 2nd Vice Chairperson

Please note that the same criteria used by the Nominating Committee applies tonight.

Candidates for Chairperson are Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Pamela Junior, and Lamont Carolina.

The first candidate was Bettie Kollock-Wallace. Minister Issachar asked the Secretary to call the roll and requested that members who are in favor of Bettie Kollock-Wallace for Chairperson, please say "yes" when called.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked if it is not important to know something about the candidates? Can they be asked to give a brief summary of their qualifications, prior to the vote?

Candidates for Chairperson of the Board were invited to speak.

Mrs. Bettie Kollock-Wallace stated that she is a former Principal of Middle School 324. She has been working in the community for the past 20 years and takes delight in doing what she does. She believes that working together we can move mountains and that disbanded we can accomplish little. She is desirous of the Board members' votes this evening.

Ms. Pamela Junior stated she has lived in Central Brooklyn her entire life. She has been a member of Community Board #16 for over 7 years and has served in many capacities. She has her background information to many of the Board members showing her commitment to community volunteering for the past 30 plus years. She has held chairperson and 1st vice-chairperson positions among other volunteer positions. Additionally, she has worked in corporate America and law firms, since she was 21 years old. She has enjoyed the Brownsville community since she was a little girl. She has lived on Decatur Street for the past 45 years. She see many issues affecting this community. So much so, that she actually had an unsuccessful run for City Council to represent this community. However, her passion for the community remains

intact. She continues to perform volunteer work. She ask for the support of the Board in her quest to serve as Chairperson.

Mr. Lamont Carolina stated that he has been a member of the Board since 2012. He is a Brownsville resident. He has worked as Director of Voter Registration for the Obama presidential campaign with responsibility for the entire state of North Carolina. He created a plan which led the registration over 300,000 new voters. He is an organizer and worked as a staff member for then Senator Obama's presidential campaign in Ohio in 2008. He has worked for the City Council and currently, works to get people insured through Obamacare (The Affordable Care Act). He wants to be the Chairperson of the Board and give it a new sense of direction. Although he may look young and may not be as seasoned as his opponents, if elected, he promises to work tirelessly in behalf of the community, as he has done in all his endeavors. He is also a member of the Ocean Hill / Brownsville Youth Coalition.

Someone asked Mr. Carolina if he currently lives in Brownsville? Does he walk around Brownsville?

Mr. Carolina stated that yes he is from the community. He went to P.S. 165 and 322. He went to four different high schools in six years and was fortunate to be able to attend college at Keystone College in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is a product of the Fresh Air Fund program. And yes, he does walk the streets of the community every day.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu ask Ms. Junior if she also lives in the District?

Ms. Junior stated that she lives on Decatur Street one block off the border of Community District #16. She was appointed to the Board by the Borough President Marty Markowitz, in 2007. Why? Because of all of affiliations with organizations that serve the District. Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development, for which she served as Chairperson for 8 years, has a good 250 apartments in this community. She has served as a past chairperson for the African American Planning Commission, Inc. which the Board voted to give a support letter to, earlier this evening. She has done numerous things for this community and has a stake in the community.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated for the record that Ms. Junior neither works nor lives in the District.

There being no further discussion with regard to the candidates for the position of Chairperson, Minister Issachar asked the Secretary to call the roll and requested Board members who are in favor of Bettie Kollock-Wallace for Chairperson, to respond in the affirmative when their name is called.

Ms. Kollock-Wallace received 20 votes in favor, 6 against and 7 abstentions with 33 Board members present.

The Secretary then requested Board members who are in favor of Pamela Junior for Chairperson, to respond in the affirmative when their name is called.

During the roll call vote for Ms. Junior, several discussions began to take place regarding whether certain individuals names were called to vote or not causing turmoil in the room.

Senator John Sampson stepped forward and suggested that members take an accounting of the members present and voting to determine the number of eligible voters. Once that number is determined, the Board can further determine the number of votes any one candidate will require to have an unsurmountable lead. Furthermore, once any candidate attains this "magic number" there is no need to proceed further.

The next position was for 1st Vice Chairperson. The nominees are Adrainer K. Coleman and Genese Morgan.

Someone asked why the members are not being given an opportunity to vote for Mr. Carolina.

Minister Issachar stated that Chairperson Kollock-Wallace has already received an unsurmountable number of votes, making the need for further voting unnecessary.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman stated that she was born and raised in the community. She attended P.S. 41, 323, J.H.S. 275, and Boys and Girls High School. She holds a Bachelor's Degree and is

currently pursuing her Master's Degree. She is a current member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee and has been a member of that Committee for the past 7 years. She is a Union Representative for DC37 and chairperson for poll workers.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that she is the current Chairperson for the Economic Development Committee and has been since 2009. When she first became Chairperson of the Committee, she devised a plan of action. Things that, at minimum, needed to be done to bring about economic development to the community. She has worked along with Hunter College and Pratt Institute to develop a plan to start to have a conversation on development. She is a roll her sleeve up and get the job done type of person. She loves living in Brownsville. She lives here not because she has to live here, but because she chooses to live and she believe in the community. She is about showing people that they have options for a better life.

She is about sustainability. Sustaining our community. She is of the opinion that if you do not have a conflict of interest, that is an issue. There should be something in the community that you are a part of and are needed to get the job done. If something comes before the Community Board in which you have an interest, you state it to the membership and abstain from voting.

She is a reliable person. She believes that the persons who are selected to be in the Executive Board positions should be reliable – they need to be present at every meeting and on time in order to take care of the business of the Board.

Ms. Celina Trowell stated that she is newly appointed and is disappointed at how this vote is taking place. She understands that persons should be familiar with the by-laws and the Board's procedures but as a new member she was not afforded an opportunity to read the by-laws.

Mr. Lamont Carolina stated that he is also disillusioned by the procedure.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu stated that she understands Ms. Morgan's concern about conflict of interest and believes that such a position should not keep one from being a member of the Board, provided they recuse themselves when a matter concerning a venture in which they have a stake comes before the Board. However, the Nominating Committee takes the stand that with regard to the Executive Board, it should do all that is possible to avoid even the slightest appearance of impropriety.

Ms. Morgan stated that, first and foremost, the rules are not an individual's rule they are the bylaws of the Board and the City Charter. As such, they do not preclude anyone from being a member of the Executive Board because they have other interest. As a Chairperson, one should announce their involvement with any organization that has business before the Board and recuse themselves. Other than this, the only persons who are barred from presenting to the Board are licensed persons, i.e.: lawyers, engineers, and architect, who by law may not present to any Board which they belong to or before one year after the end of such a membership. Personally, the organization to which she belongs which might be looked upon as being a conflict, was borne from the work she does for the community.

Minister Issachar asked the Secretary to call the roll and requested that members name the candidate who they wish to elect when their name is called.

With 26 members being present and voting Ms. Adrainer Coleman was elected 1st Vice Chairperson with 12 votes in her favor, 11 for Ms. Genese Morgan and 3 abstentions

The next position was for 2nd Vice Chairperson. The nominees are Michael Howard and Andrea McCullough.

Mr. Michael Howard stated that he been a member of the Board for about 25 years and has served on and been chair of a number of committees during that time. He is the current Chairperson of the Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee. He also sits on the Board of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium. He has run classical and jazz music concerts at Medgar Evers College for the past 10 summers.

He considers his opponent a friend and admires her desire to be involved.

Mr. Andrea McCullough stated that she has only been on the Board for two years. However, in that short time she and the organizations that she is affiliated with have done many things to uplift the community. She is the Chairperson of the Ocean Hill – Brownsville Coalition of

Young Professionals which was recently awarded, through the Department of Youth and Community Development, a vacant lot to develop into a community cultural art center. She also sits on Borough President Eric Adams' Nonprofit Matters Committee.

Minister Issachar asked the Secretary to call the roll and requested that members name the candidate who they wish to elect when their name is called.

With 24 members being present and voting Mr. Michael Howard was elected 2nd Vice Chairperson with 12 votes in his favor, 10 for Ms. Andrea McCullough, and 2 abstentions.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Waleek Boone of Medgar Evers College.

Mr. Boone stated that he is here this evening to encourage the community to have our young men and women attend institutions of higher learning. He invites the young people to visit him at the Medgar Evers Campus for a tour.

Ms. Frances Brown announced that a coalition is being formed to provide the special needs population of the District with a link to services. She hopes to have additional information in September.

An announcement was made inviting youth ages 18 to 24 years old with a high school diploma or a GED to apply for a year up internship which may lead to an excellent career.

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