

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MARCH 24, 2015

Attendance

David Alexander	John McCadney, Jr.
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Leslie McCalla (A)
Margaret Brewer (E)	Andrea McCullough
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	Genese Morgan
Lamont Carolina (A)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Adrainer Coleman	Marie Pierre
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Norman Frazier	Mattie Pusey (A)
Daniel Goodine (A)	Linda Rivera
Rose Graham	Melaine Rochford (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Sarah Hall	Beatrice Saunds (A)
Jessie Hilliard	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)
Michael Howard	Celina Trowell
Allene Ingram (A)	Ernestine Turner
Min. Prince Issachar	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Daisy Jackson (E)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Patricia Winston
Carl Joseph	Sylvester Yavana (A)
Derrick Joseph (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Pamela Junior	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Eula Key (E)	Councilmember Darlene Mealy
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Alicka Samuels for Hon. Latrice M. Walker
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Stringer
Albion Liburd (E)	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
Deborah Mack (E)	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson
James Mack	
Yolanda Matthews	

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and gave an invocation.

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

IN THE MATTER OF the City's Preliminary Budget Statement and Community District Register for Fiscal Year 2016. The Hearing is to obtain public comments on City agencies' responses to Community Board 16's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015 (A copy is available for review at the Office of Community Board #16).

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, stated that in the fall of each year, Community Board #16 submits a list of capital and expense budget items to ask City agencies to fund projects and programs in the District.

The capital budget allocates funds for physical improvements, land acquisition, and major equipment. For example, improvements to parks are capital projects because it costs more than \$35,000 and last more than 5 years.

The expense budget allocates funds for the ongoing operations of the City. Examples are personnel, supplies, equipment, and energy costs.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to get your reaction to the City agencies' responses to our budget requests so that we can prepare a written response to the Office of Management and Budget.

The Budget Register was reviewed and Mr. Howard stated that the response for many of the requests was that the agency will try to accommodate the request. He suggested that the Board unanimously send a reply that the requests be given stronger support; otherwise, the requests will likely receive the same response in the next fiscal year. Among the requests that received the “will try” response was a request to install a skateboard ramp at the Betsy Head Playground.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that at a recent scoping session for the Saratoga Ballfield there were a number of youth who requested a skateboard ramp. The Department Parks and Recreation stated that they could not accommodate this request at the Saratoga ballfield because the park was not big enough to accommodate this. They will however, accommodate the request at the nearby Ocean Hill Playground which has an area which is large enough and underutilized.

The review of the budget requests continued with Mr. Howard highlighting those items which agencies stated that they would try to accommodate within existing resources. He requested that the audience continue to review the budget requests and submit their comments to the Community Board’s Office.

Mrs. Peltonbusch stated it is important that we support the request to add accessibility to the subway stations in the District and our police precinct.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

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

- 1) Parents are encouraged to register their children who were born in 2011 for pre-K.
- 2) Applications are being accepted for the Summer Youth Employment Program which is open for all youth age 14 to 24 who permanently reside in New York City.
- 3) The Brownsville Youth Court is now recruiting for its new cohort. The Brownsville Youth Court trains teenagers 14 to 18 years old of age to serve as advocates, jurors, and judges. Members hear real life cases of teens who have committed low-level offenses.
- 4) An employment opportunity with the Brownsville Community Justice Center.
- 5) National Grid’s Multifamily Energy Saving Education Seminar which will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at Metro Tech.
- 6) The Neighborhood Housing Services is hosting a free foreclosure intervention prevention open house which will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Canarsie library.
- 7) An announcement by the Department of Sanitation that New Yorkers will receive a \$100 fine for placing electronic waste at the curb as of April 1, 2015. Electronics can be recycled by taking them to the stores where they were purchased.

Additionally, the report contains a number of grants that are available. She noted that some of them are time sensitive and should be reviewed as quickly as possible.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Hon. Genine D. Edwards from the Supreme Court of Kings County.

Judge Edwards stated that she is a Civil Court Judge as well as an Acting Supreme Court Justice. She has been on the bench for 10 years and is a graduate of Midwood High School, Long Island University, and St. John’s School of Law. Prior to coming on the bench, she worked as a lawyer for both the State and the City of New York as well as in private practice.

She is here tonight to inform the community about Civil Court. Many people go to the court and don’t know what to expect. The Civil Court is located at 141 Livingston Street in downtown Brooklyn. It has the jurisdiction to hear cases that are up to \$25,000. Anything over that is adjudicated at the Supreme Court. The Civil Court is called the People’s Court as there are many people who represent themselves. They get information from a resource center located on the 4th floor of the court. Volunteer attorneys are located on the 11th floor of the building. Resources also available online.

The Civil Court adjudicates cases involving personal injury matters, property damage claim, credit card debt, contract disputes, if you have an issue paying your utility bills, and landlord-tenant issues. There is also a Small Claims Part, that hears cases where the value of damage is

less than \$5,000. An example of a Small Claims Court case would be if a mechanic you hired did not fix your car. The two sides go into court and present their side of the story.

She stated that if you find yourself at the wrong end of a lawsuit, don't be afraid. You have rights. But it is a bad idea to ignore the suit. If someone sues you, answer the lawsuit. If you do not answer, you can lose your rights.

Judge Edwards cited examples of how defendants suffer when they choose to ignore a lawsuit filed against them. If a resident, for example, fails to pay a National Grid bill and the gas company sues them for the money, the company will often come in and seize the gas meter if the defendant ignores the lawsuit.

Someone asked if the court also hears cases involving city agencies?

Judge Edwards stated that it depends. In most cases, they are adjudicated within the agency. If you are not happy with the result, you may file an Article 78 within 4 months of the result. A Notice of Claim against the city must be filed within 90 days of the incident. You have up to one year and 90 days after which to file a claim.

Minister Prince Issachar asked how can one have a judgment filed against them if you don't sign for the document. How does the court know that you actually received it?

Judge Edwards stated that you will find out about a judgement if it is served on you or it may appear on your credit card. When you do find out, you must make a motion to say that you were not properly served.

Mr. David Alexander asked should you respond to someone who calls you on the telephone to say you are being sued?

Judge Edwards stated that there are many scams around. She advised against responding to the telephone requests. If someone is suing you, they must file written documents with the court.

Ms. Linda Rivera asked if you are sued for a credit card debt and go to court, can you enter into a payment plan or must you pay all the money at that time?

Judge Edwards stated that oftentimes the creditor will reach out to the debtor. She recommends that they see the judge first, as there have been instances where unscrupulous attorneys have gotten the debtor to sign agreements that go against their interests. There have been times when agreements have been made to cut the debt in half or more.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the part of the bill that has been cut in half will be written off as a bad judgement and a 1099 is issued at the end of the year?

Judge Edwards stated that she never heard of this.

Judge Edwards left information about the Civil Court on the information table.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Economic Development Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 and is encouraging members of the community to take advantage of opportunities throughout the community that support workforce development and small business growth. As we embark upon the spring and summer seasons, please keep in mind that:

- The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation is now a NYC Small Business Services Department Community Partner. CBEDC will conduct initial employment screenings for applicants interested in employment through Workforce1. CBEDC is located here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street; Brooklyn, NY 11212 on the 2nd Floor. For more information, please call (718) 498-4513.
- The Dream Big Foundation is seeking to recruit local entrepreneurs with interests in starting a local business in Brownsville. Entrepreneurs will receive instruction and mentorship from accomplished entrepreneurs throughout New York City with the possibility of venture capitalist funds being made available to help upstart the

business once a solid business plan has been developed and the entrepreneur is groomed for implementation. For more information, please contact Pernell Brice at (646) 241-1462 or Pernell.Brice@thedreambig.org.

- The Brownsville Partnership is seeking vendors for the spring re-opening of the MGBPOPS Pop-Up Marketplace on Mother Gaston Boulevard. Interested vendors will be required to attend vendor orientation workshops. The Brownsville Partnership is located at 519 Rockaway Avenue; Brooklyn. For more information, please contact Cherisse Abasali at (929) 252-9299 or mgbpops@cmtysolutions.org.
- The East Kings County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will host as a Health and Wealth Expo on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at United Community Centers, 613 New Lots Avenue; Brooklyn from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact EKCeconddev@gmail.com.
- The Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce will host its Brooklyn launch on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street; Brooklyn, NY 11201. For more information, please contact LaShawn Allen-Muhammed at enybiz@gmail.com.
- Lastly, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program for youth ages 14-24. Interested individuals can apply online at www.nyc.gov/dycd or if you have further questions about SYEP, contact NYC Youth Connect at (800) 246-4646. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2015.

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. We invite members of the community with interests in economic development to attend our next meeting which will be Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 with Ms. Iris Wells-Lindsey a representative from CenterLight Healthcare that provides an-inclusive Care for all delivered by a team of health care professionals to help you continue living safely at home. She shared some details of the programs they provide.

The Committee decided that residents of the District should be aware of and take advantage of the CenterLight Healthcare services. A representative of the agency has been invited to the next Community Board meeting to elaborate in detail. However, because of scheduling issues, the CHP representative will be at the April meeting instead.

Ms. Denise Babb, a representative of CAMBA's iCARE program, is present to share details of the program as presented in our Committee February report.

The Committee also discussed the positive outcomes of the last Town Hall meeting and the lack of transparency from the Department of Homeless Services. It was resolved that a follow-up Town Hall meeting be held in May. This Town Hall Meeting would be a collaborative effort of our Community Boards #16, CB #5 and CB #3 since all our communities are inundated with shelters disproportionately.

Our next meeting will be on April 8, 2015 at 6.00 p.m. We are in need of more members and always encouraged by your support. Please join us in the service of our community.

She introduced Ms. Babb.

Ms. Babb stated that she is from CAMBA which is based here in Brooklyn. It offers programs in the areas of economic development and education, youth development, HIV and AIDS services, legal services, and housing services. They have offices throughout the five boroughs of the city.

She works for the iCare program which stands for Initiating Change Around Reproductive Empowerment, as well as the IMRI program which means Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, a Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) program which works with youth around health issues as well as Healthy Families. These four programs are based in Brooklyn at 2224 Church Avenue. They go into homes of individuals who are pregnant or parenting and work with the families until the child is 5 years old. They also do workshops on breastfeeding, childhood development, and pregnancy development. They work with women between the ages of 12 and 44. The goal of the program is to help families have healthy children.

Ms. Babb left pamphlets about the programs on the information table.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman 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 Committee met on March 10, 2015 with representatives from L&M Development and C&C Management, the owners and managers of Marcus Garvey Village, a 625 unit housing development bounded by Chester Street, Dumont Avenue, Bristol Street, and Riverdale Avenue.

The representatives shared their plans for the renovation of the units, upgrading of the exterior lights, installation of security cameras, landscaping, and reprogramming of open space. They also plan to centrally locate the mailboxes.

They will partner with community groups to provide case management, projects with youths to keep them engaged, an urban farm project to grow vegetables and fruits for a farmer's market.

L&M Development recently entered into a joint venture with New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to purchase 10 buildings. One of the buildings is Saratoga Square which consists of 250 units of studios and one-bedrooms which are occupied mostly by seniors.

C&C Management is the onsite managers. We were informed that rents aren't going up. People are not going to be displaced. There are protections that will extend to at least 30 years. NYCHA will remain as part of the ownership structure.

The buildings have seen a lot of neglect and disrepair over the past 30 years because funds have not existed to renovate the property and deferred maintenance has built up.

There are plans to renovate the kitchens and bathrooms, replace boilers, renovate the exterior of the buildings, upgrade landscaping, and renovate the senior center.

On Friday, March 20, 2015, I attended the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Henry Apartments which consists of 134 units of affordable housing being built on vacant land bounded by Broadway, Bainbridge and Decatur Streets.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that she spoke to Mrs. Blanche Peltonbusch and Ms. Yolanda Matthews who are residents of Marcus Garvey Village and they informed her that the work promised has not been performed. She informed them that the Community Board's office would follow-up with the management.

Mrs. Peltonbusch and Mr. Norman Frazier commented on problems that they have had with work done by the repairmen.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked them to document their complaints.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on March 16, 2015.

The Committee has been informed that Public Advocate Letitia James will be introducing legislation in the City Council and State Legislature to improve safety conditions in nail salons.

The Committee reviewed Senator Montgomery's legislative agenda which list the bills she will be supporting in 2015. Many of the bills were introduced in the previous session and will be reintroduced and many new bills are being drafted. Several of the legislation are:

- S1371 –This bill establishes a statewide youth advisory board for adolescents in foster care. The board shall be a vehicle for youth advocacy and input on policies affecting youth in care.
- S1376 –This legislation strengthens tenants’ rights and reinforces landlords’ obligations to provide tenants with rent receipts.
- S1409 –The bill amends and enacts various provisions of law to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from sixteen to eighteen so that youth who are charged with a crime may be treated in a more age appropriate manner.
- S3568 –In the event a teenager is arrested or issued an appearance ticket, this legislation seeks to ensure that parents are notified of such an occurrence and their child’s whereabouts, unless doing so would endanger the child.

The Committee is in receipt of a request from Board Member Andrea McCullough who is requesting that the Community Board support the following two pieces of legislation:

- 1) Resolution No. 620 –Calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A0344 in relation to Mitchell-Lama and project-based Section 8 development.
- 2) Bill No. A0344 –This legislation protects those tenants who reside in Mitchell-Lama and project-based Section 8 buildings whose owners have bought out of the Mitchell-Lama program or who no longer have Section 6 contracts with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A summary of the specific provisions of the bill and the full text of the bill are attached this report that is in each member’s folder.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that this morning, there was an especially alarming incident that occurred at the Betsy Head Playground. At approximately 10:00 a.m., a 10-year-old girl was approached by an approximately 36 to 40-year-old male who attempted to hold her hand. He starts complementing her on her appearance. Young lady runs home and tells her mother who contacted the police. The suspect is described as being a black male with dreads and dressed in a blue jacket, light blue jeans and boots. They are in the process of putting together a composite drawing of the suspect.

Beginning tomorrow morning, there will be a task force in the area seeking to gather information with regards to the incident. Mrs. Peltonbusch mentioned support earlier. This is the type of support that they need; the community’s support in providing information to them. Anyone with information about the incident can reach them at 73rd Precinct or by calling 1-800-877-TIPS.

Regarding crime in the Command, they are not doing too badly. They are preparing for the summer season because as the weather warms up, they know that crime has a tendency to increase. In the area around Broadway and Halsey Street, there were a number of robberies that are of concern to him. He teamed with the 83rd Precinct, Transit and Housing Police and they were able to catch a live robbery. Whether or not the perpetrator was responsible for all of the robberies in the area remains to be seen. They will be able to determine this in a couple weeks depending on whether or not the trend continues.

Mr. William Boone asked what is being done to ensure that children make it home safely after 4:00 p.m. when the Beacon Program is in operation?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that the task force will run both in the morning and in the evening. The evening hours are 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. In addition, the school corridors will be covered.

Someone stated that they often get emails warning of sexual predators in the area and she wonders how concerned she should be?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias asked where is she receiving emails from?

She stated that she did not know.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that they have a sexual offender monitoring unit which tracks offenders that move into the community. When an offender move into the community, they are required to report to the precinct. But since he does not know who the emails are coming from, cannot comment on it. To the best of his knowledge, no one in the Police Department sends out these emails.

Ms. Linda Rivera asked if the robberies along Broadway are emanating from the trains?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated at first he thought they might be related to the subway, but further investigation determined that it was likely locally-based with neighborhood folks preying on neighborhood folks.

The person who asked about the emails stated that the emails were coming from child alert. It stated that you should click on a link to protect children from child predators.

Ms. Morgan stated that someone she knows also receives alerts through subscription.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil stated that if the emails are unsolicited you should be wary of clicking on any links contained within.

Someone mentioned that there are several apps that allow you to be notified when a sexual offender moves into your neighborhood; there are also several websites where you can subscribe to be notified periodically.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he will look into this and that she can reach out to him tomorrow to find out the results of his inquiry.

On Monday, March 30th, they will hold a Community Crime Forum at Boys and Girls High School, located at 1700 Fulton Street. Topics will include youth programs, crime prevention, police training, and new police technologies. The technology currently being deployed by the Police Department is growing in leaps and bounds. As you will see in the coming months, the police will be techies. They will have tablets to enable them to have information relating to the building where they are responding to. They will be able to see if there's been a domestic violence incident or any other crimes at the location. To him, this is a good thing as it will lower the level of apprehension in the police officers' minds as they approach a location.

Ms. Morgan expressed concern with police officers relying on the information that they see on a tablet. People move and an officer may have information that is out of date and approach a location expect to find one thing and is met with another situation.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated individuals will still have to be seen in order to serve out warrants. The information that the tablets offer the officers will be used more for guideline. If for instance, they see that reports of domestic violence have been reported previously from the location, they will approach with caution. It's possible that the perpetrator may be behind the door telling the victim they better not report an issue, however, the officer may notice a frightened look upon the face of the victim and act accordingly. Information is power.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that a quorum was now present and requested motions on the previous items.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to support the recommendations of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee regarding tonight's public hearing item.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

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.

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

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the recommendation of the Legislative Committee to support Resolution No. 620 and Bill number A0344.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Genese Morgan, and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Genese Morgan, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 2, 2015 with representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation and stakeholders to discuss a preliminary design for the Saratoga Ballfield which is located on Thomas S. Boyland Street between Dean and Pacific Streets.

This meeting was a follow-up to a community listening session held on January 21, 2015 where suggestions were made to renovate the ballfield into an active and passive playground. The Mayor has allocated \$3 million to develop the site.

The architect for the project made a presentation on the comments given at the meeting on January 21, 2015.

Suggestions for the site include:

- 1) Active Recreation- sport, playground, and athletic facilities for basketball, track and field, and adult fitness.
- 2) Passive Recreation- seating, garden, and game tables.
- 3) Site Amenities- artwork and mural, water fountain, bike rack, lights, trees and plantings, wheel chair accessibility, and park access.

There will be another scoping meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at P.S 178, located at 2163 Dean Street (in the staff lounge) between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Saratoga Avenue. Everyone is invited to come out and give comments on the preliminary design for the park.

Motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on March 18, 2015 at the Rosetta Gaston Senior Center, located at 460 Dumont Avenue.

The Committee arranged to have a guest speaker, Sarah Rapaport, Deputy Director of the Alzheimer's and Caregiver Resource Center and Ana Collado, Senior Community Liaison at the New York City Department for the Aging, to speak about the causes and effects of Alzheimer's disease and resources available.

Alzheimer disease causes the brain cells to die and memory loss occurs. Nationally, approximately 5.4 million people have Alzheimer disease. One in 8 persons with Alzheimer's is 65 years of age or over. Alzheimer disease is the fifth leading cause of death in the elderly after heart disease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and diabetes.

Alzheimer disease is not a normal part of aging, there is a progressive decline, communication changes, behavior changes, and deterioration in self care

When a family member has Alzheimer disease, it affects everyone in the family. It is important that family and friends interact with the person who has Alzheimer's and realize the person's limitation.

The services of the Alzheimer's and Caregiver Resource Center are free and strictly confidential.

The services include:

- 1) Individual assessment
- 2) Referrals to medical diagnostic centers, community-based services and support groups
- 3) Guidance on medical, legal and financial issues, including public benefits
- 4) Information on long term care options
- 5) Assistance with the nursing home placement process
- 6) Advocacy

For services, contact the Alzheimer's and Caregiver Resource Center at (212) 442-3086.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on March 12, 2015, with representatives of the Pitkin Avenue Business and Improvement District and the New York City Department of Transportation who presented a proposal for a demonstration program known as Street Seats.

Sal and Paul's Pizzeria at 1686 Pitkin Avenue has applied for a Street Seats which is temporary seating placed in the street. It will remove one parking space in front of the business.

Street Seats is a seasonal program which operates from April to November. The seating will not be for the exclusive use of customers at the pizzeria but for anyone who wishes to take advantage of the seating.

The Transportation and Franchises Committee recommends that the Community Board approve the Street Seats application for the location at 1686 Pitkin Avenue.

At Community Board #16's October 28, 2014 meeting, the Community Board supported an application by the Brownsville Community Justice Center to place a mural in the cul-de-sac at Osborn Street and Belmont Avenue. They are requesting to move the project to the Watkins Street cul-de-sac instead because they have been approved by the Department of Transportation to sponsor a plaza in the Osborn Street cul-de-sac.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support the request by the Brownsville Community Justice Center to place a mural on the Watkins Street cul-de-sac at Belmont Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that in preparation for the 2nd Annual Black Women's Footprint Forum that was held this past Saturday, March 21st, the Women's Committee met on Tuesday, February 17th, Thursday, March 5th and Thursday, March 12th via conference call.

The Forum was held at the Brownsville Heritage House. Dr. Cedric Olivera presented on the subject of Incontinence: Causes and Solutions for both Men and Women. Although we were anticipating a much larger turnout, the intimate setting provided the opportunity for those who were present to ask Dr. Olivera some very personal questions in reference to incontinence (as well as questions in reference to sexual intimacy) which allowed him the opportunity to be very candid, upfront and honest with us. The two hour presentation was extremely informative and well received.

The Committee thanks the Brownsville Heritage House for allowing them to utilize their space as well as allowing the Committee to place banners for the event both inside and outside of Heritage House. The Committee also thanks Costco (Long Island City location) for their generous donation of cases of water, sodas and chips.

She took a moment to acknowledge the members of the Women's Committee who were extremely instrumental in helping with putting the Forum together. Danny Goodine, who was also their photographer, John McCadney, Genese Morgan, Maxine Dotson, Ernestine Hodges, Deidre Olivera-Douglas, Elana Martins, and Shemene Monique Minter

She also extended a thank you to District Manager Viola Greene-Walker for her support with the Forum and her suggestions during the many conference calls.

The Women's Committee will be hosting another Forum on Saturday, June 20th, again at Heritage House, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This Forum will discuss seniors "loneliness / social adjustment" issues from the perspective of both the secular (real world) and the church (religious world) and the challenges that some of our young girls in the community are facing, to include sexual abuse via gangs and pimps. If there are any topics that you would like for us to include in the June 20th Forum, or if there are specific speakers that you would like for us to invite, please contact Ms. Junior at either bk16@cb.nyc.gov or at (718) 385-0323. The Committee invites you to join the Women's Committee, as your voice is the voice of the community, and they are here to serve you.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr. and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Christopher Lundy representing Congressman Hakeem Jefferies.

Mr. Lundy reminded everyone that there are 17 days left to file an application for the Summer Youth Employment Program. We often state that there are no summer jobs for our youths; so it is important that the youth complete these applications to get as many of these jobs as possible.

Beginning June 1st, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will begin raising the rents of NYCHA residents who are not paying at least 30% of their income as rent. Increases will be made over a three-year period. If you are already paying 30% of your income on rent, your rent will not be affected.

Congressman Jefferies seeks community support to pass HR 645 which is a bill which will prevent companies from using a credit report to deny you employment. He urges that you reach out to your friend and family throughout the nation to urge them to contact their representatives to ask them to support this bill.

They are organizing a forum on Section 3 to educate NYCHA residents on how to become vendors on NYCHA contracts.

He can be reached at (718) 237-2211.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel asked which committees does Congressman Jeffries sit on?

Mr. Lundy stated that Congressman Jefferies is a member of the Budget, Judicial, and Education Committees. This is a subject of pride for them as generally, freshman and sophomore Representatives do not sit on committees.

Mr. McDaniel stated that since Congressman Jefferies is a member of the Education Committee, can he assist the community with much needed vocational training programs?

Mr. Lundy stated that such request should be submitted as a written proposal that can be presented to the member.

Mr. Charles Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, reminded the audience that the enrollment period for individuals who have never enrolled in the affordable healthcare program, may do so by April 30th without incurring a penalty. You may call (855) 355-5777.

You may also speak to a Navigator or enroll in the program at the Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center (592 Rockaway Avenue at Blake Avenue).

Free income tax preparation will be available for individuals who earn \$30,000 or less and families with total incomes of \$70,000 or less. The service will be available at the Flatbush Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, located at 22 Linden Boulevard, on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and at the Flatbush YMCA, located at 1401 Flatbush Avenue, on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Both are walk-in sites.

He can be reached at (718) 287-1142.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked on which committees does Congresswoman Clarke sit on and is she the chair of any committee?

Mr. Jackson stated that she does not chair any committee. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committees.

Mr. Ladson asked what is her position on education?

Mr. Jackson stated that she shares similar views with other elected officials serving the central Brooklyn communities. They meet once a month to strategize on issues affecting our communities. The group includes elected officials on all levels from Congress to City Council.

On the Congressional level, the current atmosphere is such that it difficult to get any meaningful legislation to the floor to even be discussed, much less voted on.

He encourages everyone to reach out to their friends and family members who reside in battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Nevada, Ohio, and North Carolina to not only go out and vote in 2016, but to bring along as many other voters with them as possible.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson announced that their Justice Newsletter is now available. This is the edition of the newsletter which will be published on a quarterly basis and present pertinent information regarding their office. It is also available electronically by subscribing to it on their website at www.brooklynda.org. You can opt out at any time.

He reminded the audience about Project Reset which was introduced to the community by Deputy Inspector Iglesias at last month's Community Board Meeting. Project Reset allows 16- and 17-year-olds arrested for the first time for low-level offenses to participate in the program instead of going to court. Upon successful completion of the program, their cases will be closed and sealed.

This is a pilot program taking place in the 73rd Precinct as well as the 20th Precinct in Manhattan. District Attorney Thompson is a strong proponent of this initiative because he recognizes that in communities of color, young men and women commit offenses for minor infractions and end up with criminal records. They then become adults seeking employment and are unable to get the job because of something they did as a 16 or 17 year old. He does not want that happening.

This program is voluntary; the youth do not have to participate. As the father of a 17 year old, he knows that sometimes it is difficult to get them to things that may benefit them. It is two to three days out of their life, will allow them to have a clean record upon completion, and perhaps teach them something.

Youth may ask about the program at the Brownsville Justice Center's new offices at 519 Rockaway Avenue

Mr. Charles Ladson asked when are 16 and 17 year olds charged as an adult?

Mr. Jones stated that they are charged as an adult dependent on the seriousness of the crime. It is up to the District Attorney to decide how the young person will be prosecuted.

Someone asked for the telephone number to the District Attorney's Action Center.

Mr. Jones stated that the Action Center is a place where someone can call to provide tips about suspected crimes. This information is important to the District Attorney and has led to arrests

such the recent arrest of the gun trafficker who was using his employment with an airline to transport guns. The telephone number is (718) 250-2340.

Ms. Alicka Ampry-Samuels, representing Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, stated that Assemblywoman Walker has been lobbying for funds for the community on the basis of it being without representation for so long. The Speaker of the Assembly agreed to allocate \$1,500,000 to her District. She only had about two days to submit proposals. They scrambled around, looked at the budget requests from the Community Board and reached out to the Board's office. They were able to nominate requests for the Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center for renovation of their dental clinic, the Bed-Stuy Coalition Against Hunger on Fulton Street for an expansion of their program, the Brownsville Library on Glenmore Avenue for their security systems, P.S. 178 and 155 to create media libraries, and a few others.

While they have submitted these requests, it is not guaranteed that they will be funded. She encourages the community to continue to submit their requests for capital projects with a cost of at least \$125,000. She also asked that they write to the Legislature in Albany with requests to support the funding for Brookdale Hospital; because even though the Governor has stated that he will support this, it is not set in stone.

There is also information about the Community Schools. Three schools, P.S. 298, 284, and Brooklyn Collegiate, are listed to be renewal schools under the Mayor's Initiative.

Assemblywoman Walker wants to implement State Committee Advisory Boards. One of the committees is the Corrections Committee Advisory Board and a Legislative Committee Advisory Board, as well as an Education Committee Advisory Board. Please contact her if you are interested.

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated she left copies of Assemblywoman Walker's newsletter and several other pieces of literature regarding issues that may be of interest.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that for many years the Board has asked that an elevator be installed in P.S. 178 to assist in transporting autistic students and the request has always been denied. Can Assemblywoman Walker help get this done?

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated that this is an issue that has been raised and discussed with the School Construction Authority. She is unsure of what allocations were placed for this in the school's Councilmember's budget, but it can be discussed further. They have, however, received a request from Mr. Henry, the school's principal, for \$250,000 for a media library.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel asked if it is true that they will be opening a District Office on May 1st?

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated that they have signed a lease for space at 400 Rockaway Avenue between Pitkin and Glenmore Avenues and expect to move in around May 1st.

Someone asked if they will have Advisory Board meetings on the second Saturday of each month?

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated that they will have meetings but it may not be on the second Saturday.

Mr. Richard Nelson, representing Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, announced that in recognition of Women's History Month, they will host their Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award and Reception, this coming Friday, March 27th at 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, located at 450 Eastern Parkway. You may RSVP by calling the Senator's office at (718) 284-4700. You may also call the office with any issues of concern.

Mr. Cory Provost, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer, announced that this month marks the 15th month that Comptroller Stringer has been in office. He distributed a newsletter which highlights some of Comptroller Stringer's accomplishments thus far. There is a flier that shows some of the things the office can assist with. There is also a list of services for which they are seeking contractors. The flier explains how one can do business with the City as a contractor. They encourage people to reach out to them to learn how they can apply.

Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson has led the country in overturning wrongful convictions. Part of the duties of the Comptroller's Office is to settle all claims against the City.

The wrongfully convicted often file a claim against the City upon their release and the Comptroller has set out to expedite this process for them. He has already settled on a number of claims. This past January, a claim by three wrongfully convicted individuals who served a combined sixty years in prison were awarded approximately \$17,000,000.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, reported that Borough President Adams held a number of events at Borough Hall during the past month including a Black History Month program, a Colon Cancer Awareness Event, a Saint Patrick's Day Celebration. This evening they held a Town Hall featuring the Department of Homeless Services which is seeking to enroll landlords in a program to rent to persons currently living in homeless shelters. He noted that just because someone is homeless does not mean that they are a bad person.

The Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce will induct Ms. LaShawn Allen of Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Borough President Adams has pronounced April to be Financial Literacy Month and there will be workshops held each Wednesday covering a range of financial subjects. On April 8th, there will be a financial literacy event geared towards youth.

On April 8th, there will be an event celebrating Garifuna culture.

He went on to list a number of other events to take place at Borough Hall and left fliers on the information desk.

Borough President Adams was saddened to learn of the death of eight members of the Sassoon family in the Midwood neighborhood, and especially saddened that there were no active smoke detectors in the home when only two weeks ago, the nation was reminded to change the batteries on the detectors when they changed their clocks for daylight saving time. He brought with him tonight six smoke and carbon dioxide detectors for anyone who may need one and more are available free of charge at Borough Hall if needed.

Their Constituent Services Department is available to help Brooklynites at (718) 802-3777. He can be reached by calling (347) 976-1692. Information may also be found on their website at www.brooklyn-usa.org where you subscribe to their email list.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Beacon Program which is located at 210 Chester Street and the Van Dyke – Cornerstone Center (392 Blake Avenue). He reminds the community that there are still open slots for the summer camp program. Currently, the Beacon Program serves youth in fourth to ninth grades and the Van Dyke Center serves those in first through sixth grades. The Beacon office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Van Dyke Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. He can be reached by calling (347) 522-3999.

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