

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – APRIL 28, 2015

Attendance

David Alexander	John McCadney, Jr. (E)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Leslie McCalla (A)
Margaret Brewer	Andrea McCullough
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	Genese Morgan
Lamont Carolina (A)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Adrainer Coleman	Marie Pierre (E)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Norman Frazier	Mattie Pusey (A)
Daniel Goodine (E)	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 (E)
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 (E)	Sylvester Yavana
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	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
Deborah Mack	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 7:12 p.m. and gave an invocation.

There was a roll call of the Board members and a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

- 1) The Fire Department of New York is celebration of its 150th Anniversary with an afternoon of open houses on Saturday, May 2, 2015.
- 2) The Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest.
- 3) The Prospect Park Zoo Discovery Guide program and the New York Aquarium Discovery Guide and Docent Program are accepting applications from candidates who are age 14 and over.
- 4) Noncustodial parent who have a current child support order or child support debt that they cannot afford to pay, may be able to get help from the NYC Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE).
- 5) The Mayor's Community Affairs Unit will be hosting a workshop on how to apply for New York City grants on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.
- 6) The Brownsville Youthmarket is recruiting for employees. The application deadline is May 8, 2015.

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 Ms. Wendy Perrata from the New York City Department for the Aging.

Ms. Perrata stated that the Department for the Aging provides client services for aged persons in New York City. They provide resources, advocacy, and employment services for senior citizens. The particular department she works with is the Grandparent Resource Center which provides resources for grandparents who are raising children who are not their own. They have been in existence since 1994 and are now supported through the Mayor's Action Plan for Safer Neighborhoods. The initiative has eight centers in Brooklyn which are located in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) facilities, including Van Dyke and Brownsville Houses.

Community Advocates are available at the sites one day a week. They work along with eleven partner agencies which include the New York City Police Department, and the Human Resources Administration.

Mrs. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if they offer assistance with the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and do they offer seniors assistance with obtaining furniture?

Ms. Perrata stated that SCRIE can be applied for through the Department for the Aging.

Mrs. Peltonbusch complained that her building's managers have told them that they do not accept SCRIE. They want the tenants to participate in their subsidy program which she believes will leave the tenants without any support should they be forced to leave their apartments.

Ms. Perrata stated that she will bring this issue to her colleagues who are more versed in SCRIE and Mrs. Peltonbusch can call her to follow-up on the question as well as assistance with home furnishings.

As an example of some of the things that they can do, she related a situation wherein a grandparent living in a NYCHA unit with a child that was not her own and not on the lease. The grandparent needed window guards for their apartment but was fearful of asking for one because the child was not on the lease. They were able to intercede in her behalf by knowing the situation and asking for the window guards to be installed based on the grandchild spending a lot of time with the grandparent without saying that the child actually lived there. Their concern is simply the safety of the child.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jeneen Johnson from the Human Resources Administration's Office of Child Support Services.

Ms. Johnson stated that the information that she is presenting on this evening may also be found in the District Manager's Report and in flyers that are available on tonight's distribution table.

HRA (Human Resources Administration) offers three child support assistance programs geared towards the non-custodial parent. The non-custodial parent is a parent that is paying but is not in the household. The programs are only for non-custodial parents who owe funds to the Department of Social Services – meaning that their child(ren) are on or were on public assistance. This does not include monies owed to the custodial parent by order of the courts. It only applies to money that is owed by the non-custodial parent to HRA.

The first program, Modified DSS Order (MDO), can help non-custodial parents earning less than the state poverty level (currently \$15,775) and owe more than \$50, reduce their payment by \$25 to \$50. They can do this by visiting the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) at 151 West Broadway (in Manhattan); they do not need to go to court.

The second program is the Arrears Cap which can put a limit on accumulated child support debt if the non-custodial parent can show that he or she earns below the federal poverty level which is currently \$11,670. The non-custodial parent can now begin the application process online and then complete the process at their office.

The third program, the Arrears Credit Program, allows the non-custodial parent to receive a yearly credit of up to \$5,000 towards the child support debt owed to HRA for up to three years and earn a total credit of \$15,000 for each eligible case.

In addition to the information on these programs, there are fliers on tonight's distribution table with information on obtaining paternity test for \$40 per person and information on LIFT which is an organization that offers legal representation and answer any questions you may have regarding child support issues free of charge.

It is now required that information on both parents be on applications for public assistance where there is a child included on the application. An applicant cannot say that the other parent drops by from time to time with groceries or the like but is not involved. If you are seeking cash assistance, HRA will seek to recoup the money from the non-custodial parent.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Dr. Torian Easterling, Assistant Commissioner for the Brooklyn District Public Health Office.

Dr. Easterling stated that he is newly appointed to the office and wanted to introduce himself to the community. The Brooklyn District Public Health Office(BDPHO) may be thought of as an extension of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene which is located in Long Island City. The role of the BDPHO is to target and mobilize resources to areas which is they have identified as having high health disparities. These areas include Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick, East New York, and Brownsville. Activities that they are participating in include adopting bodegas – to demand that they carry fresh foods and make sure the produce is visible and easily accessible to shoppers. They are working with the Department of Transportation to ensure that there are safe walking paths and bike lanes available to the communities. There a number of things they are doing in the Brownsville community to be accessible to the residents.

He works a team which includes Ms. Beverly Johnson who has been working diligently in the community. They will continue to actively work in the community.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015. The meeting was attended by Daniel Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District and Dave Hubble of the Brownsville Partnership's 5,000 Jobs Campaign.

The Committee met with Daniel Murphy to discuss concerns around shopping experiences along Pitkin Avenue such as customer service, return policy, employment opportunities and bag check policy and quality goods. The Committee will continue discussions with the Pitkin Avenue BID to attain Districtwide policies that can be offered to business owners as a benchmark for store policies that are considered respectable for residents of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community.

Additionally, Mr. Murphy is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board to apply for public funds available through the NYS Main Street Program which would allow the Pitkin Avenue BID to offer façade improvement grants to a limited number of businesses that agree to help beautify the commercial corridor by upgrading their storefront façades. The Committee has agreed to continue discussions at the May Committee meeting which will include arriving at appropriate qualifications to gain acceptance into the façade improvement program which will include the necessity for employment of local youth and residents.

The Committee also met with Mr. Hubble to get an update on the 5,000 Jobs Campaign. The 5,000 Jobs Campaign is actively working to help place residents into employment opportunities; however, the Campaign is currently undergoing a re-organization to focus more on the broader Brownsville community. As part of the re-organization, the Brownsville Partnership will implement a Career and Jobs Center on the ground floor of the Greg Jackson Center at 519 Rockaway Avenue. The re-organization will roll-out with four (4) different drivers as follows: 1) Employer Engagement 2) Resident Outreach 3) Workforce Development 4) Media.

The 5,000 Jobs Campaign is expected to re-launch in August 2015.

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. CBDEC is located here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street in Room 205. 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 May 2015 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. For more information, please contact Cherisse Abasali at (929) 252-9299 or mgbpops@cmtysolutions.org

The Brooklyn Chapter of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with LaGuardia Community College is seeking businesses to sign up as SYEP work sites for the upcoming 2015 work season. For more information, please contact LaShawn Allen-Muhammed at enbiz@gmail.com.

The mission 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. Members of the community with interests in economic development are invited to attend our next meeting which will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that Committee met on April 14, 2015 with residents of Marcus Garvey Village and C and C Management regarding complaints received about renovation work being done in their kitchens and bathrooms.

Complaints were noted by C and C Management which committed to following up and resolving complaints.

It was suggested that there be an ongoing dialogue between management and residents to resolve outstanding issues.

The Committee also met with representatives from the Department of City Planning who reviewed proposed zoning for the Ocean Hill section of the East New York Plan.

City Planning proposes to rezone:

- 1) Area bounded by Sackman Street between Eastern Parkway and Truxton Street where there are residential units from M1-1 to R6A.
- 2) Both sides of Herkimer Street where there are residential units between Sherlock Place and Havens Place, and both sides of Sackman Street and Jardin Place where there are residential units between Herkimer Street and Atlantic Avenue from M1-2 to R6B and R5B.
- 3) South side of Fulton Street from M1-2 to M1-4/R7D.
- 4) North side of East New York Avenue from Junius Street to Christopher Avenue, west side of Christopher Avenue to Liberty Avenue, north side of Liberty Avenue to East New York Avenue, east side of Mother Gaston Boulevard to Dean Street to Sackman Avenue to the south side of Pacific Street.
- 5) North side of Pacific Street at Jardin Place to Van Sinderen Avenue, along Van Sinderen Avenue to Fulton Street up to industrial uses down to Havens Place from M1-2 to C4-5D.
- 6) South side of Broadway between Eastern Parkway and Van Sinderen Avenue from M1-1 to C4-4L.

City Planning will present their rezoning proposal to the community at the May Board meeting.

She requested that anyone seeking additional information on the Committee's report, contact the Board's office.

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

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a joint teleconference call with the Health and Human Services Committee and the Public Safety Committee, on April 13, 2015 and discussed at length the proposed legislation introduced by Senator Perkins and his colleagues to address the issue of Segregated Confinement (Solitary Confinement). S2859 seeks to amend the correction law in relation to restricting the use of segregated confinement and by creating alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options. The Committees discussed some of the negative effects that segregated confinement could have; not only on the individual, but also on the community as a whole. The Committees looked at this situation as it affects our youths in particular as in the present situation, there is little or no contact with their families and how difficult it would be for these individuals to reenter into their neighborhood. It was decided that it would be necessary to interview someone from our community who had experienced solitary confinement to further strengthen the Board's position on supporting this law and it was unanimously suggested that a proposal be sent to our legislators as to why it is important to support this bill. On April 21, 2015, the District Manager and Ms. Pierre as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee met with someone who was in segregated confinement for seven (7) years and were startled with the findings. The following are their findings:

- In most cases, segregated confinement was used as a corrective tool, and many inmates end up in segregated confinement for instance if they are loud mouths or pointing out some injustice, just to give a sample reference.
- Medical conditions are mostly ignored
- Religious rights are violated.
- Meals are contaminated by the time it reaches the individual and special diets are ignored even when stated by a doctor.
- Inmates are treated very harshly

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on May 11, 2015 in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, 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 on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, the Committee met with representatives from Community Solutions who presented a portion of the Mayor's Action Plan which speaks to improvement efforts in the Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses of NYCHA and to ask for the participation of the Public Safety Committee along with P.O. Miller and new recruits from Transit Bureau 30 who are cooperating with NYPD's and the community's effort to create stronger relations.

On March 27th, Ms. Brewer met with Rev. Grubb of True Holy City of Refuge who expressed concerns with the area surrounding the church, considering the number of homeless programs concentrated in this particular area. It illuminates the community's concerns as well as raise concerns for the program clients. Are their lives being improved by the programs provided for them?

The Committee, along with the appropriate agencies, will take a closer look into the matter.

On Saturday, April 18th, she attended the Action Lab held by Community Solutions at 519 Rockaway Avenue. This forum was held to create a 90-day action plan to positively affect Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses.

On Monday, April 20th, she attended the Community Corners meeting held at Mt. Ollie Baptist Church. The group planned the monthly schedule as well as agreed to distribute the Public Safety Committee's Community Pledge. During the meeting, she mentioned to Community Corners that The Peace Keepers were offering training for organizations who are interested in street monitoring. Community Corners was very receptive and she agreed to arrange the meeting.

This is an attempt by the Committee to unify the safety efforts of the organizations in the District.

On Tuesday, April 21st, Ms. Brewer attended the PSA2 monthly meeting wherein District Attorney Kenneth Thompson along with members of his staff presented a shooting activity map of Brooklyn where disproportionately, most of the activity was in our neighborhoods.

He also mentioned having ShotSpotter technology in our area. The technology will narrow down the area where the shots are fired, however, we still need the community members to report wrong doing that affect our community, for the safety of all of the residents of District 16.

The Public Safety Committee will meet again on May 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

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

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

Deputy Inspector Iglesias reported that overall crime is down 3.5% for the past 28 days and 14.4% year-to-date. They are seeing a 23% increase in grand larceny. That spike is due to a resurrection of bank fraud. In this instance, it is complaint fraud; wherein people are being recruited by fraudsters to tap into their account and then file a false claim, in return for a kickback from the fraudster. A Grand Larceny Taskforce has been created and will be charging individuals who file fraudulent reports to their banks.

They are also experiencing a spike in shootings. For the 28-day period, the numbers are the same as last year, however, for the year they have had 13 shootings but 6 were in April. Of the 6, 3 have been closed for arrest and 3 remain open. The one which is their greatest concern, took place at Tilden Houses. A group of youths engaged in a fist fight at Livonia and Rockaway Avenues and someone got stabbed. Forty minutes later someone is shot in Tilden Houses. They have good leads on a suspect and arrest is imminent.

Regarding ShotSpotter, it is a technology that has been developed to triangulate the location of where a weapon has been fired. There is video to go along with the triangulation. If the weapon was fired from a rooftop, they are able to tell this as well. As was the case recently, when a weapon was fire from a roof, video showed them that the perpetrators were there and used the stairs to go down into an apartment. They were not able to retrieve the gun, but did find shell casing onsite.

As was mentioned in the Public Safety Committee Report, they need the help of the public to apprehend criminals. With recent incidence of the shots being fired from Howard Avenue during a testing phase of the technology, the recording sounded like a battle taking place in Fallujah and yet they did not receive a single 9-1-1 call. This past Saturday, another incident with 13 shots fired and again not one phone call to 9-1-1. We cannot get so desensitized by these incidents that we are not calling 9-1-1 for help. He has asked why this would be at venues such as tonight and has been told that would be callers are concerned with being identified as the caller. While ShotSpotter is a good technology, he is very concerned that residents are not calling 9-1-1.

On a more positive note, last Saturday, they had a cleanup day at the location of the old 65th Precinct building on East New York Avenue near Rockaway Avenue. Afterward, they held a softball game with the youth and police and a barbeque at the end. They want the community to see the officers as human beings. He hopes to do more events during the summer to promote positive interaction between the police and the community. He believes that this is key to effective policing.

Mrs. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if the ShotSpotter has images of the shooters? Why are the police unable to arrest the individuals?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that the state of technology does not provide them with high resolution images. The technology is good but community involvement makes it even more useful.

Someone asked what will happen with the old precinct building?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he did not know. He also stated that in the near future there will be additions made to the current precinct building which will allow it to host meetings such tonight's meeting. The Municipal Credit Union will have a kiosk with an ATM in the lobby and the lobby overall will be made more community friendly.

Mr. C. Aaron Hinton asked why should the police have to rely on 9-1-1 calls when there should be officers on post in the Impact Zone who can call in the shots fired?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he can be two and a half blocks away from where a .22 caliber weapon is fired and not hear the shot. As to officers in the Impact Zone, they are not deployed 24 hours a day, but we do have concerned citizens present at all times.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if more officers will be placed on patrol?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he would love to have an officer on every corner. If the elected officials provide a budget for hiring additional officers, he will use them.

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 21 to begin preparing for their Saturday, June 27, 2015 "1st Annual Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum" which will be held at Heritage House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The theme will be "Loving Me in Spite of Myself" in which they will have guest speakers who will address issues that these young women face on a daily basis to include child abuse, domestic violence, pimps targeting young girls and young girls being sexed into gangs. To attract the young women to the Forum, there will be a female poetry / rapper slam. They will also be awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes, of which the Committee is still under discussion as to what the prizes will be.

The Committee is aware that many of the youth throughout our community have experienced adversities in which their self-esteem has been tarnished and we want to let them know that we care, and that we want to put them in touch with social service agencies and educational facilities that can give them tools to feel confident and empowered. If there are any additional topics that you feel that we need to address at the Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum, please contact either her or our District Manager, Viola Greene-Walker at bk16@cb.nyc.gov or (718) 385-0323.

The Women's Committee has also created a Facebook page entitled "Ocean Hill - Brownsville Women's Committee" as an additional means to get information to the residents of Community District #16 and its surrounding communities.

The Committee invites you to join them as advocates for the community.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that according to the Board's by-laws, during its April meeting, a Nominating Committee is to be appointed. The following Board members have been asked to serve on the Committee: David Alexander, Daisy Jackson, Marie Pierre Linda Rivera, and Patricia Winston.

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back to our May 26, 2015 Board meeting a slate of names to fill the positions of Executive Officers for the period of June 2015 to June 2016.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that the Board has been approached by an electrical company that is seeking to apply for a grant to do a feasibility study to establish a microgrid in the Brownsville community. As you may be aware, especially if you live in public housing, we have been experiencing brownouts in the community. The first phase of funding for the study requires that the applicant secure a letter of support from the local community. She is asking if the Community Board would consent to provide such a letter. She expects the group to make a brief presentation about the proposal at next month's meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to supply a letter of support to electrical company's application for funding to conduct a feasibility study for a microgrid in the Brownsville community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Alicka Ampry-Samuels, representing Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated that at last month's Community Board meeting she spoke about the budget issues being discuss in Albany. She is pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2015 the budget was passed and they were able to secure \$700,000,000 in funding for healthcare initiatives in Brooklyn. This is excellent news and she sends kudos to all who participated in letter writing and petition signings to get this done. However, she wants to state that it is not over. She was reading an article in a recent copy of the New York Post wherein it was stated that the portions of the \$500,000,000 that the Governor had stated would be used for Brookdale Hospital would be going to numerous other hospitals in Brooklyn. This is not correct. In order to properly operate Brookdale Hospital needs approximately \$2,000,000 per bed and they have 300 beds. That means they need \$600,000,00 and we must continue our writing campaigns to ensure that all of the funds go to Brookdale.

On tonight's distribution table are fliers with a listing of some of the legislation that Assemblywoman Walker has introduced in Albany. In the past four months, she has introduced 20 pieces of legislation. One of them, the crime victims legislation, was passed last week. It simply states that the families of victims of crime must be notified when their victimizer is up for parole. Currently, this not the case. The issue is near and dear to Assemblywoman Walker as her brother was shot and killed in front of 10 Amboy Street and when his killer was released from prison they had no idea that he was back in the community, until they ran into him on the streets. This does not mean that she is not supportive of some brothers and sisters who are incarcerated getting an opportunity for parole, it simply ask that the victim's families be made aware when they are up for parole.

She has also been named Chair of the Renewable Energy Committee an area in which a lot is happening as indicated by the request for letter support for the microgrid study mentioned earlier.

The grand opening of her Rockaway Avenue office has been delayed as the space is not complete and elevator have not been installed.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if there were any plans for the now closed St. Mary's Hospital and the old P.S. 125 building at Rockaway and Blake Avenues?

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that the Board recently received a notice from the Department of Buildings that the school building will be demolished.

Ms. Nan Blackshear stated that she is Borough President Eric Adams' Director for Brooklyn North. Yesterday, Borough President held an award ceremony for all Community Affairs Officers in the Borough. He was joined by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Commissioner William Bratton as they celebrated the hard work done by these officers in their communities.

On Thursday, April 30th in the Community Room at Borough Hall, Borough President Adams will live stream the All Star Global Concert taking place at the United Nations Educational and Cultural Headquarters in Paris, France. The concert will feature twenty extraordinary artist from around the world and Borough President Adams invites you to join him.

She announced that the board membership process is drawing toward its end and letters will be going out by the end of May to members about their reappointments and to those who have applied and will be newly appointed.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked was the prom dress and tuxedo give-away only held for one day?

Ms. Blackshear stated the give-away was done in collaboration with an organization and while only held for one day, it took many days of preparation. She will take Ms. Davis back to Borough President and perhaps additional days can be held next year.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked that Borough President Adams be informed of the plight of the old P.S. 125 and ask that he intercede to keep the landmark building from being demolished.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy thanked those who offered prayers in her behalf while she was recently hospitalized. She informed the Board that Wanda Mercado is no longer on her staff. She introduced Ms. Mercado's replacement, Toni Bennett. She urged everyone to contact Ms. Bennett regarding issues concerning the community.

She recently toured the neighborhood with her Chief of Staff to assess vacant land in the community. We have to be careful with this land. There is a single developer that is trying to acquire all of the vacant land. There are sites where hotels are being built without any input from the City. She asked that if you see a building going up without permits please call as this is one way that we can stop it.

As a member of the Women's Caucus, she attended an event at City Hall where a Jewish women's group told stories of the Holocaust. She would to see something similar done telling of the slave trade.

She also recently hosted her Greg "Jocko" Jackson Film Festival. It was a wonderful event. Wendy Williams was in attendance and she has internships available that should be considered as we begin to think about summer jobs for our youth.

She announced that her monthly Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, at 3:00 p.m. In order that she may accommodate some of the Sabbath observers in her District, she will try to host some of her meetings on Sundays.

She has spoken to the Mayor about the attempt to place a court system here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Not a juvenile court, just a court system. This will place the 73rd Precinct, the juvenile detention center, and the court all in close proximity to one another. During her tour, she pointed out locations such as the old precinct building that would be better suited for the court system.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that he had an opportunity to visit the justice center in Red Hook on which the proposal for this building is based. He was pleased by what he saw on his visit. The judge showed concern for the people brought before him. He thinks the idea would work here as well.

Someone asked if they should call her office if they see construction taking place without posted permits?

Councilmember Mealy stated that they should call 3-1-1 first and should also call if there are posted permits that don't match the dates when it is being done.

Mr. Sylvester Yavana asked if it would not be more efficient having the justice facilities in close proximity as opposed to having to shuttle people back and forth over greater distances?

Councilmember Mealy stated that we may as well build a tunnel between the buildings. She does not feel that they should all be on one square block. The building on East New York and Rockaway Avenue is not that far away. There are other locations where we would not need to outlay money into but yet they want to build here. There was a plan to rebuild this building for housing.

On a side note, we need to pay attention to what is happening to our senior housing. NYCHA has sold a 50% interest in Saratoga Square. Now they are saying that a building that has been used as senior housing for fifty years, was never given an official status of being senior housing.

She has expressed to the Mayor that she is against the high density rezoning being proposed. There are laws in place to prevent the changing of the fabric of our neighborhoods how can a 20-story be placed next to an 8-story building and keep the fabric of the community.

Ms. Pamela Junior stated that she too has visited the Red Hook Justice Center and approve of the plans to place one here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. She hear the Councilmember saying that she does not want it here, but has she asked the community if they approve of it?

Councilmember Mealy stated that there were people that went to City Hall to express their dislike for the plan.

Ms. Junior stated that the proposal was brought before the Community Board overall well receive she has never received an invitation to hear anyone speak against it.

Ms. Mealy stated that she holds her Advisory Board Meetings every second Saturday for seven years and welcomes anyone to come and voice their opinions. As an elected official she has a say in the matter. We can save \$10,000,000 by building the center on East New York Avenue why should we spend taxpayer money needlessly.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, reported that they recently held a press conference wherein they announced the indictment of some landlords of property in Bushwick. The landlords entered their tenants apartments under guise of effecting repairs, smashed the apartments up to a point where living in them was very difficult. This was done in an effort to force them out. In the past, this has been treated as a landlord – tenant issue and left in Housing Court. District Attorney Thompson found a law that will allow him to prosecute these individuals. If you know of any other landlords doing this in Brooklyn, please call the District Attorney's Office at (718) 250-2340.

Next Wednesday, they will host a workshop to teach ex-offenders how to start their own business. Even though they have a record, they can still have a business.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program who announced that there are still openings for their summer program for middle schoolers. They are located at 210 Chester Street and are open Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Everything they do during the camp is free of charge.

This Saturday, they will host a job fair at Medgar Evers College from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Someone asked if there was an income limit for children to attend the free summer camp.

Mr. Boone stated that the program is fully funded and that there are no income requirements. The camp will run from the first Monday of July and go through August 31st. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, from the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams made additional announcements of events to take at Borough Hall.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. C. Aaron Hinton who stated that he is the President and CEO of a youth organization name Deuces. Deuces is a non-profit organization based towards empowerment and community development. Their mission and goal is to save our youth, save our streets, and squash the beef. They strive to rebuild an impoverished community by helping meet the common needs of the youth. They teach them to respect themselves and their communities. In collaboration with other community youth organizations they will hold their first Squash the Beef event on June 27, 2015, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Carter G. Woodson Playground and are asking for the support of the community.

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