

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 26, 2015

Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Albion Liburd
Shirley Baisden (A)	Deborah Mack
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (A)	James Mack (E)
Margaret Brewer	Yolanda Matthews
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	John McCadney, Jr. (E)
Aaron Brown (A)	Andrea McCullough
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Genese Morgan
Anthony Clark (A)	Marie Pierre
Adrainer Coleman	Mattie Pusey (A)
Carlos Diaz (A)	Linda Rivera
Brenda Duchene (A)	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Celina Trowell
Norman Frazier	Ernestine Turner
Danny Goodine (E)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Rose Graham	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Pat Winston
Sarah Hall	Sylvester Yavana
Jessie Hilliard	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Michael Howard (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Prince Issachar	Hon. Latrice M. Walker
Daisy Jackson	Hon. Scott Stringer
Carl Joseph	Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron
Pamela Junior	Charles Jackson for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Eula Key (E)	Roopesh Ramjit for Hon. Rafael Espinal
Danny King	Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Maurice Philips for Hon. John Sampson
Charles Ladson (A)	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Carolyn Lee	
Quardean Lewis-Allen	

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.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City Fire Department and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the site selection of property located at Sterling Place between Howard and Saratoga Avenues (Block 1467, p/o Lot 22) for use as a rescue facility.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that this proposal was previously presented at the February 2015 Community Board meeting. This public hearing is a continuation of the ULURP process and Mr. David Harney of the Fire Department will give a brief presentation on the proposal.

Mr. Harney stated that he is the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Support. He is spearheading this project in behalf of the Fire Department. Present with him are members of Rescue 2.

He urged the audience to watch out for their neighbors and themselves as the warm weather approaches. Stay well hydrated and if they have not changed the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, to do so soon. He related the incident of seven children in the Sassoon family of Midwood who lost their lives in a fire where there was no working detector.

The project they are proposing will move Rescue 2, Brooklyn's elite fire company, from their current location on Bergen Street at Schenectady Avenue to Sterling Place near Saratoga Avenue. Their current facility is over 125 years old, too small, and deteriorating. Today's firehouses are typically 20,000 square feet. The current Rescue 2 facility is only 3,500 square

feet. Rescue 2 currently has two rigs, but only one is housed at their facility. The other is housed two miles away which limits their response times.

The plans (which should be finished sometime in June 2015) call for a new two-story building that will be approximately 19,000 square feet. The first floor will have two apparatus bay doors and be able to store not only the two rigs they currently use but also a RAC (Rehab And Comfort) unit which is used for firefighter rehab during a job as well as a High Axle Vehicle which provides firefighter access to locations impacted by flood or blizzard that would ordinarily be impassable. The remainder of the first floor will house the companies' bunker gear, a fueling station for their apparatus, a kitchen, and a lounge. Additionally, there will be a training tower which allow the firefighters to practice things such as high angle rescues while remaining in service in the community, as opposed to having to go out of service and going to training facilities on Randall's Island.

The upper floor will houses dormitories, a small gym, offices, lockers and bathrooms (including separate facilities for female firefighters).

The design includes many green infrastructure elements such as a "green" roof and the use of geothermics.

The state of the art building will provide better response time for not only Community District #16, but the borough at large.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Harney for this presentation and closed the public hearing.

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

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

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

- 1) The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is building right-of-way bioswales and stormwater greenstreets to reduce Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharges into New York City's waterbodies.
- 2) Brookdale Hospital's Annual Community Health and Street Fair on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Rockaway Parkway between Linden Boulevard and Church Avenue.
- 3) The Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest.
- 4) Announcement by the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) of exam schedule for School Safety and Traffic Enforcement Agent.
- 5) Recruitment announcement for becoming a New York City Firefighter.

Additionally, the report contains a number of grants that are available, some of which are time sensitive.

A motion was made by Ms. Yolanda Matthews, seconded by Min. Prince Issachar to accept the report of the District Manager.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Martin Maher from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Maher stated that he is the Chief of Staff for Brooklyn Parks.

A few months ago, as part of the Mayor's Community Parks initiative, they held a listening session regarding Saratoga Ballfields. They wanted to hear ideas about what could be done at the playground. They received many good ideas and to incorporate as many of them as possible into the plan that will replace a barren asphalt field into a park that will offer recreation to community residents of all ages. He introduced Mr. Allen Juba of MKW and Associates.

Mr. Juba stated that he is a Principal of the firm as well as landscape architect and they have been retained by the Parks Department to help them come up with a design for Saratoga Ballfields. The site is just over 1 acre in size.

He displayed schematic plans of the project showing that there will be four general entrances to the park with a fifth used only by the adjacent school. The western portion of the park will feature a full basketball court as well as a half court, a running track surrounding an artificial turf play area, benches, and trees. The eastern portion will feature a water spray area, play equipment for ages five to twelve years old, benches, and exercise equipment.

The site will also contain various plantings, a meandering walkway connects one side to the other, and game tables. They will remove the 12 foot chain link fence and replace them with 4 foot steel picket fences. The children's play area will have a garden theme with sprayers and play equipment painted in green and brown hues. The safety surfaces will be multicolored tiled that can be arranged in various patterns such as a checkerboard pattern. Plantings will have varying aspects throughout the year; so that even during winter, the park will not look barren. The removal of much of the asphalt that now covers the site will make it considerably more permeable and return water back to underground aquifers.

Someone asked why the design does not include comfort stations?

Mr. Maher stated that a comfort station would cost about two million dollars. The budget for the entire site is 3.9 million dollars. A comfort station may be able to be installed at a future date.

Ms. Genese Morgan asked how long are the play equipment and synthetic turf expected to last? It is important that money be budgeted for the upkeep of the equipment and turf otherwise it will deteriorate and become unusable.

Mr. Juba stated that most of items used in the plan are Parks Department standards and have been tested and expected to have a long useful lifespan.

Ms. Morgan asked if this is true for the synthetic turf as well? Experience has shown that some of the artificial turf that were installed in the past started to come up after as little as two years.

Mr. Maher stated that the Department has some artificial turfs that have been in use for 15 and 20 years. With proper maintenance they can be expected to last 20 to 25 years. He also stated that the proposed field will not be used for sports such as football and soccer, it will be used primarily as a play area for young children and as such expected to last for 30 years.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if park hours will be posted and where will the 4 foot fences be?

Mr. Maher stated that as a Department they are moving towards lower fence heights around their parks in an effort to make them neighborhood friendly. Park hours will be posted at all entrances and will likely be from dawn to dusk. The park will be lockable but they will not be locking it most of the time as they don't have the manpower to do so. They will work with the police to enforce the hours. Ideally, they would like to have community residents form a "Friends of" group and use the park as they find that the more the park is utilized for positive activities the less negative ones take place.

Mrs. Blanche L. Peltonbusch asked if they are the same group working on Betsy Head Playground? If so, how is that project coming along?

Mr. Maher stated that the Imagination Playground being built at Betsy Head Playground is a different project with different architects. That 4 million dollar project is slated to be completed in December.

Someone stated that as a public venue, there will be events hosted there and as such the inclusion of a comfort station should have been given a greater consideration. The plans, while beautiful, are failing in this manner.

Mr. Maher stated that they will take the lack of comfort stations into consideration when permitting events.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Comptroller Stringer that he likes to come and hear directly from communities from time to time. As Comptroller, it is his duty to watch the City's bottom line – to ensure funds are spent wisely. When he speaks to people regarding fiscal health in these economic times, he hears two different conversations. One from Park and Fifth Avenues, and another from everywhere else.

He decided to issue a study to determine what would happen in the City if the minimum wage was raised to \$15.00 per hour. The findings of the study were that raising the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour would pump ten billion dollars into the pockets of 1.5 million people around the City. The City would change tax brackets. There would more money for people to pay for rent and clothing. It would radically change the City.

If the City were to then change the way that it spends the \$18 billion spent on supplies by increasing the amount targeted at minority and women owned businesses (M/WBEs) from 4% to 30 % it would change income inequality in communities like Brownsville around the City.

His office conducted a review of 31 City agencies and gave them a letter grade based on compliance to Local Law 1 which was intended to facilitate the ability of M/WBEs to conduct business with the City. The City received a D grade because the agencies were not spending in the local communities. His own office received a C grade which he promised he will improve within the year.

As the person who safe guards the City's pension fund of 170 billion dollars representing a portion of the retirement funds for 715,000 people, he was asked why do we give 500 million dollars to Wall Street to manage these funds? What do we get in return? His office conducted a review of the last ten years and found that in the City's public market investments (bonds and stocks) the City made 2.1 billion dollars over ten years. The City never calculated the value of the fees paid to fund managers. His study found that to make the 2.1 billion dollars the City paid 2.05 billion dollars. In other words, the fees were 96% of the earnings. Had the City invested in a passive account they would have made the same amount of money. As Comptroller, he intends to have a different conversation with Wall Street. They cannot continue to take the fees paid to them without showing value.

Finally, they have launched their Boardroom Accountability Project. Currently, shareholders of American corporations are not allowed to nominate directors to their boards. The Boardroom Accountability Project is nationwide initiative wherein his office and other large institutional investors are demanding the right to nominate directors in the companies in which they invest.

This ability will cause the boards to become more diversified and stop being "too pale, too male, and too stale". It is not only about civil rights, it is about diversity of thoughts. People who go to the same schools and live in the same neighborhoods will tend to have similar ideas. This group think mentality is what got us Enron and Worldcom. By diversifying the boards, it will bring about checks and balances. The next battle for the economy is taking place in corporate boardrooms and he is proud to say that his office is leading the way for change.

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

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he is happy to report that things are going well. Overall crime for the period is even. However, grand larcenies are up 64%, robberies are down 11%, and shootings are down 4%, although there was a spike last week with three shootings. The shootings occurred all along Mother Gaston Boulevard (Stone Avenue) between Howard Houses and Brownsville Houses. Two of the three are believed to be connected. They are investigating these two and hope to have suspects in custody within the next two weeks. They expect to arrest the other shooter shortly.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that recent news reports have said that there have been telephone snatches taking place along the "J" line. Can the Deputy Inspector elaborate on this?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that cellphone snatches are actually down. What they had been seeing along the "J" line are reports of thuggish behavior. Fights were taking place between individuals from different schools in the area. He is deploying more officers to the school corridors when schools let out and this seems to be working.

Ms. Morgan stated that she has been noticing officers patrolling the parking lot of Food Bazaar on Junius Street, however, it is rare that she sees them near the schools.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he likes to be specific when he does things. He requests that if we have an issue with a particular school or location that you provide him with specific information. In this manner, you can help him help you.

Ms. Morgan stated that she makes her comments because part of feeling safe in our neighborhoods is seeing a police presence where you travel. It troubles her that she see the presence at Food Bazaar which is a private entity but not as much near our schools which are public entities. The police are publicly funded and should be covering public facilities.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he cannot speak on what she observed at Food Bazaar. It may have been due a specific incident. He knows that last year there were some issues in the area but that has been resolved. He asks that if there is a particular school that she is concern about, she reach out to him and he show her what resources he has there.

Mr. C. Aaron Hinton stated that this past Saturday, he and some cohorts were engaging with pedestrians along Pitkin Avenue to promote an event that they will have to benefit the youth of the community. He was stopped by the police and would like to know why?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he told him at the time, that he thought that it was a good thing that he was doing and in order to be able to continue he would need to get the approval of Mr. Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue BID.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. requested that the Precinct look into tractor trailer being parked overnight on Linden Boulevard near Rockaway Avenue and Budget Rent-A-Car parking their vehicles on the streets near Rockaway and Lott Avenues.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he can be reached by calling (718) 495-5505 or 5506.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Antonio Bascom of Jericho Road to speak about domestic violence.

Mr. Bascom stated that he refers to domestic violence as a silent killer. He does so because he and his mother fell victim to domestic violence during his youth. He witnessed his mother being beat. He watched as family and neighborhood closed their doors on them as she was being kicked down the stairs. At the end of the day he had to go to school and act as if nothing happened.

No one took the time to help him understand what was happening. To this day, he does not know why they were fighting. However, a lot of things go through a young man's heart when they experience this type of thing. They have no place to go to talk about what they are feeling and it affects their school work. It affects them.

Today, they have programs to help parents manage with the anger that their children may experience in these cases. In their Father Rules program, they explain to them that the person who gives you your greatest joy can also give you your greatest blow. A father who ignores their child or is not present in their child's life, can hurt their self-esteem. Many children do not think in the abstract at a young age. They think concretely, they do not think that there may be a valid reason that you are not there. They just see that you are not there and blame themselves for you not being there.

This brings him to their next program which they call Soul Murder. They call it this because the child's will is killed. The child ends up with deficiencies because of the father's absence.

They also have a program call the Anatomy of an Abuser wherein they look at the factors that create abusers. Nine times out of ten an abuser was victim of abuse themselves. Their children stand a good chance of becoming abusers as well. Once we learn how the cycle works, we can begin work to end the cycle. Dr. Martin Luther King stated "... we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." It is important that as a community we come together to end the cycle of domestic violence.

Brooklyn is the borough with the highest rate of domestic violence; the only way for it to stop is for us all to come together and learn about it and how to end it, even if you are not involved in an abusive relationship. Informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Flore Moises from H.E.L.P. USA.

Ms. Moises stated that H.E.L.P. USA was established by our now Governor Andrew Cuomo, in 1986. He establish the organization because he believed that homelessness is not just about

providing housing. There are many services that a homeless person may need to help them get back into society. H.E.L.P. USA offers services in New York, New Jersey, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

She serves as the Employment Specialist at H.E.L.P. USA Brownsville which is a women's shelter for employable women, located at 357 Saratoga Avenue. One of their goals is to empower the women. They ensure that the women are ready for the workforce. For most of the women in their shelter, homelessness is a temporary situation. Many are employed and are employable. They instill them with responsibility and accountability. They assist in being ready to go back to being self-sufficient.

Mrs. Peltonbusch asked if they assist the women in finding permanent housing.

Ms. Moises stated that the women are referred to them by Central Processing. Because they are a shelter for employable women, the women will only stay there for up to three months. They offer them social services, employment services, help them to save, and assistance in finding housing.

Their telephone number (718) 345-3649.

Someone asked if a referral is needed?

Ms. Moises stated that the women must be referred by the 116 Williams Avenue Intake Center in Brooklyn or the 1122 Franklin Avenue Center in the Bronx.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the program is open to undocumented women?

Ms. Moises stated that they have one or two undocumented residents at the shelter and their Case Managers do assist them.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives from the NYC Economic Development Corporation and Daniel Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District.

The NYC Economic Development Corporation came by to share images of the signage leading into the East Brooklyn Business Improvement District which will be replaced this summer around about June or July 2015. Additionally, more information will be forth coming around buildings owned-by the NYC EDC and other proposed business incentive programs that will be available in the future.

The Committee also met with Daniel Murphy to continue discussing the request by the Pitkin Avenue BID for a letter of support from the community board to apply for public funds available through a grant of the NYS Main Street Program. The grant would allow the Pitkin Avenue BID to offer facade improvement grants to a limited number of businesses that agree to help beautify the commercial corridor by upgrading their storefront facades with a matching grant from NYS Main Street Funds.

At their April 2015, Committee members raised concerns around shopping experience along Pitkin Avenue such as customer service, return policy, employment opportunities and bag check policy and quality goods and the committee had agreed to continue discussions at the May Committee meeting to allow time to arrive at appropriate qualifications to gain acceptance into the facade improvement program which will include the necessity for employment of local youth and residents.

The Committee is proposing the following as qualifying conditions for approval of NYS Main Street Program funding through the Pitkin Avenue BID:

1. Business owners must attend an orientation workshop with sessions on customer service, baggage check policy, community engagement.
2. Business owners must be in compliance with New York State and New York City Labor Laws.
3. Business owners must agree to participate as NYC Summer Youth Employment Work Sites.
4. Business owners must provide a recent copy of a financial report.

The Committee will contact the NYS Main Street Program for guidance on how to attach additional stipulations such as those mentioned above and meet with Mr. Murphy in June 2015. Once a proper resolution is drafted the document will be submitted to the full Board for vote during our June 2015 Board meeting.

The MGBPOPS Pop-Up Marketplace on Mother Gaston Boulevard will re-open Friday, May 29, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. The marketplace is located on Mother Gaston Boulevard between Sutter Avenue and Belmont. For more information, please contact Cherrisse Abasali at (929) 252-9299 or mgbpops@cmtysolutions.org.

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. Members of the community with interests in Economic Development are invited to attend the next Committee meeting which will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

She thanked members of the Committee for all their efforts during the year.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson 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 with the District Managers and Chairpersons of the Social Services /Health and Human Services Committees of Community Boards 3, 5, and 8 on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The joint meeting was convened to form an important alliance, since the same concerns regarding the oversaturation of homeless shelters (10-14) are expressed in each of the four communities while some other Brooklyn communities have none.

The joint Committee reviewed the letter to the Commissioner for the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to include all elected officials and prepared the attached questions. The scheduled joint meeting to address the above concerns with the Commissioner is Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brownsville Multi Service Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Brooklyn.

This dialogue about DHS programs, and our shared values and quality of life is very important as we begin to seek equality in appropriation of programs and services in our Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and East New York communities.

She read Community Board #16's Health and Human Services Committee's policy recommendations and questions to DHS.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Someone complained about the installation of a shelter in the middle of the night on Ralph Avenue between St. John's Place and Lincoln Place.

Someone complained about the activities of residents of shelters located on Atlantic Avenue near the Long Island Rail Road East New York station.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated these are the type of things that they are seeking to stop.

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

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 12, 2015 with representatives from Habitat for Humanity and their co-developer Latent Productions who are proposing to develop 25 units of cooperative housing on vacant, City-owned land at 1612 Park Place, 404, 408, 414, 416 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The project will consist of 3 four-story walk ups. There will be 7 one-bedrooms, 15 two-bedrooms and 3 three-bedrooms.

The units will be affordable to families earning 50% to 80% of the Area Median Income. For a family of 4, it means \$45,000 to \$72,000 per year.

During discussion, Committee members questioned why there were no elevators or parking spaces.

In response, the developers stated that they are trying to maximize the number of units that they can build and keep them affordable. Parking is a hindrance to the goal. In addition, the lots are irregularly shaped and it's extremely expensive to build underground parking.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support this project with the condition that the developers take into consideration the need for parking for the units as well as elevators.

The Committee also met with a representative from a development team which is proposing to construct three-family houses on City-owned vacant land at 1945 Bergen Street, 2178 and 2164 Dean Street, 299, 283 and 273 Mother Gaston Boulevard and 38 Christopher Avenue-under Housing Preservation Development's New Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program.

To qualify to purchase the houses, the purchaser's income must be 80% or 130% Area Median Income.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support this project with the condition that the purchase price of the homes be no more than 80% of Area Median Income.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked from whom would the buyers be purchasing the property? Is not the land City-owned?

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked Mr. Dwayne Jeffry of Carthage Realty, the developer, to come forward to answer questions.

Mr. Jeffry stated the New Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program (NIHOP) is meant to provide opportunities to first-time home buyers who would otherwise not be able to afford to buy a home. The City gives the land to the developer so that they can build a home that would otherwise not be able to be built at a price that would be affordable to members of the community. This is an economic benefit to the community.

Ms. Brewer stated that it seems to her that the only person benefiting is the developer.

Mr. Jeffry stated that this not the case. The person who buys the home will own it not the developer. The purchase price of the home is much less that what it would cost to buy on the open market. If you were to purchase the same three-family home in Brownsville it would cost well over \$700,000 as opposed to the \$399,000 that will sell for through the program. Eighty percent of AMI for a family of four is roughly \$69,000. A family earning this much would not be able to afford a home at market rates, even if they were able to save the down payment. Nothing uplifts a community more than homeownership. Yes, as developers they make money – it is a business. However, there a great deal of benefit to community as well.

Someone stated that perhaps it might help the audience understand, if they knew how much profit is being made by the developers.

Mr. Jeffry stated the profit on the project is capped at 8% to 12%. For the 12 units that will be built that represent about 1.2 million dollars. The project is a collaboration with the Bed-Stuy Restoration Corporation, the Local Development Corporation of East New York and three other organizations.

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker asked what happens if the homeowner cannot find tenants?

Mr. Jeffry stated that transitioning from being a renter to becoming a homeowner is not easy. They offer not only training on becoming a homeowner, they also offer training on becoming a landlord. They will show the buyer how to qualify prospective tenants. They have to check their credit as you will be relying on the rental income.

Someone asked if they will be offering employment opportunities.

Mr. Jeffry stated that they will. There will be temporary jobs in construction. However, they will also be training employees to be able to get future construction jobs.

Mrs. Peltonbusch asked if L & M is one of the developers?

Mr. Jeffry stated that it is not.

Someone asked what AMI are they using?

Mr. Jeffry stated that HPD projects generally use the City's median income which is about \$80,000; much higher than Brownsville's \$27,000. It should, however, be noted that a family of 4 making less than \$69,000 will not be able to sustain a home. They will be a repair away from falling behind.

They are at least a year away from breaking ground and at least 18 months away from completion. They have already committed to begin training qualified prospective buyers. They cannot wait until the parties are the homes to start training.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the recommendation of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee that the Community Board support the proposal by Habitat for Humanity and their co-developer Latent Productions to develop 25 units of cooperative housing on vacant, City-owned land at 1612 Park Place, 404, 408, 414, 416 Thomas S. Boyland Street with the condition that the developers take into consideration the need for parking for the units as well as elevators.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried with two abstentions to accept the recommendation of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee that the Community Board support the proposal for a development team to construct three-family houses on City-owned vacant land at 1945 Bergen Street, 2178 and 2164 Dean Street, 299, 283 and 273 Mother Gaston Boulevard and 38 Christopher Avenue-under Housing Preservation Development's New Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program with the condition that the purchase price of the homes be no more than 80% of Area Median Income.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that members of the Legislative Committee met on May 11th, 2015 and discussed the following:

- Senate Bill 2659 which seeks to amend the correction law in relation to restricting the use of segregated confinement and by creating alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options.
- Senate Bill 1409 to amend and enact various provisions of the law to raise the age of criminal adult responsibility from 16 years to 18 years.
- HR 2052 bill proposed in the house to amend section 242 of Title 18, United States Code, to forbid the use of chokeholds by persons subject to that provision and for purposes, also known as "The Excessive Use of Force Act 2015.
- Lastly, we continued our conversation on nail salons.

In an intense discussion on Senate Bill 2659 the proposed bill on segregated confinement the Committee thoroughly reviewed the result of their interview with a community member who spent (7) seven years in solitary confinement, and although they would have liked to have conducted similar interviews to strengthen their position, time constraints did not permit. The Committee felt that they could use the information gathered as their concern as they would like to see this bill pass this session and are asking the Community Board to support their resolution supporting this bill. The resolution reads as follows:

- Whereas Senate bill 2659 is an act to amend the correction law in relation to the restrictive use of confinement, and
- Whereas, the use of segregated confinement is used to punish as opposed to rehabilitate inmates, compromising medical conditions, religious rights, ECT.
- Be it resolved that Community Board #16 supports Senate Bill 2569 and calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass this bill.

Following this, they continued their discussion on Senate Bill 1409. This bill amends and enacts various provisions of the law to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 years to 18 years. This will allow 16 year olds and younger to be tried in family court as this would give our youngsters a chance to turn their lives around. The Committee asks that members of the community to call on the Majority Leader and our legislators to support this bill.

They continued their discussion on legislation passed in the house that directly affects community with particular focus on HR 2052, legislation proposed by Congressman Hakeem Jefferies and his colleagues to amend section 242 of Title 18 of the United States Code, to forbid the use of chokeholds by persons subject to that provision and for other purposes. It states clearly the application of any pressure to the throat or windpipe which may prevent or hinder or reduce intake of air is a punishment pain or penalty, and we also ask that we email or call our legislators in the house to support this bill.

Lastly, we revisited the topic on nail salons and was truly amazed at all the buzz by our law makers. There were several articles about poor working conditions in nail salons and the toxic chemicals. First our Public Advocate, Letitia James, has spoken out. Governor Cuomo has put in place a taskforce to investigate working conditions in nail salons. At very short notice Commissioner Julie Mein of the Department of Consumer Affairs organized a day for volunteers to raise awareness among workers and consumers about the health and safety issues in nail salons. If you recall, the conversation began in Community Board #16 last year. At this time, we are not here to take any praise but to remind you of a couple rules when you visit your nail salon.

- Use a nail salon where the surroundings are clean and sanitary
- The nail salon should be well ventilated
- Tools should be sterilized in a conclave, which is a container that uses superheated steam under pressure.
- Foot baths should be free of scum, hair or any debris, and should be cleaned with EPA approved disinfectant e.g. Pine Sol or Clorox just to name a few
- Disposable tools should not be reused, e.g. files
- Patrons should be offered a mask if not ask for one
- Nail salons are required to keep a material safety data sheet (MSDS) which is a manual containing information on products used, risk of each product, and what to do in an event of accidental exposure.

She cautioned the audience to be aware of the health and safety issues in nail salons.

This will be a very busy legislative session and many pieces of legislation have been proposed and many are set to expire, e.g. rent laws and other pieces of legislation directly affecting the housing crisis. Get involved and call your representatives and let them know how you feel about these issues.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on June 8, 2015.

A motion was made by Ms. Yolanda Matthews, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the recommendation of the Legislative Committee pass a resolution supporting Senate Bill 2569, an act to amend the correction law in relation to restrictive use of confinement.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

The Nominating Committee met on May 14, 2015 to discuss the criteria we will consider for nominations for the following Executive Offices: Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

A memorandum stating the criteria that the Committee is considering for nominations was emailed and hard copies sent by U.S. Mail to all Board members on May 15, 2015.

The criteria for nominations are:

- 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, or give the appearance of being in conflict.

Those who were interested in having their names placed in nomination were asked to submit a paragraph stating why they feel that they are the best candidate for the position and email the response, submit by mail, or hand deliver it to my attention at the Community Board Office by the close of business on May 22, 2015.

The Committee submits the following candidates for Executive Office:

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

The floor was opened for further nominations.

There were no further nominations made for Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Ms. Margaret Brewer nominated Ms. Deborah Mack for Parliamentarian.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to close the nominations.

Because two persons were nominated for the position of Parliamentarian, there will be an election at next month's meeting for the office of Parliamentarian.

Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager, reported that members of the Parks and Recreation Committee met on May 4, 2015 with representatives from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the design team for Saratoga Ballfield and reviewed the schematic plan that was presented earlier tonight.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support this project which will create additional passive and active recreation space for all ages in our community.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Committee met with Mr. Beast Anderson from the Peace Keepers. Mr. Anderson gave a healthy presentation of the organization and what the Basic Life Support training will encompass. The training was initially set up for the organizations that are looking to partake in street monitoring, however, if there are at least 10 people who would like the skill, they are welcome to participate in the training.

The Committee would like everyone to be present for peace as we embark on the summer. Look in on your neighbors and report things that may take away from what we are working towards.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Genese Morgan, and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

Ms. Pat Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee reported that the Committee met on May 20, 2015 with a representative from the Department for the Aging's

Grandparents Resources Center who discussed the reasons why grandparents raise their grandchildren: 1) Substance abuse by parents, 2) Incarceration of parents 3), Family violence, 4) HIV/AIDS infection, 5) Teen pregnancy, 6) Abandonment, 7) Death of parent, 8) Child abuse, and 9) Domestic Violence.

In the year 2000 in New York State, there were an estimated 412,000 grandparents living with their grandchildren. Of that number, 143,000 had responsibility for those children, and 3 out of 4 grandparents were over the age of 50. It was stated that an 80 years old was raising her grandchild.

If you are the caregiver for your grandchild, niece, nephew, cousin, sibling, etc. (who is not your biological or adopted child) and that child is under 18, or under age 19 if in high school or the equivalent, and you do not receive foster care payments, you may be able to receive Cash Assistance for the child. You do not need a legal custody or guardianship order to apply. In addition, you may receive Cash Assistance for yourself and other family members if you meet the eligibility requirements. You may apply for Cash Assistance at the local Human Resource Center, called a Job Center.

The Grandparent Resource Center (GRC) provides a number of supportive services to grandparents who are raising grandchildren. Resource specialists at the Grandparent Resource Center offer advocacy and case management as well as make referrals to appropriate community-based organization throughout New York City. Resource Specialists can connect grandparents to organizations that offer information on legal issues, entitlements, kinship foster care, and other topics.

You may contact the Grandparent Resource Center by calling (212) 442-1094 or “311”.

Attached to the report was information on the “Rights of Relatives in Family Court.”

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Committee will be on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 12:00 noon in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 18, 2015 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation and the Brownsville Community Justice Center regarding a proposal to develop a plaza on Osborn Street between Belmont Avenue and the cul-de-sac. Brownsville Community Justice Center applied to Department of Transportation through the New York City Plaza Program to establish a plaza which will be programmed with activities. The space will be available to any community group to have an activity such as fitness classes or night markets.

The plan is to establish a temporary plaza in June/July 2015. Department of Transportation will evaluate its use and determine if it should become permanent.

Four parking spaces will be removed from Osborn Street to construct the plaza.

The Committee also met with representatives from Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership who are seeking the Community Board’s support to place street seats in front of 425 Mother Gaston Boulevard between Sutter and Belmont Avenues. It will require the removal of one parking space.

The seating will be available to the public during the hours that the market is open. This year, the market will open on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning May 29th through November.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve the removal of four parking spaces from Osborn Street between Belmont Avenue and the cul-de-sac to construct a plaza.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve the removal of one parking space in front of 425 Mother Gaston Boulevard and the construction of street seats at that location during the time that MGBPOPS is open.

A motion was made by Mr. Norman Frazier, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried with a recusal by Ms. Genese Morgan for cause to accept the Committee's recommendations to support the application by Community Solutions to place street seats in front of 425 Mother Gaston Boulevard between Sutter and Belmont Avenues and the removal of one parking space, and approve the removal of four parking spaces from Osborn Street between Belmont Avenue and the cul-de-sac to construct a plaza..

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Yolanda Matthews and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 29th, May 7th and May 19th in connection with the "Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum" which will be held at Heritage House on Saturday, June 27th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The theme will be "Loving Me In Spite of Myself" in which we will have guest speakers who will address issues that young women in our community face on a daily basis to include child abuse, domestic violence, pimps targeting young girls, young girls being sexed into gangs and their self-esteem. To attract the young women to the Forum, we are going to have a female poetry / rapper slam. We will also be awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes.

The Committee is aware that many of the female 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 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 CB 16 and its surrounding communities.

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

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

She recently received a call from Mrs. Pat Winston telling her that she saw speaking on the floor about the Rent Stabilization Law. She is taking a strong stance on this issue. She wants to put something in place to punish those landlords who do things to harass tenants they want to force out.

She has been able to get funding to help BMS renovate their dental clinic so that children in our community can get affordable dental care, as well as funds to place smart boards in our schools.

She met with the Governor and the Majority Leader at the Governor's Mansion. During the meeting, she asked for money for New York City Housing Authority and was originally told there was no money. However, the Governor then said perhaps a grant might work. After doing some research and leg work, it turns out to be a \$100 million project but she was told that it would need to be equally divided amongst fifty Assembly Members. This is not satisfactory to her as the 55th District has more NYCHA facilities than any other District so she is pushing to get \$5 million instead of \$2 million.

She recently visited Riker's Island and was disheartened to see the conditions that our 16 and 17 year olds are subjected to. She is part of the contingent working on the Raise the Age bill. We have to find a better way to deal with young offenders.

She has been informed that the Women's Committee has been speaking out against human trafficking. The legislature in Albany has been able to pass a human trafficking bill which was drafted, in part, because of what happened to a young girl here in Brownsville. She applauds the Committee for being on the forefront of this issue.

She was trying to have the most pieces of legislation introduced for the session, having introduced 23 items, however, someone introduced ten pieces yesterday to outdo her. She still thinks she did well for her first few months in office and looks forward to doing more.

Telephone lines have just been installed and she is hoping to have her 400 Rockaway Avenue office open by the beginning of June.

Someone asked when and where will her Advisory Board meetings be hosted?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that she has been hosting them in various locations, but hopes to host them at her office on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in June.

Someone asked if she will be able to help get repairs done at Saratoga Square?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that interest in Saratoga Square was sold, in part to L&M developers and the grant money cannot be used there.

Someone asked to hear about her chairmanship?

She has been named Chair of the Renewable Energy Committee an area in which a lot is happening. They are planning on taking much of Brownsville off of the grid and placing it on a microgrid which is essentially a group of large batteries to be located in the back of the East New York Industrial Park. She has some concerns about this and looks forward to hearing from the community on the issue.

She is also proud to be in the seat once held by the late Alfred Lama of Mitchell-Lama fame and wants to restore its honor.

Mr. Charles Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that when calling the Congresswoman's office with complaints, it is important to give as much detail as possible so that the issue can be properly addressed.

Congresswoman Clarke has no direct jurisdiction over NYCHA. Calling her office with complaints about NYCHA may not yield immediate results. However, they do collect the complaints and when NYCHA approaches her with request for funding she can ask them to provide answers to those issues.

He can be reached by emailing charles.jackson@house.mail.gov.

Congresswoman Clarke, along with all the Democratic delegates from New York City and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) are supporting the bill introduced by Congressman Hakeem Jeffries regarding the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers. Additionally, two weeks ago, she, the New York City delegates of the CBC, and the New York City Clergy Council met to discuss the removal of Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo (the officer who administered the fatal chokehold on Eric Garner). Behind the scenes there are a great many people who are working to force Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Bratton to remove Officer Pantaleo from duty. The issue is not going away.

District Manager Greene-Walker read a statement from Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr. whose representative had to leave. The statement indicated that Councilmember Espinal, in an attempt to bring services and information to his constituents who live in the Ocean Hill section of his district, will host a Mobile Office Day event on Friday, May 29th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Federation of Multicultural Programs Center, located at 2 Van Sinderen Avenue near Fulton Street. Constituents residing in the Ocean Hill area are urged to visit Councilmember Espinal will be available to hear your concerns directly.

Mr. Richard Nelson, representing Senator Jesse Hamilton III, announced that Senator Hamilton will host a NYCHA Town Hall on Monday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m., at 330 Powell Street (Van Dyke Community Center). All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, reported that Operation Safe Surrender was program instituted by the previous administration to allow persons with open warrants for misdemeanor crimes to safely go to a location and have their cases adjudicated, not dismissed but adjudicated. Safe Surrender has been resurrected under a new name, Begin Again. In the past, the events were paid for by the church or host organization.

District Attorney Thompson office will pick up the tab. As such, the locales will be limited but you can go to any of them regardless of where you live in the City.

The first event will take place at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 279 Lafayette Avenue at the corner of St. James Place, on June 19th and 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please spread the word to anyone you know that can avail of this service. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that the Brownsville Community Multi Service Center (444 Thomas S. Boyland Street) has space available for rent to non-profit organizations. Interested parties may contact Ms. Dovie Matthews or Mr. David White by calling (718) 482-8248.

Ms. Jackie Bash of GrowNYC announced that in partnership with Brownsville Partnership, they are hire youths to operate two Youth Farm Markets in the Brownsville community. The Markets will operate from July through Thanksgiving on Fridays at Rockaway and Livonia Avenues from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays at Thomas S. Boyland Street and Pitkin Avenue (adjacent to the Popular Bank) from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They accept cash, credit and debit card, as well as WIC, EBT, Farmers' Market Checks, Seniors Farmers' Market checks. Fliers are available on the distribution table.

Mr. Henry Butler, District Manager of Community Board #3, thanked the Board for their outreach regarding the Town Hall meeting being held with the Department of Homeless Services.

He announced that the Department of Youth and Community Development is hiring for their Afterschool Programs. Fliers are on the distribution table.

The Board is invited to join them on June 8th as they meet the Commissioner of the State Liquor Authority to discuss liquor licensing. It is his sense that the number of license applications will be increasing in the coming days.

Finally, as Chair of the Labor Committee of the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP, he invites everyone to their meeting, tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Restoration Center.

Mr. John Cheeks, Chairperson of Youth Recreation at Atlantic Towers Plaza, announced that they will present Parents Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 27th from 1:00 p. m. too 6:00 p.m. There will be live entertainment, refreshments, and talent presentations by the youth. Persons interested in participating can reach them on Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He can be reached by calling (347) 866-4779. You may also call (347) 280-2035.

A closing prayer was said by Mr. John McCadney, Jr.

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