

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JUNE 23, 2015

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and gave an invocation.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid of Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center (Brookdale) who introduced their Chief Medical Officer Dr. Estevan Garcia.

Dr. Garcia stated that he has been with Brookdale since April 2012. He is a Board Certified Pediatrician and part of a team brought in to restructure Brookdale both fiscally and with regard to the quality of care they provide for their patients.

Recently, there has been some bad press regarding Brookdale. This stems from statistical data from 2010 through 2012 when the hospital was one of many that were threatened with closure. The team that was brought in with the goal of correcting this issue. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey is a standard for comparing hospitals' performance on the national standards of safety, quality, and efficiency that are most relevant to consumers and purchasers of care. It was established by a group of employers with the desire to see their employees have access to good medical care so that can heal quickly and be able to return to work as soon as possible after an illness. Brookdale did poorly in the reporting periods going back to 2010.

One of the things that they had huge problems with when he started is blood stream infections. These are infections caused by having an IV (intravenous) tube inserted in either the groin or neck (necessary to provide large amounts of fluids to certain patients) are left in for too long. In 2013, they had the second highest rate of bloodstream infections in the state. To correct this problem, they empowered their nurses to let the doctors know that specific patients needed to have the IVs removed. Since they have employed this protocol, they have not had a single infection (bloodstream) in 2015 and only had four in 2014.

Another problematic area for them was urinary catheter infections. Urinary catheters are inserted in patients such as heart patients for whom doctors need to know how much urine they are passing. The idea again is that anything that is foreign to the body can cause infection and should be removed as soon as possible. Their goal beginning in 2014 is to have the catheter removed within 48 hours. They have also reduced the rate of using the catheters by 75% in 2015.

Collapsed lung infection is another problem that they have been dealing with. Collapsed lung infections can happen for various reasons; oftentimes, due to improper insertion of central lines in the patient's neck. To reduce this type of problem, they are now using ultrasound guidance – a new technology that aides in proper insertion. This has led them to now being at the national average for collapsed lungs.

The AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), a national organization, provides survey which rates the level of patient safety of a hospital in which they are equal to the national average. While this marks a great improvement for them, they want to exceed national averages, not just meet them. Their goal is to exceed the national averages within two to three years.

It is his goal to have Brookdale become a hospital of choice not one of necessity. Of course if you are experiencing a heart attack and Brookdale is the closest facility you will go there. But he wants people to choose Brookdale when they are giving birth, seeking treatment for their children, or any type of medical need provided by the hospital because it is their choice to do so and not out of necessity. To reach this goal, they have begun training their staff and implementing something called Team Step. Team Step is taken from the military and airline industry where the need for phenomenal communication is needed. What this allows them to do is in a situation where a nurse tells a doctor that there is a problem and the doctor responds by telling the nurse that everything is fine, it gives the nurse the authority to tell the doctor that it is a patient safety issue and needs the doctor's attention. The doctor must comply.

Another thing that they have instituted is Just Culture protocols. In Just Culture, whenever an adverse patient event occurs, they evaluate what went wrong in the system instead of looking to assign individual blame. Too often blame is assigned to an individual or individuals thinking that the problem will go away if they are removed from the equation when the problem really lies in a system breakdown not with the individual. There is something called redundancies in medicine wherein if he writes a prescription, it is reviewed by both the nurse and the pharmacist before it is released to the patient.

Lastly, he wants to talk about the button that he is wearing. The button is part of their hand hygiene project. One of his in-laws was surprised to hear that he needs to tell doctors that they need to wash their hands, but he does. The button reads "Ask me if I washed my hands." Sometimes, in their rush to go from one thing to the other doctors and nurses forget to do this. They want their patients and their families to speak up and remind them of the need to wash their hands. He related a story of a patient's mother asking him and how it took him aback and responded that of course he did. The mother stated that she was simply doing what the button said she should do. At that point, he realized that he needed to remind himself and the staff that they will be asked the question from time-to-time and should not take offense to it.

Bedsore and pressure wounds are issues that affect Brookdale as well as many other hospitals. He currently only has one wound care nurse. By the end of the summer, he hopes to have 36 – one per shift, per floor. They have also purchased new beds and mattresses. When he started, they had not bought new beds in over ten years.

When they looked at their risk of infections – another national standard, patients who are admitted to Brookdale have a risk of dying while there is exactly equal to the national average. Again, they want to be better than average.

They have a number significant programs which they have improved. Their heart attack program has been able to have a patient who is experiencing a heart attack brought into the hospital and have their heart vessels open within 18 minutes. This is lifesaving in many cases. The gold standard is 90 minutes. They are doing it in 18 by having patients who are evaluated by emergency medical technicians brought directly to the hospital's Cardiac Cath Lab where cardiologist will be waiting to treat the patient. He has hired about thirty new doctors in the past two years. The Emergency Room now has all Board Certified physicians and sees about 105,000 patients a year. It is difficult but they are doing what they can to improve it. Pediatrics

Emergency Unit has been relocated to a larger area. Using funding provided by the State, they will break ground on the building of 36 new Intensive Care Units at summer's end.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked Dr. Garcia how she may obtain an "Ask me if I wash my hands." Button?

Dr. Garcia stated that he will arrange to have some sent to her. They also have brochures on the clean hands project for anyone who desires one.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if Brookdale has a CVA (Cerebrovascular accident) protocol similar to what they have for heart attack patients.

Dr. Garcia stated that this refers to stroke victims. They have solid numbers in regards to treating stroke victims. On occasion they may have to redirect CVA patients to Maimonides or Lutheran Hospitals for neuro interventional radiology – something they do not have at Brookdale. This type of injury only represents about 1 in 20 of the patients they see. It is important that they receive proper treatment within 60 minutes to give a good chance of a positive outcome.

Someone related a situation wherein her sister was in Brookdale's Emergency Room and was not seen by a doctor until her blood pressure elevated to a dangerous point. Are they working on preventing such situations from reoccurring?

Dr. Garcia thanked the questioner for bringing it to his attention. They want to know when such situations occur in order to correct the problem that caused it. He also stated that they now have an Urgent Care Center directly across the street from the hospital to handle non-life threatening situations.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. thanked Dr. Garcia for his presentation.

Having achieved a quorum, Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested that Nominating Committee present their report.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that at last month's meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate for Executive Officers for the period from June 2015 to June 2016.

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

The floor was opened for further nominations for the positions of Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Because there were no further nominations to challenge these candidates, she asked that the Secretary cast one vote for these persons.

Because there was a nomination from the floor for Parliamentarian, two candidates were presented for this position - John McCadney, Jr. and Deborah Mack.

A roll call election for Parliamentarian was conducted favoring Mr. John McCadney, Jr. by a vote of 12 to 10 with 5 members abstaining.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

- 1) The HomeBase program offers assistance to qualifying tenants who are in jeopardy of losing their permanent housing because they have fallen behind in rent.
- 2) The New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is seeking landlords to participate in their LINC Rental Assistance programs.
- 3) LaGuardia College is offering free training in green jobs with a program which helps participants develop job readiness skills, prepares them to apply for green jobs, and connects them with employers and companies that have or want to develop a green focus.

- 4) Gopost, a new and convenient way to receive and ship packages from the United States Postal Service is now available at the Brownsville Post Office.

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

Ms. Deborah Mack requested clarification on the article entitled HomeBase found on the first page of the report; regarding the percentage of an applicant's income to be eligible. Is it actually 200% as is printed in the report?

District Manager Greene-Walker surmised it to be 20% (Later investigation found that 200% is correct.).

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Min. Prince Issachar to accept the report of the District Manager.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Melissa Gray of A.F.A.I.C.S.

Ms. Gray stated that she is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of A.F.A.I.C.S. (As Far as I Can See). A.F.A.I.C.S. is a multi-faceted youth development organization which offers services such as career development, creative arts, civic responsibility, health, wealth, and violence prevention. Their mission is to provide youth with a safe and nurturing atmosphere where they can dare to dream and walk into their destiny.

Their target population are youth ages 13 to 21 years old residing in the Brownsville community. Brownsville was selected because in comparison to neighboring East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant, it has a greater amount of crime, teen pregnancy, school drop outs and truancy. Wisdom told her that beyond the documented research, she needed to go into the neighborhood and speak to those who are living the experience. In speaking to the youth, they shared with her that their most pressing concerns are youth pregnancy and violence. However, what resonated with her is the youth telling her that there is nothing here for them.

It is her belief that out of nothing is an opportunity to create something big, powerful, and seemingly impossible.

Along with her partner, Mr. David Phillips, she is here this evening because they want to create possibilities for the youth of the community. Not just the youth, but the community as a whole. Currently, they are focusing on youth entrepreneurship as well as civic responsibility.

Mr. Phillips, who has an extensive background in law as well as economics, will be primarily responsible for these workshops. She is hopeful that the community will take advantage of their services.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked where they are located?

Ms. Gray stated that they are still building their organization and do not have a place of operation. They go out to schools and businesses to offer their services. Contact information can be found on their flyer.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Gray and recognized Ms. Kerensa Woods from the Department of City Planning.

Ms. Woods stated that she is here tonight to give an update on the East New York Community Plan. They started the process last September. They have been working with the local communities of East New York, Cypress Hills, and Ocean Hill, along with a number of City agencies including the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Small Business Services, and the Economic Development Corporation to determine the needs and priorities of the communities.

When they were here last March, they presented some zoning proposals to promote affordable housing as well as capital investment in the infrastructure along with community resources.

They have heard feedback for the last nine months and now have a traffic plan which they will unveil at their next event on July 1st, 6:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament School in East New York – flyers for the event were distributed to the audience. At this event, co-hosted by Council

Members Inez Barron and Rafael Espinal, Jr., design proposals and capital investment plans will be presented. All the different agencies will be present to provide information. For those unable to attend the event, the information will be available on their website (nyc.gov/eastnewyork), shortly thereafter. The site also has an area to submit feedback.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2015. The meeting was attended by Lite House Community and Mediation Center (USA), Inc., Daniel Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District, and Maygen Moore of Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership.

The Committee reviewed a liquor license application for Lite House Community and Mediation Center (USA), Inc. for a retail liquor and wine license. The business is a member only cultural social club located at 50 Mother Gaston Boulevard; Brooklyn, NY 11233.

- (a) The business is not located within 200 feet of a place of worship
- (b) The business is not located within 500 feet of a school house
- (c) The business has submitted to a tour of business

The committee recommends that the Board support the application.

The Committee met with Daniel Murphy to continue discussing the request by the Pitkin Avenue BID for a resolution of support from the community board to apply for public funds available through a grant of the New York Main Street program. The grant 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 along Pitkin Avenue by upgrading their storefront facades with a matching grant from New York Main Street program. The Committee recommends that the Board supports the application.

The Committee also met with Maygen Moore from Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership to discuss their request for a resolution of support from the Community Board to apply for public funds available through the New York Main Street program. The funding would allow Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership to renovate the cellar and first floor space of 519 Rockaway Avenue to operate a jobs center for residents of Brownsville. The Committee recommends that the Board supports the application.

The Committee confirmed with New York Main Street program that the Local Program Administrator (LPA) is allowed to insert program guidelines above and beyond the general application guidelines. NY Main Street Program encourages local guidelines and asks that they be included in the application when submitted. Additionally, there is a 5 year maintenance requirement for improvements made with New York Main Street funds and if the property is sold the new owner is required to agree to the guidelines or a prorated share of the funding must be returned. Any local guidelines should be included in the participant application and made clear at the information session.

She read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association to work collectively with property and business owners through a public/private partnership with regards to the maintenance, development, and promotion of the commercial district; and

WHEREAS, the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association desires to apply for up to \$250,000 in financial assistance through the 2015 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under New York Main Street program; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist property owners to complete renovation of buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Amboy Street; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Community District #16 has several mixed used commercial buildings in need of façade and interior building improvements; and

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

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 of the City New York does support assisting property owners to complete building renovation to buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Amboy Street when the property owner and/or business owner (1) attends an orientation workshop with sessions on customer service, baggage check policy and community engagement, (2) business owner is in compliance with New York State and New York City Labor Laws, (3) business owners agree to participate as NYC Summer Youth Employment work sites and (4) business owners provide a copy of the most current financial report to include profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 approves and endorses the 2015 New York Main Street program for assistance, prepared and to be submitted by the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association.

Mr. James Moultrie expressed his concern about lack of opportunities for employment and business opportunities for youth.

Ms. Morgan stated that one of the clauses in the resolution calls for participating businesses to agree to provide summer youth employment opportunities. Furthermore, there are programs with New York City Business Solutions which offers workshops for entrepreneurs.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Jessie Hilliard and carried to accept the above resolution.

Ms. Morgan read the next resolution:

WHEREAS, Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership engages residents and partner organizations from many sectors in measurably improving the health, safety and economic prosperity of the Brownsville neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership desires to apply for \$100,000-\$500,000 in financial assistance through the 2015 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under New York Main Street Program; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist the property owner to complete building renovations to downtown “Main Street” building at 519 Rockaway Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership will utilize the renovated space to create a Jobs Center on the cellar and the first floor of The Greg Jackson Center located at 519 Rockaway Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11212 for residents of Brownsville; and

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

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 of the City New York does support assisting Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership to complete building renovation at “The Greg Jackson Center” at 519 Rockaway Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11212 with the applicant’s agreement (1) to work with employers on a national, regional and local business level to place Brownville residents into jobs and (2) semi-annual progress reporting in writing and addressed to the Economic Development Committee and District Manager of Community Board #16.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 approves and endorses the 2015 New York Main Street Program for Assistance, prepared and to be submitted by Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the above resolution.

Mr. Carlos Diaz requested clarification on why the Lite House Community and Mediation Center required a liquor license.

Ms. Morgan stated that because they will sell beer to their members they are required to have a license. In the event the authorities request the license they need to be able to produce it in order to avoid a fine. The Committee recommends that the application be approved because the business is not located within 200 feet of a place of worship, it is not located within 500 feet of a school house, and it has submitted to a tour of business by the Committee.

Mr. Diaz stated that he understands the need for the license but would like a bit more information about the group.

Ms. Morgan state that the name of the group is Lite House Community and Mediation Center (USA), Inc. They are a social club with about 75 members and act as social club for members of the Nigerian diaspora.

Someone asked where are they located?

Ms. Morgan stated that they are located at 50 Mother Gaston Boulevard in the northern section of the District.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried with 3 oppositions, and 1 abstention to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee regarding the liquor license application for Lite House Community and Mediation Center (USA), Inc. for a retail liquor and wine license.

Ms. Morgan introduced the President of the club, Mr. Osasere Osagbay.

Someone asked who can join the club?

Mr. Osagbay stated that the club is generally for members of the Nigerian diaspora. However, anyone may join if they are recommended by a member.

The questioner asked why do they need a license if it is a private club?

Ms. Morgan stated because they are operating in a commercial space the license is required.

Mr. Carlos Diaz asked if he is allowed to change his vote?

Mr. McCadney, Jr. stated that he could not.

Ms. Frances Brown asked if they need the license if they are only serving and not selling.

Ms. Morgan stated that they do in a similar fashion as does a catering hall that may not necessarily sell the liquor but are required to possess a license to legally serve liquor. She also emphasized that the Liquor Authority has the final say as to whether or not a license is issued.

Ms. Morgan stated that each Board members is entitled to cast a vote in which direction they think will best serve the community. The questions are welcomed. Her vote counts no more than any other Board member.

The purpose of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the district, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same. We invite members of the community with interests in Economic Development to attend our next meeting which will be September 19, 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 Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board #16 and the District Managers and the Social Services Committee Chairpersons of Community Boards 3, 5, and 8

met on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. The joint meeting became an important alliance since the same concerns of inundation of homeless shelters (10-14) are problematic in each of the four communities, while some other Brooklyn communities have none.

The joint Committee reviewed and finalized all arrangement preparatory for the scheduled meeting with the Department of Homeless Services Commissioner. The scheduled joint meeting to address the above concerns with the Commissioner was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Brownsville Multi Service Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Brooklyn.

The overall response and engagement, especially the dialogue about DHS programs and the concerns of the communities, resulted in a successful meeting. We have established an open line of communication and which we will continue until our shared values and concerns about quality of life improve. We will continue to seek equality/equity in appropriation of programs and services in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Bedford Stuyvesant, and East New York communities.

The Committee told DHS that enough is enough and in response DHS stated "DHS heard and acknowledge your concerns and stated that they do not have, at this time, any new proposals for shelters in your District".

Our next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested a moment of silence in memory of the nine persons killed in a Charleston, South Carolina church last week.

Mr. David Alexander, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met with representatives from the Department of City Planning on June 9, 2015 who presented on Zoning for Quality and Affordability.

In the Housing New York Plan, there are some things in zoning that prevent the creation of affordable housing. City Planning is proposing amendments to change this by: 1) removing barriers in zoning that restrain production of affordable housing and raise the cost of it, 2) change zoning to encourage better quality buildings, 3) promote senior affordable housing and 4) reduce unnecessary parking requirements for affordable housing.

The application should be certified in the summer and go to the 59 community boards in the fall for public hearings.

The Committee also met with representatives from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) who informed us about an initiative for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) to develop affordable housing.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued in December 2014 and submissions were due on March 20, 2015. HPD will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) on August 20, 2015 to develop City-owned sites. One of the sites will be in Community District #16 at 1510-1524 Broadway (Block 1489, Lots 6, 11-18). The site has been vacant for many years. Based on the zoning of R6/C1-3, it should yield 50 housing units.

Interested MWBE developers are encouraged to visit HPD's website at www.nyc.gov/hpd for additional information.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that we continue to develop affordable housing. What we need is low-income housing. We have hundreds of families living in shelters in our community this is what they need.

Mr. Alexander stated that there have been many low-income projects supported by the Board in the past two years. This RFQ is seeking to give minorities and women opportunities to develop affordable housing. This will allow more members of our community to be able to afford the affordable housing and raise their quality of life. We are not forgetting about the homeless at all.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Committee met on June 3, 2015, with Mr. Hinton and Ms. Pearson of D.U.E.C.E.S. D.U.E.C.E.S. is a group of young people who are anxious to take to the streets in an effort to improve our community.

Mr. Hinton presented their idea of "street monitoring", which was admirable to know that there are young people in our District who want to make positive, long lasting changes, is encouraging.

As we are unable to give the green light to D.U.E.C.E.S., for this season, the Public Safety Committee is willing to guide and assist D.U.E.C.E.S. in getting "street ready" to adequately serve our community.

The Committee has also been able to arrange first aid and CPR training for groups of 10 or more who live or work in our District. The general idea behind this is to increase our value among ourselves. Being able to assist another in prolonging life is priceless. While we have a few causing harm, I'd like to combat that with many more that are able to assist. This will also increase the number of able and skilled bodies in our District in the event of a disaster.

All who are able to enroll in a training course and be a resource to your community are encouraged to do so. You may find that you like helping others, or may spark something else helpful that the community can benefit from.

As this is the final General Board meeting until September, we ask that you be mindful of the elderly and the young during the hot weather. Look in on your neighbors as well. Do your best to not make anyone uncomfortable. Watch what you say and how you say it. Be mindful of how you represent yourself and your community.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Someone asked if there was any cost for the training?

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that the course is free of charge.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester Yavana, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on June 15, 2015 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation who presented their findings on the Linden Boulevard study.

She asked that the representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation come forward and make their presentation.

Mr. Chris Brunson, from the New York City Department of Transportation's Office of Research, Implementation and Safety, presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Phase I of Linden Boulevard Corridor Safety Project (Kings Highway to 78 Street) involves three community districts (17, 16, and 18). In Community District #16, this includes Linden Boulevard between Rockaway Parkway and Junius Street. Linden Boulevard is a major east/west corridor in Eastern Brooklyn with residential, light industrial land use. It has heavy vehicle volumes at rush hours. There are two stops for the B8 bus, and it is a local truck route.

The project is a Vision Zero Priority Corridor. Vision Zero is a Multi-agency effort to reduce traffic fatalities in New York City. Earlier this year, they released Borough Action Plans for each of the five boroughs which identified priority intersections, and corridors for each borough. Church Avenue and Linden Boulevard was identified as a priority intersection for Brooklyn. Although the Linden Boulevard Corridor was not marked as a priority, there were 58 KSI (persons killed or severely injured), 1178 total injury crashes, and 5 Fatalities since 2009. Maps, photographs, plans for the proposal, project benefits, and statistical information can be found on their website at: www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/2015-06-15-linden-blvd-cb16-tc.pdf.

Someone asked if the narrowing of the parking lanes would not cause a safety hazard for drivers parking their vehicles and their passengers as they exit their vehicles?

Mr. Brunson stated that the lanes will be ten feet wide (eight feet is considered to be safe). These lanes are wider than what is considered safe and should pose no safety problem for properly parked vehicles.

Mr. David Alexander stated that overall he is pleased with the proposal, however, he would like to see something done to alleviate the congestion at Rockaway and Hegeman Avenues during rush hours.

Mr. Brunson stated the intersection is not within the scope of this project, but can be looked at for future projects.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. requested that the slip between Rockaway Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street (north side of Linden Boulevard) be eliminated.

Mr. Brunson stated that he proposed doing that, however, the idea was shot down at the request of the Fire Department who wants the slip to remain in order to have access to the fire hydrant at end of the slip.

Someone asked that markings and traffic controls be placed at the trisection of Linden Boulevard, Ditmas Avenue, and Van Sinderen Avenue as soon as possible.

Mr. Brunson stated that if supported, work will begin in the fall of this year.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to support the proposal by the Department of Transportation for Phase I of the Linden Boulevard Corridor Safety Project.

Ms. Mack also reported that representatives from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene also attended the meeting on June 15th and spoke about their work in the Community around bike lanes. Now that the bike lanes have been laid down and safe zones implemented, they would like to talk about how the Health Department and the Transportation Committee can partner to improve the safety of the streets. When the streets are safe, people tend to walk more and be more physically fit.

Over the years, they've been working with Bike New York, Brookdale Hospital, Transportation Alternatives, Department of Transportation and the Community Board to get people mobilized to use the bike lanes.

They have partnered with PS 165, 178 and Teacher's Prep. to do safety audits around schools. They have looked at lighting, street markings, whether there are stop signs and signs indicating a school zone.

To encourage more use of the bike lanes, it was suggested that a bike clinic be held at the Brownsville Recreation Center during Old-timers' Day on July 25, 2015.

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

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of Women's Committee, reported that the Women's Committee met on June 4th, June 11th, June 16th, and June 22nd in connection with the "Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum" which will be held at Heritage House this 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 the Committee 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 there will be a female poetry/rap slam. The Committee will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

For high school girls, the prizes are: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, and 3rd place - \$50, for junior high school girls, the prizes are: 1st place - \$75, 2nd place - \$50, and 3rd place – 25.

Additionally, there will be many giveaways to include name brand perfumes, lotions, jewelry, journal books, flash drives and artwork.

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 they want to let them know that we care and that we want to put them in touch with social service providers that can give them tools to become confident and empowered.

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.

As this is the last meeting of the Community Board before our summer break, she extends special thanks to the members of the Women's Committee who worked tirelessly over the past few months on the Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum; namely, Maxine Dotson, Danny Goodine, Rose Graham, Ernestine Hodges, Elana Martins, John McCadney, Jr., Shemene Monique Minter, Genese Morgan, and Deidre Olivera-Douglas.

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 Captain Charles Minch, Executive Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Minch stated that the Precinct is performing very well with regards to crime overall. However, they have seen a spike in grand theft autos with many of the crimes occurring when people leave their car keys in the ignition to run into a store or elsewhere. He advises everyone to take their keys and lock their cars even if they are going to be away for a moment. Gun violence is down with exception of the housing developments where parties and gambling in the courtyards have been leading to violence. He asks for the community's help in reporting this to the precinct before it turns to violence.

A Command Center has been placed near Eastern Parkway and Atlantic Avenue as a part of the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative. The intersection is a prevalent location for accidents not only in the precinct but in the city as well. It accounts for the most accidents in the precinct in his two-year tenure. Now through June 28th, they are issuing warnings to drivers who are caught speeding at the location during this educational phase. Beginning June 29th, they will issue tickets to violators.

Dr. Marcus Burchell stated that Howard Avenue at Eastern Parkway also has issues of congestion and accident prone. He has mentioned the location to Deputy Inspector Iglesias, but has not seen any change.

Captain Minch Stated that Officers are often deployed to that location and there is a traffic cam at the location.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that the area of Saratoga Avenue and Livonia Avenue needs additional police attention because of robberies that are taking place in the vicinity.

Captain Minch stated that this is part of his Impact Zone and is being addressed.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if Highway Patrol units could be deployed along Linden Boulevard between Rockaway Avenue and Rockaway Parkway to reduce the speeding?

Captain Minch stated that he will try to accommodate the request. He also stated that there are speed cameras at Rockaway Avenue.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Richard Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Mr. Jackson announced that Congresswoman Clarke, in collaboration with District Attorney Thompson, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the New York City Housing Authority, and the Department of

Labor, will host an Information Forum discussing their services. Attendees will be able to meet one on one with the representatives.

The United States Postal Inspection Service is accepting applications on their website – uspis.gov through June 26, 2015. The United States Postal Inspection Service is the federal law enforcement and security arm of the United States Postal Service.

Congresswoman Clarke's District Office will be moving this summer; their phones will continue to work as they transition to their new location.

He cautioned everyone to contact their elected official when they have questions regarding any new government programs, in order to get valid information and to avoid scams. He also encouraged the audience to contact the District Attorney's office if anyone solicits payment to assist them in prioritizing the processing of governmental applications. There are no short cuts in these procedures. Anyone offering one to you is scamming you.

Congresswoman Clarke's office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142. Constituents may also email him with their concerns at richard.jackson@mail.house.gov. He asks that you provide as many details as possible to help resolve your issues.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, announced that Senator Hamilton will host a series of events entitled "Summer at the Subway", each Tuesday this July. He will also sponsor a poetry event at the Brownsville Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard, on June 27th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Informational flyers on the events were made available on the distribution table.

Ms. Alicka Ampry-Samuels, representing Assemblywoman Latrice M. Walker, reported that Governor Cuomo and the Speakers of both the State Assembly and Senate have reached an agreement concerning housing and rents in New York State. The framework calls for extending 421a legislation for six months and extending rent guideline regulations for 4 years. Assemblywoman Walker and many of her colleagues are of the opinion that this deal is not good for our communities. They are currently in a closed door conference discussing the issue and possible actions to take.

The local microgrid NY Prize (an initiative of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) was won by BlocPower a company formed by Mr. Donnel Baird (formerly of the Brownsville Partnership). They should be reaching out to the community shortly, to present their goal and get feedback.

Assemblywoman Walker's District Office is now open. However, permits for usage of the elevator have not been issued yet. They will go to persons who cannot use the stairs until the permits are in place. You may call the office at (718) 342-1256. Persons who have committed the old Assembly Office number may continue to use it.

On July 8th, Assemblywoman Walker will host a meeting with the clergy at SUNY Downstate Medical Center's auditorium. On July 9th, an open forum town hall will be held at her District Office and on July 30th, another town hall with the Department of Environmental Protection will be held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, located at 869 Halsey Street (corner of Saratoga Avenue).

Some of you may have received mail or telephone calls informing you that Assemblywoman Walker is not supporting Education Tax Credits and encouraging you to contact her to ask her to support the bill. There are reasons why the bill is not being supported by Assemblywoman Walker.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that the bill has inclusions for building more jails.

Ms. Ampry-Samuels stated that is correct and that it also does not include a \$500 tax credit that would go directly to families. It is for these reasons that Assemblywoman Walker is not in support of the bill and encourages you not to believe the propaganda campaign to support it.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, reported that Borough President Adams sponsored a number of events in the month, including a Caribbean Festival, a Community Appreciation Day for Block Associations, and a memorial events honoring the lives lost in Charleston, South Carolina.

Borough President Adams, in his commitment to connect with the communities of Brooklyn, has revised his website to make it even more user friendly. He is also seeking to make connections with at least 10,000 Brooklynites in an effort to identify, organize, and unite people from all walks of life to build a movement which will actively contribute to the betterment of their communities.

In an effort to combat the unscrupulous acts of a number of landlords, He is sponsoring Know Your Rights events on July 14th, 16th, and 26th. He is also compiling a database in an effort to bring a class action suit against the landlords.

Mr. McDaniel announced events to take place during the summer including a Men and Money Forum to help men, especially young fathers, to establish a road map towards financial literacy, a blood drive, the Wingate Concert Series, and event to honor the oldest person in your community – for which they are seeking nominations. The Borough President’s Office can be reached by calling, (718) 802-3700, (718) 802-2681 for Constituent Services, and (347) 942-1692 (cell) or (718) 802-3777 (office) to reach Mr. McDaniel.

State Committeeman Anthony Jones recognized and presented Viola Greene-Walker, Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Patricia Winston, Sarah Hall, and Eugenia Cameron for their service to the community with “Faithful Servant” plaques.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace, in behalf of the honorees thanked Mr. Jones for the awards. She then recognized Ms. Sophia James of Inner Force Early Learning Centers.

Ms. James stated she is the Director of Community Affairs for Inner Force Tots Early Education Agency. They are located at 1181 East New York Avenue (opposite Western Beef). Inner Force Tots will host their First Annual Community Health Fair on July 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She introduced Ms. Carey King of GrowNYC with whom they are collaborating to bring fresh produce to the community.

Ms. King stated that GrowNYC operates many farmers’ markets throughout New York City. The program that they are working with Inner Force Tots is their Fresh Food Box program. The Fresh Food Box Program is a food access initiative that allows underserved communities to purchase a selection of fresh, healthy, regionally-grown produce; the best of what’s seasonally available. Fresh Food Box customers can take advantage of the cost benefits of buying in a group, and enjoy the quality and variety of a locally grown produce at the low cost of \$12 per week. Additionally, they offer cooking demonstrations with attendees receiving a \$2 discount on their bag of produce. The program will operate on Fridays from July through November 20, 2015.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Paula Segal from 596 Acres.

Ms. Paula Segal stated that 596 Acres helps community residents access city-owned vacant lots. They have groups such as Ten Neighbors gain use of vacant lots to establish or reestablish community gardens. A flyer with a map of the site of all publicly-owned vacant lots in Community District #16 was distributed with a guideline on organizing on the reverse along with some helpful contact information.

She stated that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for some of the site with the City offering to sell the lots for as little as \$1 to development so called affordable housing. However, the housing is oftentimes not affordable to community residents with units being rented for as much as \$3,200 per month for a family of four. HPD can be negotiated with and 596 Acres wants to show you how to go about the negotiations.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Pastor Sherri Black of Brownsville Matters.

Pastor Black stated that Brownsville is losing too many of its young people through drugs and violence. Brownsville Matters seeks to reverse this. Brownsville Matters has a newspaper “Brownsville Matters to the Heart of God.” This paper is used as a tool to facilitate one on one interaction with youth in discussing problems both personal and those that have an impact on community. The goal is to verbalize viable solutions and then move forward from there. Copies are available online and in hard copy. Requests for copies can be sent to BrownsvilleMatters@gmail.com.

She asked that community save the date of Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., for the Brownsville Matters, Inc. Anti-Gun and Anti-Gang Violence Movement at Betsy Head Park.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that on Friday, Jun 29th, the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District will sponsor Movie Night. Pitkin Avenue between Chester Street and Rockaway Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic.

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

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