

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MARCH 22, 2016

### Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Albion Liburd
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Deborah Mack
Margaret Brewer	Yolanda Matthews
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	John McCadney, Jr.
Aaron Brown (A)	Andrea McCullough
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Genese Morgan
Anthony Clark	Marie Pierre
Adrainer Coleman	Mattie Pusey (A)
Carlos Diaz (E)	Linda Rivera
Brenda Duchene	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Celina Trowell (A)
Norman Frazier	Ernestine Turner
Danny Goodine	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Rose Graham	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Chanel Haliburton (A)	Pat Winston
Sarah Hall	Sylvester Yavana (A)
Jessie Hilliard	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Michael Howard	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Prince Issachar (A)	Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clark
Carl Joseph (A)	Frieda Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Pamela Junior (E)	Jarvis Houston for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Eula Key	Marie Monk for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Danny King (A)	Alicka Ampry-Samuel for Hon. Latrice Walker
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Stringer
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
Carolyn Lee	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Maurice Philips for Hon. Darlene Mealy

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer in memory of our late Board Member Daisy Jackson.

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

She recognized Mr. Bruno Iciano from the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

Mr. Iciano stated that recycling has been mandatory in New York City since 1986. It is a simple step that must be done and it helps the environment as well. Glass, plastic, and metal go in one container which can be labeled with blue recycling stickers and paper and cardboard placed in another container labeled with green recycling stickers (both types of stickers are available on tonight's distribution table and at the Community Board's office).

Beyond recycling, you can donate your unwanted items to various organizations throughout the city for reuse and thereby reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills.

To help residents dispose of harmful household products safely, DSNY hosts SAFE (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables, and Electronics) disposal events one of which will be held on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Prospect Park, Park Circle. Other events will take place on Staten Island on April 16<sup>th</sup>, in Queens on April 30<sup>th</sup>, in the Bronx on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and in Manhattan on June 26<sup>th</sup>. They are looking into the suggestion of holding these events more frequently. If you are part of an organization which is interested in hosting one of these events, please reach out to District Manager Greene-Walker.

Someone stated that Mr. Iciano made mention of containers for recyclables. Are the clear bags still acceptable?

Mr. Iciano stated that clear plastic bags are acceptable for recycling but black bags are not. If you are using containers, he suggested that they be washed out occasionally to deter rodents. He

also suggested that food scraps be frozen and discarded on day of collection to prevent odors and vermin.

In parts of the city, they are conducting a pilot program to collect organics separately for composting. If successful, it will become a citywide program. Currently, participation is not mandatory and summonses are not issued for non-compliance. If the program becomes citywide, summonses would be issued for non-compliance after a grace period. The plan is to utilize this waste by turning it into an alternative fuel source for their vehicles. He thinks that it is a very good concept that will help the environment while saving the city money.

Someone asked who pickups discarded televisions?

Mr. Iciano stated that beginning January 1, 2016, DSNY no longer collects discarded electronics. They can be brought to a SAFE Disposal Event or to an electronics store such as Best Buy. Places that sell electronics are required by law to accept discarded electronics. If you encounter a store that refuses to take an electronic item, please call 3-1-1 with the location, date and time. If you have working items that you no longer want, consider donating them to an organization such Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army.

The questioner asked what if the television is dumped on the street?

Mr. Iciano stated that illegally dumped items can be reported to 3-1-1 and the local garage will inspect and collect the item. It is the curbside pickup of electronics that is no longer done.

He stated that he can be reached by calling (646) 885-5022. He asked that a detail message be left with a number where he can return your call.

Someone asked if there are any free shredding events?

Mr. Iciano stated that they have free shredding events annually and will let the community know through the community boards and elected officials.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that in some communities, property owners were given free containers. How can someone take part in this program?

Mr. Iciano stated that in communities that are taking part in the pilot organics collection program, DSNY supplied each building with containers for collection based on the registered size of the building. The Department of Health has from time to time issued garbage cans in areas with high rates of rodent infestation.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Iciano for his presentation.

Mr. Quinn Kelly and Ms. Ethany Uttech were invited to come forward and present on the El-Space Challenge.

Mr. Kelly that he is from the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and Ms. Uttech is from IOBY (In Our Back Yards). They are here to present on the El-Space Challenge which is a call for proposals, developed through a unique partnership between the City of New York and IOBY. The goal is to connect community leaders in Brownsville with the funding and support to reimagine the space beneath and adjacent to the elevated train structure along Livonia Avenue. The overall effort is designed to inspire innovative placemaking by and for those who live and work in Brownsville and explore ideas to transform the Livonia Avenue el-space into a vital, dynamic community asset.

Ms. Frieda Menos asked who is funding the project?

Mr. Kelly stated that the project is funded, in part, through crowd funding.

Ms. Uttech stated that IOBY thinks of itself as the opposite of NIMBY (Not In My Backyard). They are a crowd funding platform that help resident fund raise for projects which improve their communities. They provide one-on-one fund raising coaching to the residents who are ready to go forward with their projects but need to raise money to implement their ideas. IOBY is based in New York City but has helped residents across the country. You can learn more about their organization by visiting their website: [ioby.org](http://ioby.org).

IOBY will assist the winning proposal in raising funds which will then be matched by DOT to support creative, short-term projects that will explore ideas to transform underutilized public spaces into assets for the community. DOT will award matching funds based on the amount that eligible groups crowdfund on IOBY's platform.

The El-Space Challenge is part of DOT's larger citywide effort to reconnect communities by improving and reclaiming space under and adjacent to New York City's elevated train lines, bridges, and highways. DOT is currently developing a set of tools for enhancing and activating this "el-space," including lighting, street furniture, public art, and green infrastructure.

Along with assisting with the logistics of the project, DOT will match 3 to 1 the amount raised by the winning proposal. So if they raise \$1,500, DOT will match it with \$4,500 for a total of \$6,000.

Temporary (From one day to 11 months.), innovative projects such as those of the El-Space Challenge are designed to inform and inspire future urban design and neighborhood revitalization efforts along the corridor.

Ms. Frances Brown asked if donations of material and/or volunteers are matched?

Ms. Uttech stated that DOT will only be matching monetary donations, on this particular project. She does encourage applicants to seek volunteers for their projects and a button can be placed on the online donation form to ask people to volunteer as well.

Ms. Brown asked if you need to be a non-profit organization to apply?

Mr. Kelly stated that because of the nature of the project it is much easier if you are, but anyone can apply. If you have a non-profit that you can affiliate with that can sponsor your project that would make it a lot easier. The application can be found at [ioby.org/nycdot](http://ioby.org/nycdot) and the application deadline is April 1, 2016.

Ms. Uttech stated that they will be able to work with anyone whether they are affiliated with a non-profit or not.

Ms. Carolyn Lee asked if businesses can apply and if the upgrades would be permanent?

Mr. Kelly stated that anyone can apply. The projects are temporary in nature, but the aim of the program is to get ideas from the community that will help guide future DOT improvements.

Ms. Genese Morgan asked if there are any references available wherein IOBY has assisted in this type of project.

Ms. Uttech stated that they recently worked with the City of Los Angeles on their Great Streets project where ten projects were selected and they help the residents from different communities in Los Angeles raise between \$4,000 to \$12,000.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Kelly and Ms. Uttech for their presentation.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace next introduced Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that with the change in weather things have begun to quiet down. Regarding crimes in the Precinct, they are down for the period by 9%. They are down one shooting for the year with one shooting taking place in the past 28 days. This is considered good based on the weather we had.

He remains concerned with a rash of automobile thefts in the area bounded by Eastern Parkway, Ralph Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, and Saratoga Avenue. People are creating the opportunity for crime by leaving their cars running. The perpetrators are working mainly between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. when people are starting their cars and leaving them running unattended in order to warm them up. He asks the audience to avoid doing this and to warn their neighbors.

They are also trending upward in grand larceny with bank and credit card fraud and he asks that we protect our information.

He invited the audience to participate in one of the two Easter Egg hunts to take place at the Brownsville Recreation Center and at Betsy Head Park on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace next recognized Mr. Kevin Morris of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

Mr. Morris stated that he is here to offer a refresher on their Family Justice Center, an initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence called the NYCHA Domestic Violence Response Team (NYCHA DVRT). The goal of the initiative is to raise awareness about domestic violence and directly link victims to appropriate services.

The initiative operates from fifteen New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments citywide, seven in Brooklyn. In Community District #16, they are at Van Dyke I and II, and Brownsville.

As Community Liaisons, they provide crisis intervention, advocacy, and supportive services to NYCHA domestic violence victims at the Family Justice Centers.

A wide range of services are available at the Family Justice Centers including case management, risk assessment, safety planning, family law, immigration law, counseling for adults and children, and economic empowerment services (assistance with public benefits, budgeting, employment readiness and financial safety) for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking. Key City agencies, community, social and civil legal service providers, and District Attorney's Offices are located on-site to make it easier for victims to get help. Services are free and confidential. All are welcome regardless of language, income or immigration status.

They are located on the 15<sup>th</sup> Floor of 350 Jay Street, downtown Brooklyn. He can be reached by calling (917) 280-6060.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace next recognized Ms. Talisha Lewis of the Power of 2.

Ms. Lewis stated that she is the new Community Out Reach Coordinator for Power of 2 which services parents and other caregivers of infants ages 6 months to 24 months old. The program focuses on strengthening the bond between the parent and the child. They have three target goals: Nurturing, Follow the Lead, and Refraining from Frightening Behaviors. They are located at 400 Rockaway Avenue. The ten-week program is offered free to any parent or caregiver regardless of their income. She can be reached by calling (718) 298-4671.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace next recognized Ms. Tejumade Ajaiyeoba from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

Ms. Ajaiyeoba stated that she is a Community Liaison with DOHMH's Office of External Affairs. She is here this evening to speaking about the Zika virus.

The Zika virus is a disease which is primarily spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito mostly found in tropical areas (Think of this as anywhere south of the continental United States). Symptoms associated with the disease are fever, rash, joint stiffness, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). There is currently no vaccine for the virus. However, scientists and researchers hope to have one by the end of 2017 with phase I trials to start late summer to early fall, depending on the information they are able gather about the virus.

The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

They are suggesting that women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, not travel to the affected countries. Should you need to travel to those areas, they suggest that precautions be taken to avoid being bitten – wear long sleeves, use insect repellent, and where possible, stay in air conditioned rooms.

Another concern is that they have recently found evidence to indicate that the virus can be transmitted sexually. Men who are infected with the virus can pass it to their partners who are

pregnant or planning to become pregnant. For this reason, they ask men who have travelled to these regions to abstain from unprotected sex with women who are or plan to become pregnant.

At this time, they are not certain of how long the virus stays in your system. Initially, it was thought that the virus would be gone after two weeks to two months from infection. However, there is a recorded case of a 68 year-old man with the virus 62 days after infection. This information continues to evolve and she asks that the audience continue to avail themselves of information on the subject that can be found on the Center for Disease Control's or DOHMH's websites.

Someone asked how can they find out if they are infected?

Ms. Ajaiyeoba stated that you would have to be tested by your healthcare provider. Women who are pregnant can be tested for free. The Governor will be making a Zika Prevention Kit with things such as condoms and insect repellent available to pregnant women. Healthcare providers have been informed on the procedure to be taken regarding testing. Unfortunately, there are no testing facilities in New York City at this time and it takes about 7 days to get results.

Someone asked if children can be infected?

Ms. Ajaiyeoba stated that children can be infected in the same manner as adults. At this time, they do not know how long the infection stays in the body.

Someone asked if there are any known cases involving someone from the Brownsville/East New York communities?

Ms. Ajaiyeoba stated that there have been cases in New York, but the information has not been released as to where the persons are. They know that the majority of the cases have been in Manhattan, and that half of the cases are of women who traveled to affected regions and half of the women who were infected by men traveling to the regions.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Ajaiyeoba for her presentation.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

- Consolidated Edison is warning their customers to beware of imposters claiming to be from the company and seeking to enter your home or business.
- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) NYC Transit has announced that the Rockaway Avenue and the Van Siclen Avenue stations on the IRT-3 will be reopening on March 28, 2016. After these stations reopen, MTA NYC Transit will be closing the Saratoga Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue stations on Monday, April 11, 2016. These two stations will be closed until early fall 2016. Once these two stations are completed, the Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road and Junius Street stations will undergo renovation.
- Persons earning \$62,000 or less in 2015, may qualify for FREE TAX PREP services, including online filing and in-person filing with an IRS certified VITA/CTE volunteer preparer.

Sites in CD #16 are Neighbors Together, 2094 Fulton Street, (718) 498-7256.  
Community Solutions-Brownsville Partnership, 519 Rockaway Avenue, (347) 682-5606.

- The Department of Transportation will be making the following safety improvements at Ralph Avenue and East 98<sup>th</sup> Street: 1) A new concrete pedestrian refuge to replace the triangle that is currently striped with paint. 2) Four (4) striped crosswalks with new pedestrian ramps (there are currently no striped crosswalks at this intersection). 3) A new traffic signal that will allow a pedestrian to cross both Ralph Avenue and East 98<sup>th</sup> Street in one signal phase (and removing the two stop signs on southbound Ralph Avenue). 4) Creating a short no-standing zone within the new, clarified intersection so cars are not parked within the intersection.

- Applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now available to youths who are at least 14 years old but not over 24 years old as of July 1, 2016 and permanently reside within the five boroughs of New York City.

The deadline to submit a complete SYEP application is April 15, 2016.

- Ladders for Leaders is a nationally recognized program that offers high school and college students the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies in New York City.

To apply to the NYC Ladders for Leaders Program, visit the website at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or call DYCD Youth Connect at 1(800) 246-4646 to learn about the application process.

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

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Eula Key to accept the report of the District Manager.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Carlos Soto, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr.

Mr. Soto stated that Councilmember Espinal represents the northern portion of Community District #16. He has attorneys available to assist with housing matters at his office, located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, the telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

At last September's Community Board meeting, the Board voted to support the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue, in honor of the late Dr. Walter A. Kyte. Councilmember Espinal was just settling into his new position at the time and missed the deadline to submit the application to the City Council. However, he does support the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue from Watkins Street to Van Sinderen Avenue, and has submitted the paperwork to have it done. The ceremony should take place this summer and once they have all the information they will invite everyone to join them for the ceremony.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer, the New York City Economic Development Corporation has developed a new accelerated strategic plan focused on strengthening neighborhoods and growing good jobs and also recently completed a study on the East New York Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) at the request of the Councilmember Raphael Espinal.

The new strategic vision of the agency will focus on strengthening neighborhoods and growing good jobs. Through neighborhood strengthening, the agency intends to improve infrastructure, develop comprehensive neighborhood planning and advance catalytic developments. Through growing good jobs, the agency intends to maintain and grow jobs with support from NYCSBS and Workforce 1; increase quality jobs, increase MWBE opportunities and develop opportunities in targeted employment sectors.

In support of this new strategic vision, Mayor Bill DeBlasio has announced the Industrial Action Plan which focuses on 10 initiatives:

1. Invest in City-Owned Industrial Assets
2. Limit New Hotels and Personal Storage facilities in Core Industrial Areas to Reduce Use Conflicts and Support Diverse Economic Growth
3. Create New Models for Flexible Workspace and Innovation Districts.
4. Strengthen Core Industrial Areas
5. Create an Industrial and Manufacturing Fund to Spur Development
6. Launch Advanced Manufacturing Network "Futureworks NYC", including creation of a New Advanced Manufacturing Center
7. Expand Brownfields Jumpstart Program to Industrial Properties
8. Re-launch Industrial Business Solutions Providers Network

9. Create Industry Partnerships to Bolster Workforce Development
10. Establish Career Centers in IBZs

Furthermore, members of the NYCEDC team shared an update on the East New York Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) study which was recently completed and some of the greatest concerns of owner/operators of businesses in the IBZ cited concerns on:

- Public Safety
- Narrow Streets
- Sanitation
- Phone and Internet Services

However, they also cited reasons for locating their operations in the IBZ as:

- Rents are Affordable
- Able to Purchase Property
- Location to Transportation

Currently, 70% of the IBZ is used for Industrial and Manufacturing, Transportation and Utility jobs. Over 3,000 individuals are employed in the IBZ and 50% are employed in manufacturing, transportation and warehousing.

Additionally, on Monday, March 22, 2016, the New York City Department of Small Business Services held the 2<sup>nd</sup> planning meeting with community stakeholders to pinpoint resources and partners that will be required as part of the implementation of a Workforce1 center in the Brownsville / East New York communities.

Lastly, the New York State Assembly has requested input from community board members regarding the following bills:

- A3908 – The bill would allow the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to include certain terms and conditions as part of an on-premises liquor license, assuring that the premises is lawfully operated in the best interest of the public.
- A567 – The bill would revise the procedure for the issuance of retail and special retail liquor license for on premise consumption for premises within five hundred feet of three or more existing premises and increase the advance notice of application to community board to thirty days. The current requirement is fifteen days.
- A542 - The bill would revise the procedure for the issuance of retail and special retail liquor license for on premise consumption for premises within five hundred feet of three or more existing premises. The SLA would prohibit the over saturation of bars and clubs by requiring a public hearing for approval of applications where three licenses have already been issued within five hundred feet.

The Committee would like to inform and/or remind the community of several opportunities for residents:

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program for youth ages 14-24. Interested individuals can apply online at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or if you have further questions about SYEP, contact NYC Youth Connect at (800) 246-4646. The Deadline to apply is April 15, 2016.

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 invite to attend the next Economic Development Committee meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, may contact Ms. Morgan at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov).

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if any of the merchants on Pitkin Avenue will be hiring youth for the summer?

Ms. Morgan stated that the businesses can apply through DYCD to become worksites. She is not familiar with any that have done so, but that information will be made available through DYCD.

Ms. Frances Brown requested clarification with regard to the Board's review of liquor stores.

Ms. Morgan stated that the Board does not review applications by liquor stores, supermarkets or other locales where alcohol is sold in sealed containers for off premise consumption. The Board applications for on premise consumption where the alcohol is served for consumption at the location where it is sold.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Carolyn Lee, 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/Social Services Committees of Community Boards 3, 5, 8, 16 held a joint follow-up meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2016 in an effort to continue our "Enough is Enough" stance with the Department of Homeless Services. Each of these districts are disproportionately inundated with shelters. The group decided to invite all of our elected officials to a meeting on this matter. More information will be provided at the next Community Board 16 public meeting.

On March 4, 2016, the Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center Cancer Team hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new breast cancer center, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the hospital as it officially opened to the community. The establishment and opening the Brookdale Cancer Treatment Team means they are able to treat a greater number of cancer patients here in our community. The Brookdale cancer team features multidisciplinary-multispecialty cancer management in prostate, lung, colon, breast, and cervical cancers, image guided radiation therapy, and computer based treatment planning. The road to remission begins with the right care team. This is great news, as Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center becomes a leader of healthcare in East Brooklyn, it is important that residents of Community District #16 and all East Brooklyn be aware of and take advantage of these healthcare services. This is a welcome relief from traveling to Manhattan or other cancer treatment centers.

Details of this development and others will be presented at the next Community Board meeting by the doctors and staff of the Brookdale Cancer Treatment Team. In the meanwhile, please share this information with your families and friends. Let us take charge of our own health.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on April 13, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a teleconference on March 18, 2016 and reviewed the letter sent to Congress members Yvette Clarke and Hakeem Jeffries regarding our concerns with the affordability of housing in our community. She shared the letter by reading it to the audience.

They also reviewed several pieces of legislation:

- A542 which is an act to amend the alcoholic beverage control law in relation to procedures associated with issuing retail and special retail licenses to sell liquor for on-premises consumption regarding premises located within 500 feet of 3 or more existing premises in cities, towns, and villages having a population of 20,000 or more.

The State Liquor Authority is prohibited from issuing a retail license for on-premises consumption to any establishment to be located within five hundred feet of three or more licensed and operating establishments, this prohibition is commonly referred to as the five hundred-foot rule. The five hundred-foot rule was enacted to alleviate the problems caused by the over saturation of residential neighborhoods by late night bars and clubs. This rule may be waived, however, if after consultation with the municipality or community board the Liquor Authority determines that issuing such a license would be in the public interest. A public hearing must be conducted before the Liquor Authority can issue any such license during which



the community must be provided an opportunity to present oral testimony on the application. Written notice must be provided to the municipality or community board at least fifteen days in advance of the hearing.

Currently, little more than the name and location of the proposed establishment is included with the five hundred-foot hearing notice. This measure requires that a copy of the license application, redacted to exclude personal information, being included with the notice so that the public may participate in the hearing in an informed manner.

- A567 which reads similar to A542 with regard to the 500 feet rule.

The difference in the two bills is that A567 would increase from 15 to 30 days the period of advance notice the Liquor Authority provides to the municipality or community board of the hearing.

- A3908 – An act to amend the alcoholic beverage control law, in relation to authorizing the imposition of certain terms and conditions as part of certain licenses for on-premises consumption.

This bill amends the nine sections of the Alcoholic Beverage Control law to allow the SLA to include specific terms and conditions in an on-premises liquor license, “for the purpose of assuring that the licensed premises are operated in accordance with applicable law and consistent with the public convenience and advantage”. Prior to including terms and conditions in the license, the SLA would consult with the applicant and any party entitled to receive notice of the application (for example, local governments or community boards). The terms and conditions would be legally enforceable in the same manner as applicable provisions of this chapter or regulations of the SLA.

Communities are increasingly concerned about problem bars and clubs. Problems can include noise far into the night, crowds, traffic, vandalism, and violence. In recent years, the SLA has begun to enforce terms and conditions against on-premises establishments. However, adding this provision to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law would give this policy a clear and permanent statutory foundation.

- S5026A - An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to a community gardens task force

Section 1. Amends paragraph 1 of 31-j of the agriculture and markets law to require the commissioner convene the community gardens task force. Amends paragraph 2 of 31-j of the agriculture and markets law to require that the task force include 2 representatives from organizations dedicated to the promotion, expansion or protection of community gardens. Amends subdivision (a) of paragraph 4 of 31-j have the task force develop recommendations for developing after school programs relating to after school and to develop community gardens in food deserts. Adds a new paragraph 5 to 31-j to require a report to the legislature and sets forth topics to be included in the report.

Section 2. Sets forth the effect date.

A Community Garden is a shared piece of land that is used for gardening by a group of people. Community Gardens have numerous benefits, including access to fresh food with a nutritional value, can help foster a sense of stewardship, identity and ownership in a community, provide educational opportunities, can increase property values, and can even help reduce crime.

Recognizing these benefits, in 1986 the state enacted Title 2-C of the Agriculture and Markets Law relating to community gardens. This section of law created a task force to promote and foster the growth of community gardens and outlined goals for the task force. However, the legislation failed to require a report from the task force to provide recommendations for steps required policy changes to facilitate achievement of the goals. Among other things this bill would require the task force develop recommendations in such a report.

- Lastly, we reviewed Assembly bill A8704 which seeks to amend the multiple dwelling law and the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to prohibiting advertising that promotes the use of dwelling units in a class A multiple dwelling for other than permanent residence purposes; and to amend the real property law, in relation to requiring that landlords provide notice to tenants of the consequences of

advertising a rental unit for use on short term rental websites. For the purpose of clarity, a “Class A” multiple dwelling is defined as a multiple dwelling that is occupied for permanent residence purposes.

First time violators face a civil penalty of one thousand dollars, second time violators five thousand, and third time violators seven thousand. We support this piece of legislation as we feel that this will preserve our already depleted housing stock. We also feel that it will prevent security risks as the existing residents would be able to monitor residents that belong in the complex. We also felt that this is like operating a motel or hotel on a cheaper scale and the state does not get the added revenue collected as if it were operated as a hotel or motel. Finally, it threatens the livelihood of an existing industry. For those who are concerned, it does not affect dwellings that have less than four units.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board votes to support A542, A567, A3908, S5036A, and A8704.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Community Board Office.

Mr. Thaddeus Talbot asked if there were restrictions on the type of business that can be placed at a location?

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that beyond the two hundred-foot (and five hundred-foot) rules with liquor stores, most businesses can be place anywhere that zoning allows that type of business to be located.

Regarding liquor licensing, the State Liquor Authority does allow the Board to submit comments which can affect whether a license is issued or not. The Board has had success in having a license application denied by commenting on activities that took place at a location.

For its part, the Economic Development Committee always reviews police activity at location for which a liquor license application is submitted. They also rely on comments from the community to make their recommendations.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if this is related to the rezoning efforts being put forth by the mayor? The so called affordable rents being proposed for housing in this community are unaffordable my many of the current residents of the community.

Ms. Pierre stated that this is the reason for the letters. Oftentimes, HPD does not have control of the pricing. The Committee is seeking to have legislation put in place to change so that the housing becomes truly affordable for the majority of the community.

Ms. Frieda Menos of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries’ office stated that AMI (Area Median Income) is the federal guideline that is the basis for income requirements used by HPD. The problem is that this median includes not only Brooklyn, but areas such Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk County where the average incomes are not representative of what is earned by residents of our local communities.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee and their recommendations.

Ms. Pat Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 16, 2016 with our Liaison at the New York City Department for the Aging, Charise Lawrence.

Ms. Lawrence informed the Committee about the various resources available for older New Yorkers which we reported on at last month’s Board meeting. Copies of booklets that list the various benefits and requirements are available by contacting Ms. Winston.

The Department for the Aging is a partner with Borough President Eric Adams in an “All-In-One Resource Clinic” on Wednesdays, March 30, April 20, May 25, June 15, September 14, October 19, and November 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street. Seniors are encouraged to attend.

The next Senior Citizens Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee did not meet this month, however, she would like to remind the audience of the need to change out the batteries on their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Nine volt batteries that are being given out tonight have been donated by the Fire Department.

The Board is working on plans to host another Get Alarmed NYC event to assist persons who do not have working smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in their homes to get them.

The Public Safety Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the Community Board Office. All are invited to attend.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 and discussed organizing informational sessions for women and youth in our community. Suggested topics are:

- Health and exercise
- Finance – Credit scores, budgeting, savings
- Home economics – cooking healthy meals
- Higher Education
- Social Media and Computers

The Women's Committee will be collaborating with the Youth Services Planning Committee in organizing a conference for middle school students in late May or June.

The Women's Committee will continue to research topics for resources that may be needed in our community. If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to share, please email them to my attention at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov).

The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, reported that on March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Services Planning Committee met to discuss meeting with the principals of three community schools to determine how the Committee can assist to get more resources for the schools.

On March 7, 2016, Mr. Alexander met with Ms. Joseph, Principal of IS 392. Her concerns were as follows:

- Need for more money for programs at the school. Although Borough President Eric Adams and Councilmember Darlene Mealy have funded some of the programs and the school has an Afterschool Program called SONYC, she felt that there was a need for additional funds for programs to meet other challenges the students and parents face such as mental health, books, art programs, and class trips to name a few.
- Also discussed was a need to have more parent participation. Most of the time, the parents come out during an event like Black History Month Celebration, but at the teacher conferences there is a decline in parent participation due to various reasons.
- On the upside, she maintains funding from various places for workshops and special events, although she does not have the staffing to assist her with some of the projects.

- Ms. Joseph stated that she enhanced her curriculum with historic material to educate the students of their ancestry. She also has a course for the family that explains economic and fiscal maintenance, which is offered through the People’s Alliance Federal Credit Union. People’s Alliance Federal Credit Union also offers student seminars on how to save, financial advisement, how to invest, and how to purchase using the income they have. Parents are also trained at these seminars and it is free.

There is a low turnover rate for the teachers. The teachers are well trained to meet the needs of the student in grades 6-8. Ms. Joseph said that although the school is considered Gifted and Talented, where the students are screened for eligibility to the school, that she also receives general students, who do meet the Gifted criteria. These students do not offset the progressive nature of the school because of the afterschool program at the site. She shares the school with PS 156, a Pre-k to 5th grade school, and both schools are doing well according to the statistics obtained through the data collection the Committee conducted.

On March 8th, Mrs. Greene-Walker and Mr. Alexander met with Ms. Mitchell, Principal at P.S. 401 – grades Pre-k – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She shares the school with a Charter School – Leadership Prep Ocean Hill Uncommon Charter School, grades K-6th grade. Ms. Mitchell has approximately 334 students of which 52% are from temporary housing and 31% are special needs students. The Charter School has 9% of the children in temporary housing. Ms. Mitchell expressed concern about the students’ attendance, retaining students, and the instability of the students living in temporary housing. She informed us that the students’ capability to learn are no different than that of those living in permanent housing, but the attendance of students living in permanent housing was better.

She has one (1) counselor for the entire student body, which was surprising due to the emotional state of the students who are in temporary housing and have special needs. I stated that she needs social workers to meet the needs of a majority of the students under her charge and she agreed. She felt that the teachers needed more training with the distinct population of students to provide appropriate sensitivity to the children’s needs. Ms. Mitchell also felt that parents need to become more involved. There is one school funded program in the school – Success Academy which operates Wednesday thru Friday. However, the school is well equipped with labs and libraries, which belong to P.S. 401, and not the Charter School.

Both principals were extraordinary in their own right and were willing to discuss what was needed at the community level to assist them in their schools. The Youth Committee will provide support and assistance with what we identified in both schools as follows:

- Parent involvement through workshops and other interventions in both schools
- Discussion with the Department of Homeless Services concerning provisions for the schools in Ocean Hill – Brownsville as we have a high volume of shelters in our community
- DHS workshops with parents whose children attend schools in Ocean Hill – Brownsville
- Identifying partnerships with appropriate Community Based Organizations that would benefit the parents and additional afterschool programs for the student at PS 401 and IS 392.
- Inform principal of housing opportunities for the homeless families based on new housing being built in the community.
- Seek more money for books, and more services from elected officials to address these needs for both schools.
- Follow up with both schools on a monthly basis to ensure the needs of principals and children are being attained.

Also discussed at the meeting was the upcoming workshop for the Middle Schools in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, which is not yet scheduled. The workshops are as follows.

- Victims of Incest and other abuse
- Sex and sexuality
- Bullying
- What to do when stopped by the police
- Gang violence vs Community Appreciation
- Disconnected youth in need of social services (mental health, substance abuse)
- Parent/children relationships – ways and means for improvement
- Financial management (the importance of savings, credit scores, etc.)

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Deborah Mack, Chairperson the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 7, 2016 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation who informed the Committee of plans to rehabilitate the Atlantic Avenue Bridge Over the LIRR – Atlantic Branch. The viaduct begins at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway in Community District #16 and ends at Atlantic Avenue and Georgia Avenue in Community District #5.

The bridge consists of 75 spans with stone facing over the LIRR East New York Station and carries two (2) travel lanes in each direction, separated by a concrete barrier.

The project scope:

- Replace roadway deck and expansion joints.
- Replace curb and median barriers.
- Replace deteriorated steel beams and columns.
- Retrofit column bases and add cross bracing to meet current seismic design requirements.
- Repair interior concrete walls.
- Repair and clean stone facing, repoint joints.
- Mill and repave services roads.
- Provide new drain inlets on bridge, retain current outlets.
- Replace bridge and service road lighting with LED fixture.
- Remove hazardous material in construction zone.
- Provide protection to LIRR tracks from the overhead or adjacent construction so that LIRR can maintain service.
- Relocate or protect utilities.

Street light poles and lights are to be removed and replaced with new LED fixtures at same locations.

The contract is expected to be awarded in Summer 2017. The pre-stage work will begin in Fall 2017 and end in Spring 2018. Construction on the west bound side of the bridge will begin in Spring 2018 and end in Summer 2019. Construction on the east bound side of the bridge will begin in Summer 2019 and end in Fall 2019. The total construction duration will be 42 months.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Marie Monk, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud.

Ms. Monk offered blanket congratulations to all the women in the audience who have been or will be honored during Women's History Month. She invited the audience to a luncheon and Easter Bonnet contest for the seniors in her district at Vandalia Senior Center in East New York. Seniors who are interested in attending should call (718) 649-7653.

Senator Persaud will have a Mobile Constituent Van that will bring her office services to the communities she serves. The first one will be at the New Lots Library. Her office can assist residents with issues such as SNAP applications, housing services, law enforcement issues, and foreclosures, to name a few. Her staff can make arrangements for you to speak directly with Senator Persaud as well. Her District Office is located at 1222 East 96<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenue J and Flatlands Avenue.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if Senator Persaud will have any summer youth jobs?

Ms. Monk stated that Senator Persaud will not be hiring any summer youth. She does however make available a list of organizations with available jobs.

Ms. Alicka Ampry-Samuel, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, stated that on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Community Center,

located at 392 Blake Avenue, Assemblywoman Walker will honor Women of Distinction at an awards luncheon and invites all to attend.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. she will host Summer Youth Employment Workshop at her office, located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue. In collaboration with Delta Sigma Theta, she will host an Entrepreneur Boot Camp for small businesses on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Her monthly Advisory Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and all are invited to attend.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clark, stated that they are working to improve the service at Brownsville Post Office, located at 167 Bristol Street and are in the process of setting up a meeting with the Brooklyn Postmaster.

Congresswoman Clark invites high school students to enter the Congressional Art contest for a chance for trip to Washington and have their art displayed on the walls of the Capital Building for one year.

The FCC (Federal Communication Commission) will be voting on whether to attach a fee to Safelink cell phone on March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are rumors going around stating that they will be taking the phones away. That is not true, however, the Commission may attach a fee to the phones so that they will no longer be free.

Congresswoman Clark's office can assist with issues on immigration, education, grants, and youth programs. She also offers internships at her offices as well as sponsoring interns to work with the Congressional Black Caucus. The District Office is located at 222 Lenox Road between Rogers and Nostrand Avenues.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if there has been any improvement to service at the Brownsville Post Office since they been in talks with the Postmaster? Is there an age restriction for the Congressional Black Caucus internship?

Mr. Belon stated that the post office continues to be problematic.

Ms. Menos stated that it is an ongoing problem without simple solutions and her office is also in constant communication with the Postmaster to resolve the problems.

Regarding the internship, Mr. Belon stated that there is no age restriction that he is aware of.

Mr. Carlos Soto the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr. stated that Councilmember Espinal will host a tax lien forum on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The venue has not been finalized at this time, but the community will be notified when it is. Councilmember Espinal offers assistance with immigration and housing issues and has attorneys who can further assist at his office once each week. His office is located at 76 Knickerbocker Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

Ms. Frieda Menos, representing the Office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, stated that Congressman Jeffries is the Whip of the Congressional Black Caucus and they offer a number of internships, scholarships, and fellowships. More information on these programs may be found by visiting the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation website at [cbcfinc.org](http://cbcfinc.org).

Congressman Jeffries, along with 43 other Democrats in Congress, is cosponsoring Congressman John Conyers' H.R. 2875: Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act. This bill, among other things, requires the United States Department of Justice to study the prevalence and effect of any law, rule, or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the investigation and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct and the effect on the community.

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