

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 24, 2016

Attendance

David Alexander	Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Albion Liburd (E)
Margaret Brewer	Deborah Mack
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	Yolanda Matthews (E)
Aaron Brown (A)	John McCadney, Jr.
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Andrea McCullough
Anthony Clark	Genese Morgan
Adrainer Coleman	Marie Pierre
Carlos Diaz	Mattie Pusey (A)
Brenda Duchene	Linda Rivera
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Norman Frazier	Celina Trowell (A)
Danny Goodine (A)	Ernestine Turner
Rose Graham (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Chanel Haliburton (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Sarah Hall	Pat Winston
Jessie Hilliard (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Michael Howard	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Prince Issachar (A)	Menelik O’Neal for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Carl Joseph (E)	Marie Monk-Boone for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Pamela Junior (E)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
Eula Key	Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Stringer
Danny King	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Carolyn Lee (E)	

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the hearing to order at 7:12 p.m. and gave an invocation.

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

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

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

- Affordable Housing for Rent - Applications are now being accepted for 86 newly constructed units at 1740-1760 Prospect Place and 396 Saratoga Avenue.
- Cooling Assistance - Governor Cuomo has announced that \$3 million is available to help New Yorkers who have medical conditions that can be aggravated by extreme heat to buy and install air conditioners.

Information on how to apply can be found at <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/HEAP-contacts.pdf>.

- Child Support Debt- The New York City Human Resources Administration, Department of Social Services, has announced that assistance is available to parents who owe child support debt.

For two weeks, from June 1 – 15, 2016, if you pay \$1,000 or more toward child support debt owed to New York City, the Department of Social Services will match that payment.

To pay off your debt, go to the Customer Service Walk-In Center, located at 151 West Broadway, 4th Floor (between Worth Street and Thomas Street) in Manhattan.

For more information, call (929) 252-5200.

- Begin Again - Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson has announced that on Saturday, June 11th at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, located at 1405 Bushwick Avenue, the Court and Defense Attorneys will be available to resolve outstanding summons warrants.

You may be eligible to resolve your New York Police Department summons that is dated before May 6, 2016. To expedite admittance to the courtroom site, you may preregister by going to www.BrooklynDA.org/BeginAgain.

- Partnership for Parks - The Partnership for Parks Capacity Fund Grant program, presented by TD Bank, provides small grants of up to \$5,000 to strengthen the outreach, membership, and program-planning capacity of community groups who care for their neighborhood parks in all five boroughs of New York City.

For the guidelines and application, and to register for the webinar or consultation, visit www.partnershipforparks.org or email the Grant Team at grants@ctyparksfoundation.org.

- Mobile Units - Permit applications are now available online for the Mobile Recreation Program which offers organized activities at events that are free and open to the public.

The mobile units are available May through October. You must make your request at least 21 days in advance by going online at www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/mobile-units.

Applications for the Puppet Mobile is Live and can be found at www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/puppetmobile.

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

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

Inspector Iglesias introduced a few officers who he has recently assigned to key positions in the Command in an effort to improve their outreach to the community. Police Officer Cruz has been assigned as Auxiliary Coordinator of the 73rd Precinct, Police Officer Thomas is now a member of the Community Affairs Unit, and Detective Amerack and Police Officer William Torres are part of the Domestic Violence Unit.

A number of the officers introduced themselves to the audience. Inspector Iglesias stated that he tries to place officers in the various units in a manner that takes advantage of their various experience. He encourages the community to interact with them.

Domestic violence is down 38% and even though one incident is too many, he credits his domestic violence team for the excellent work that they are doing in communicating with the community.

Memorial Day is around the corner and with it the arrival of block party season. Due to manpower issues, he has asked his Community Affairs Officers and District Manager Greene-Walker to limit the number of events on any given day to five. He asks for the cooperation of the community, in the event that they are asked to reschedule their event. There may also be times when an event will be denied by him because of a potential for violence or instances of prior violence. In the interest of the safety of all, he will deny those applications and again he requests the understanding and cooperation of the community with his decision.

Year-to-date, they are down in all crime categories except rape; all of the reported cases were of the acquaintance variety and not perpetrated by strangers. For the week, they are down except for two categories – burglaries and auto theft – even though the weather is getting warmer, people are still leaving their cars running and unattended in order to warm them up. He continues to advise that this not be done. There is a crew in operation that has targeted the area bounded by Strauss Street, Dumont Avenue, Chester Street, and Hegeman Avenue. They are walking around looking for vehicles left running and unattended. There was a similar crew in operation in the vicinity of St. John's Place that they have had success in slowing down.

Ms. Marie Boone asked if the Community Affairs Unit will have extended hours, with the addition of personnel?

Inspector Iglesias stated that they will be working six days a week, Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Thaddeus Talbot asked if there is someplace where he can find the crime statistics for the Precinct?

Inspector Iglesias stated that the information may be found by clicking the Compstat 2.0 link found on the department's webpage: www.nyc.gov/nypd. Statistics are posted each Monday for the previous week, year-to-date, and past 28-day period.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Inspector Iglesias for his report and next recognized Mr. Michael Rieser of GrowNYC.

Mr. Rieser stated that GrowNYC is probably best known in the community for the two markets that they operate at Livonia and Rockaway Avenues, and Thomas S. Boyland Street and Pitkin Avenue. These markets sell locally sourced fresh produce.

He is here tonight to speak about the Environmental Ambassadors Program which is an initiative done in collaboration with the Department of Sanitation and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) as part of the Mayor's Zero Waste initiative. It is available exclusively to NYCHA residents (18 years old and older) who want to improve recycling in their complexes.

Recycling became law in New York City in 1989 and the Department of Sanitation is looking to have all NYCHA properties recycling by the end of the year. As Ambassadors, residents will become volunteer community experts on recycling and will help their fellow residents learn the ins and outs of the City's recycling program. GrowNYC will provide two interactive recycling workshops to Ambassadors in training to teach them why recycling is important, what items to recycle, and how to encourage their neighbors and community members to recycle. If you know anyone who may be interested in participating in the program, please give them his card and invite them to join him at the PAL-Brownsville Beacon Center, tomorrow at 6:00 p.m..

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Rieser and recognized Mr. Shelton Jones, representing the Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson.

Mr. Jones announced that District Attorney Thompson will sponsor another Begin Again event on June 11th at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, located at 1405 Bushwick Avenue. Begin Again offers New Yorkers who have been issued a summons prior to May 6, 2016 for low level crimes such as consumption of alcohol in public, riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, being in the park after closing, and more, an opportunity to deal with the summonses quickly and easily right in their community. Individuals who have ignored summons that were issued years ago which may have caused a warrant to be issued for their arrest – meaning a police officer has no choice but to arrest them, should they be stopped for any reason – may also come to the event to resolve their issue without fear of arrest.

You may pre-register for the event by scanning the QR Code found on the flyers on tonight's distribution table.

Additionally, earlier this month District Attorney Thompson announced the 20th overturn of a conviction of an individual who was wrongfully convicted. In this particular case, the individual was imprisoned in 1964 and released after about 10 years for good behavior. However, the conviction remained in his file and as such, limited his ability to do certain things such as voting. He was upset that he was unable to vote for Barack Obama as the first Black President of the United States. With his conviction overturned, Mr. Gatling is now free to vote again, something he plans to take full advantage of. This marks the 20th such action by District Attorney Thompson in his three-year tenure as compared to two in the previous administration.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked for an explanation as to why District Attorney Thompson recommended no jail time for former Police Officer Peter Jiang in the shooting death of Mr. Akai Gurley?

Mr. Jones stated that a statement by District Attorney Thompson regarding his decision to ask for no jail time may be found on the District Attorney's website (brooklynda.org). However, what he has heard when District Attorney spoke on the issue during a forum held at Tilden Houses, is that District Attorney Thompson has made it known that this crime will not be used to settle old crimes involving police officers. He based his decisions on the circumstances of this situation. Officer Jiang entered a dark stairwell and fired his weapon fatally wounding Mr. Gurley. While Mr. Jiang acted recklessly, there was no intent to cause harm. Mr. Jiang will never be able to be a police officer again nor ever vote. Had they not prosecuted Mr. Jiang, it is very possible that he would still be a police officer. But in the interest of justice, Mr. Thompson does not think that he deserves jail time. Compare that to the conviction of a police officer in the 81st Precinct that subdued a suspect and then proceeded to stomp his head. In that case, it was clearly police brutality and the District Attorney will likely seek jail time.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Professor Ralph Blessing and a group of his students from Hunter College.

Professor Blessing stated that in the past few years, they have performed a number of studios in which students have looked at issues that are affecting the Brownsville community and have issued reports on their findings. This year's students looked at public health and its impact on the community.

The students of the Hunter College Healthy Brownsville Studio next gave their presentation. They stated that they chose Brownsville for their study because it is one of the poorest communities in New York City and it has the lowest life expectancy rate in the city. Compared to residents of the Upper East Side, residents of Brownsville have an 11-year shorter life expectancy rate. Their thoughts are that one's neighborhood should not affect one's health outcomes.

Their vision is to comprehensively address Brownsville's pressing public health shortfalls using existing assets of the neighborhood. As urban planning students, they looked at how public health and planning are connected. They based their study on social determinates and not genetics. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. They did not focus on individual issues such as genetics and lifestyles. They focused on links to social conditions such as access to education, access to fresh food, access to housing, and access to fresh air. According to the data, the most pressing concerns were physical health (chronic diseases), mental health, and public safety.

They reached out to Community Board #16, spoke to several residents, and interviewed representatives from several city agencies to get their perspectives. There were differing opinions on what could or could not be done in Brownsville, but all agreed improvements could be made.

They looked at the assets of the community; i.e., physical assets such as housing where they found that NYCHA is the largest property owner in the community, access to transportation which was found to be excellent, school buildings which could be used as community centers, and vacant lots which could possibly be turned into green spaces. Brownsville is known for its strong community networks and its community-based organizations have a long history of helping the neighborhood.

Having gained some understanding of the needs of the community, they prepared some asset-based strategies to address the issues. A visual representation of their plan showed public health at its center with spokes of the asset-based strategies such as NYCHA's IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) Program. Nutrition was identified as a factor to improving public health and the strategy for that is a healthy living hub proposed in their report. There are several others which time constraints preclude them from going into details. However, a detailed report will be available on the Hunter College website in the coming weeks.

NYCHA plays an important role in their plan. They envision the outdoor areas on NYCHA's properties being made into accessible, safe, and open public gathering spaces where people feel safe. They support the NYCHA IAQ Program which can greatly improve asthma rates in the community.

Schools are an asset that they discussed as a community rich social network already in existence. Expanding the School Based Health Centers, which is a fairly successful program in use

throughout New York State with some already in Brownsville, would be a boost to the community.

The street networks of Brownsville are a definite asset with numerous bicycle lanes, walking paths, and traffic calming devices. There are over 8 miles of bicycle lanes, six subway lines, a Long Island Railroad station, and a myriad of bus routes, making getting around very easy. Studies have shown that the parks in Brownsville are not the best, however, with its great street networks, access to regional parks such as Prospect Park and Highland Park is excellent. The renovation of Betsy Head Playground is a step in the right direction.

Vacant lots, often associated with high crime rates, are opportunities for creating programmatic spaces such as community gardens, parks, or simply program spaces where people can gather.

Lastly, no plan would be completely successful without the participation of community organizations. Brownsville has a great community network.

They see two main challenges in being able to implement their strategies. The first is finding synergies which they define as two or more organizations working together to create positive change in the community. The second is attracting funding. As solutions to these obstacles, they propose what they call a wellness district – a collection of institutions that cooperate to improve health outcomes in a particular region. A Brownsville Wellness District would have two goals: 1) create community partnerships, and 2) attract funding.

Their studio project is not the first to come up with such ideas. We have seen it before in programs such as the Vita Health and Wellness District of Stamford, Connecticut which was created in 2010 and is supported by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) along with the Environmental Protection Administration. They started to look at some potential partnership that could make a Brownsville Wellness District work. They have started researching some funding opportunities that may be available to get the district off the ground. One of the programs is the ReCAST Program which could provide up to one million dollars of funding for improved behavioral health, empowered community residents, and reductions in trauma and sustained community change.

Overall, they believe that if the community acts on these strategies it will lead to improved community health.

Mr. David Alexander asked if there is any literature available on the studio's findings?

A student replied that hardcopies of their report should be available by the Community Board's June meeting and will also be available on Hunter College's website.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if there will be employment opportunities for the youth of the community if the plans are implemented?

The student stated that he envisions that volunteer opportunities may be possible through organizations such as the newly formed Friends of Brownsville Parks and perhaps employment opportunities could be found if funding is received.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil stated that their presentation noted that availability of public transportation in the community is excellent. He agrees that this is true for able-bodied individuals, however, this is not the case for persons who are mobility challenged as there is not a single ADA accessible entry to the subway system in the District.

Ms. Layman Lee (of Brownsville Partnership) stated that the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has allocated \$30 million towards creating a free transfer point to and from the IRT and the Canarsie (L) lines at Junius Street which will include accessibility features.

Mr. John McCadney stated that the Board is aware of a study and proposed plans for the transfer point, however, it is something that the Board has been asking for years and have yet to see solid approved plans presented.

Mr. Danny King stated he believes that the methodology of the study is inherently flawed. They cannot simply interview two people from the community and state that this is the condition of Brownsville. A more inclusive survey should be done to get a realistic picture of the community.

He questions the goal of the study. Is it for the sake of education or does it have an economic goal in sight?

Professor Blessing stated that it is an opportunity for the students to study real life problems and also to make an impact. A report is produced and the community is free to do with it as it wishes. He understands the frustration that some people may feel, however, he believes that the work being done is important to resolving issues facing our communities.

Someone asked at what point were residents of Brownsville asked for their input for this study?

Professor Blessing stated that this was a one-term studio and the students may not have met with a large number of people in this audience, if any. However, they did talk to residents of the community on a number of weekends along Pitkin Avenue and other locations within the neighborhood.

Mr. McCadney thanked Professor Blessing and his students for their presentation.

Having acquired a quorum, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the District Manager.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2016.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) attended the Committee meeting to present recommendations from a study of the East New York Industrial Business Zone (ENYIBZ) as a follow-up to their March 2016 presentation of the new strategic vision of the agency under the leadership of Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer; which will focus on strengthening neighborhoods and growing good jobs. The East New York Industrial IBZ is being positioned for growth as an industrial hub that is better connected to local residents and workforce. The East New York IBZ study was completed at the request of Councilmember Raphael Espinal and included feedback from 40 businesses, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, and the Local Development Corporation of East New York.

The presentation by Julieanne Herskowitz and Kenyada McLean included 5 strategies and 20 recommendations.

Strategies:

1. Activate underutilized sites to catalyze industrial growth
 - RECOMMENDATION 1: Facilitate creation of new industrial space through the Industrial Developer Fund
 - RECOMMENDATION 2: Invest in and maximize use of City-owned assets
 - RECOMMENDATION 3: Activate publicly-owned sites with job-generating uses through strategic property dispositions
 - RECOMMENDATION 4: Explore redevelopment of underutilized properties in the IBZ
2. Align land use framework to preserve and grow industrial space
 - RECOMMENDATION 5: Protect and strengthen industrial core by limiting new self-storage and hotel uses within IBZ
 - RECOMMENDATION 6: Assess opportunities to densify uses within IBZ
 - RECOMMENDATION 7: Study long-term opportunities to bring mixed-use density to Broadway Junction
3. Invest in critical infrastructure to improve the business environment
 - RECOMMENDATION 8: Bring affordable high-speed commercial broadband network to IBZ
 - RECOMMENDATION 9: Alleviate traffic congestion and improve safety in IBZ by implementing new NYCDOT recommendations
 - RECOMMENDATION 10: Improve truck access to IBZ by implementing new connections from Atlantic Avenue
 - RECOMMENDATION 11: Make strategic public realm improvements in IBZ
 - RECOMMENDATION 12: Assist IBZ businesses and property owners to lower energy costs
4. Increase business services and local job opportunities to better connect the ENY IBZ with surrounding communities
 - RECOMMENDATION 13: Expand East Brooklyn BID services

- RECOMMENDATION 14: Select Industrial Business Zone Service Provider for ENY IBZ
 - RECOMMENDATION 15: Connect businesses to new Workforce1 Center opening in 2016
5. Promote the ENY IBZ to attract new industrial businesses and growing sectors
- RECOMMENDATION 16: Rebrand East Brooklyn BID and refresh gateway signs
 - RECOMMENDATION 17: Install new banners in IBZ to physically enhance streetscape
 - RECOMMENDATION 18: Improve access to incentives and M/W/DBE programs for industrial businesses
 - RECOMMENDATION 19: Increase bidding opportunities for IBZ businesses in upcoming local real estate projects
 - RECOMMENDATION 20: Create new digital marketing campaign to promote ENY IBZ businesses and advertise new real estate opportunities

Also, the ENY Industrial Building located at the corner of Belmont Avenue and Powell Street will be enhanced with exterior improvements beginning in the Summer 2016 and a phase two for additional renovations is tentatively scheduled for 2017.

Additionally, on Monday, May 16, 2016, the New York City Department of Small Business Services held the final planning meeting for implementation of the Workforce 1 Center in Brownsville/East New York. The location has not yet been finalized, however; the Center will operate uniquely different from the centers located in other parts of the city and collaborate with several local non-profit organizations throughout the community. Given some of the unique challenges of the community, the operating model will seek to assess the needs of the employment candidate by making necessary referrals for social services before connecting the candidate to employment; thereby, connecting the candidate to job opportunities when the candidate has demonstrated readiness and the greatest chance of securing employment.

The Committee reviewed a renewal liquor license application for Party Life Lounge.

The business is a bar lounge/event hall, located at 31 Truxton Street at the corner of Mother Gaston Boulevard and is owned and operated by Mr. William Marcellin. The initial application was supported by the Board on January 28, 2014. The establishment continues to operate as presented in 2014 and there have been no incidents recorded with the 73rd Precinct.

- (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 is requesting a vote on the liquor license application.

Mr. Daniel Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue BID is requesting an updated resolution of support from the Community Board to re-apply for public funds available through a grant of the New York Main Street program. In June 2015, the Board voted to issue this resolution; however, the submitted application was not funded by New York State Main Street Program.

She read the proposed 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 2016 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street program; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist property owners to complete renovation of buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard; 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 Pitkin Avenue buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard 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 2016 New York Main Street program for assistance, prepared and to be submitted by the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association.

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. The Committee invites members of the community with interests in economic development to attend their next meeting which will be held on Thursday, May 19, 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.

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried by a vote of 23 – in favor, 0 – against, and no abstentions to accept the Committee’s recommendation to provide a resolution in support of the Pitkin Avenue BID’s application for grant through the New York Main Street program.

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

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Vice Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 10, 2016 with representatives from the Department of City Planning who gave an update on the East New York Community Plan which was recently adopted by the New York City Council.

Due to changes to ZQA, the following maximum heights have been modified in the Ocean Hill section of the East New York Community Plan:

- Promote new commercial and residential uses near transit
C4-4L: Reduced to 9 Stories (95’)
C4 5D: Reduced to 11 Stories (115’)
- Encourage medium-density residential uses within local retail uses within local retail
R7A/C2-4: Reduced to 9 Stories (95’)
R 7D/C2-4: Reduced to 11 Stories (115’)
- Allow industrial and residential uses in mixed use districts
M1-4/R7D: Reduced to 11 Stories (115’)

Ocean Hill: Modified Zoning

- Reduce the residential density in certain areas to preserve strong neighborhood character
R7D/C2-4 district modified to R6A district
- Proposed: R7D/C2-4 (9-12 Stories)

- Modification: R6A (6-8 Stories)

ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS

- Establish Mandatory Inclusionary Housing in medium-density districts
- Option 1: 25% of new housing must be affordable to households at an average of 60% AMI
- Modification: 10% of this floor area must be affordable at 40% AMI
- Modification: “Deep Affordability Option” will also be applied to East New York Rezoning area (20% at 40%--\$31,080/household of 3)
- Create Enhanced Commercial Districts along key corridors to promote active retail districts
- Create Special Mixed-Use District to allow industrial, residential and commercial uses

STRATEGIES FOR HOUSING

Updates to the proposed Community Plan

- In order to use public sites to reach deeper levels of affordability, HPD will prioritize the development of affordable housing at the Christopher-Glenmore site. A community visioning process for this site will begin in summer 2016.
- The City will dedicate 500 LINC vouchers to help move 500 homeless families out of shelter and into stable, affordable housing
- The City will commit to close the Hector’s Court shelter in FY 17 and complete the closure of shelter units at 1801 Pitkin Avenue and 247 Vermont Avenue by the end of FY16. HRA and HPD will make every reasonable effort to convert all cluster homeless units and shelter units that DHS vacates to affordable housing.
- The City will convene a working group to study barriers related to legalizing basement units in East New York including \$12 million in funding to support conversions or other small home repairs should conversions prove impractical
- HPD will establish a dedicated Homeowner Helpdesk in the community with financial and legal counselors to help homeowners modify mortgages, prevent foreclosures, access home repair and weatherization loans, and address scams such as deed thefts and other issues.

STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Updates to the proposed Community Plan

- EDC’s East New York IBZ Study completed, and includes commitments for capital and service improvements.
- EDC & DCP will undertake a land use study of the East New York IBZ.
- DCP & EDC will lead a study of Broadway Junction in 2017.
- HPD will pilot a Neighborhood Retail Preservation Program requiring new developments to set aside discounted space for local businesses.

STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Updates to the proposed Community Plan

- DPR has committed \$18.1 million to renovate Callahan-Kelly Playground with more recreational options.

The City will install a conduit for broadband [internet service] along Atlantic Avenue to bring high speed internet to residential areas.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr. will be present at the Board's June 28th meeting. He is responsible for much of what was heard in tonight's Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee's report and should be applauded by the Community Board for his accomplishments.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on May 9th, 2016 and reviewed City Council Bill 209, otherwise known as the "Plastic Bag" bill, which is a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to reducing the use of carryout bags. Due to time constraints, they will divide the report in two parts and this evening they will deal with certain aspects of the bill and briefly cover some definitions, the fee, and additional obligations for covered stores.

The first term is "carryout bags". This is a bag provided by a covered store to a customer at the point of sale and is used to carry goods from such store provided, however, that such term shall not include any of the following: (1) a bag without handles used to carry produce, meats, poultry, fish, dairy, dry goods or other non-prepackaged food items to the point of sale within a covered store or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items; (2) a bag provided by pharmacy to carry prescription drugs; (3) a garment bag; or (4) any other bag exempted from the provisions of this chapter by rule of the commissioner.

Covered store. The term "covered store" means a general vendor, green cart, or a retail or wholesale establishment engaged in the sale of personal, consumer or household items including but not limited to drug stores, pharmacies, grocery stores, supermarkets, convenient stores, food marts, apparel stores, home center and hardware stores, stationery and office supply stores and food service establishments located within grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, or food marts that provide carryout bags to customers in which to place purchased items. Such term does not include food service establishments located outside of grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, or food marts, including emergency food providers, mobile food vendors that are not green carts, or stores, licensed pursuant to section 63 of the state alcoholic beverage control law to sell liquor at retail for consumption off the premises.

Emergency food provider. The term "emergency food provider" means any facility, including soup kitchens and food pantries, operated by a not-for-profit corporation or by a federal, state, or local government agency that provides food to needy individuals at no charge.

Food service establishment. The term "food service establishment" has the same meaning as in section 81.03 of the health code of the City of New York or any successor provision. General vendor. The term "general vendor" has the same meaning as in subdivision b of section 20-452.

Green cart. The term "green cart" means as in subdivision of section 17-306 or any other non-processing mobile food vending unit or on which non-potentially hazardous uncut fruits and vegetables are sold or held for sale or service, regardless of geographic restrictions on operation of such green cart or mobile food vending unit.

The next term is within a covered store or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items: "reusable carryout bag". This means a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is either (1) made of cloth or machine washable material, but not film or plastic, or (2) defined as a reusable carryout bag by rule of the commissioner. Reusable carryout bags provided to customers pursuant to this chapter shall be conspicuously labeled as reusable.

The "carryout bag fee" - All covered stores shall charge a fee of not less than five cents for each carryout bag provided to any customer. All fees collected by a covered store shall be retained by the store. Covered stores shall separately itemize the fee charged on the standard receipt provided to customers. No covered store shall charge a fee for or prevent a customer from using a carryout bag brought by the customer to such store to carry purchased goods from such store.

Additional obligations for covered store: All covered stores shall post signs at or near the point of sale to notify customers of the provisions of this law. The signs should measure at least five inches by seven inches and shall read as follow "pursuant to New York City law, all carryout bags provided by this store to a customer, with limited exceptions, shall be subject to a fee of not less than five cents per bag. Carryout bags brought by customers into this store to carry purchased goods from this store shall not be subject to a fee".

Note, no covered store shall provide a credit to any customer for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the carryout bag fee. Also, paper carryout bags provided by covered stores shall contain a minimum of forty percent post-consumer recycled content and be conspicuously labeled as with the amount of post-consumer recycled content. Finally, plastic carryout bags provided by covered stores to consumers labeled as “compostable” must be in compliance with the standard specification for labeling of plastic bags. It cannot be labeled “biodegradable,” “degradable,” or “decomposable.”

In the Committee’s next report, they will report on the deadline for implementation of the bill: who is exempted, outreach and education, enforcement, and will offer some suggestions that can help members of the community, including the business community.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on June 13, 2016.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, May 2, 2016 with representatives from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation regarding Newport Playground which is located adjacent to P.S. 41 on Riverdale Avenue between Thatford and Osborn Streets.

Some of their goals and program elements are synthetic turf, basketball, adult fitness and interactive play equipment, spray shower, and improving the existing comfort station.

They will enhance environmental amenities at the site with green infrastructure, and additional plantings.

They will also provide passive use with items such as tables and benches, lighting, wheelchair access, toddler swings, etc.

This project is funded for \$4.7 million.

Schematic plans for the playground will be presented at the June 28, 2016 Community Board meeting.

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

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 4, 2016 and discussed the following:

Calling Tenant Associations to Safety - meeting with NYCHA's (New York City Housing Authority) resident association presidents to discuss the residents’ position on public safety and review and/or create a plan to follow throughout the summer. The meeting was scheduled for May 17th.

On Tuesday, May 17th, she met with several resident association presidents of the NYCHA developments to discuss summer activities, and they were able to create a foundation to build upon. The Committee will continue to meet and discuss team/group activities in an effort to promote and showcase togetherness.

The Committee was asked to participate in the Police Service Area (PSA) 2's Bike Tour Against Gun Violence by Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol and on Saturday, May 21st, she participated in the Tour, taking along the information on "Safe Play". Copies were placed on tonight’s distribution table.

The event was a huge success and well received by the community. The children were happy and the adults re-lived a moment.

She thanks Deputy Inspector Mascol for his creativity in organizing the event and congratulate the Department and all of the community partners who made it all come together.

She believes actions such as this will be effective in getting on one accord as a community as

well as to inform the community of the available resources and activities.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Pat Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Brooklyn and discussed future agenda topics.

Ms. Diane Miller, Director of Rosetta Senior Center stated that falling was a major problem for seniors. Some seniors have fallen and been found on the floor after three days. One of the remedies is Life Alert, the personal emergency response alert system. For some seniors, the personal emergency alert protection is an important factor in the senior's decision to continue living alone at home. The seniors complain that the price for the system is too high. The Committee called 1(800) 990-0622 for information and free brochures.

They will speak to the Chair of the New York State Aging Committee to explore what could be done legislatively to aid the seniors.

Another issue that came up was the elevators at Woodson Houses. The elevators are in poor working condition - breaking down constantly and leaving the seniors stranded in or out of their home for hours and sometimes days.

In addition to the personal emergency response alert systems and elevator repairs, other suggested topics are:

1. Wills – have someone come in to do a workshop on Last Will and Testaments and getting your papers in order
2. Mental health for seniors
3. Telephone reassurance system which is being used if they don't see if a senior is not heard from a day a call is put through to them

The next Senior Citizens Affairs Committee meeting will convene at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 with Ms. Desiree Walker from SHARE, an organization that works with victims of breast and ovarian cancer. She is seeking to meet with any organization with an interest in working with them in an effort to educate the community on these specific diseases. She is eager to inform community groups about their services.

She also introduced the Committee to their Ambassador program which has been in existence for the past five years. The program works with any organization that will allow them to host their hour long presentation to discuss the various statistics as it relates to breast and ovarian cancer. Symptoms are also discussed on each disease, as well as the risk factors and the environmental risk factors in an effort to try and dispel any myths and misconceptions as it relates to ovarian cancer and breast cancer. In addition to the presentation, a testimonial from a breast or ovarian cancer survivor is provided followed by a Q and A and table of resources. They can supply a resource table on SHARE information and other resources that are available locally to any organization having a health fair during the summer. She is hoping to work with any civic, social, religious affiliated, or other groups that would like to have her come and present at the health fairs. When at health fairs, she prefers not to only do tabling, but would like to pair it with the hour long presentation as tabling does not provide education as you are not guaranteed what they've read is understood after walking away. It would be more of an impact with the presentation

Their office is located in midtown Manhattan on West 46th Street and it is a volunteer organization. They service all five boroughs and 85% of the individuals in the organization are cancer survivors. They have a helpline for those who have been recently diagnosed with cancer

and can assist them in finding resources on where to go for screening and treatment. The SHARE Ovarian Cancer helpline is: (866) 537-4273 and the SHARE Metastatic Breast Cancer helpline is: (866) 891-2392

The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2016.

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

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 12, 2016 and discussed the upcoming Youth Conference, which was postponed from May 21st to October 22nd due to an unexpected Principals' Conference. Details for the Youth Conference will be provided as the date of the actual event approaches.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, President of the Community Education Council (CEC), informed the Committee that there will be an Appreciation Ceremony held at P.S. 156 on June 14th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for School District 23. Students, teachers, custodians, parents and others will be the recipients of the awards and citations. The entire community is invited to attend the event. Dinner will be served.

The Committee also met with a representative from Public Advocate Letitia James' Office, Mr. Oswaldo Pereira, and discussed the city's subsidized child care program – Early Learning Federal Head Start Programs - NYC Initiative, which is administered by Administration for Children Services (ACS). Mr. Pereira informed the Committee that he was making rounds to community boards to provide information about the program and to ask the community boards for feedback and a resolution to the following problems that will affect low income and middle income families throughout the city. Public Advocate James feels that the Early Learning Federal Head Start Program is unaffordable for many families, and stated the following disparities:

- The average family spends \$16,250 per year for an infant, and \$11,650 for a toddler yearly and the cost of subsidized child care will begin to increase by \$1,612 yearly. The cost disenfranchises families whose incomes below the poverty level.
- Currently, the income cap cannot exceed \$30,000 a year, and is too restrictive for the middle class families. Public Advocate James wants to increase the New York City Child Care Tax Credit to families making up to \$65,000.
- The program only serves one quarter of eligible children
- ACS, which governs the program has hired teachers with the same credentials as DOE teachers to provide services to the children from age 0-4 years. This causes a high turnover rate for absent providers/teachers that are hired to care for the children
- The teachers hired by ACS make about half as much as the teachers at DOE, approximately \$20,000 dollars less.
- The ACS hired teachers leave their positions at Early Learning to apply for positions at DOE as teachers
- The landlords that house the Early Learning programs have raised the rents and the programs and some programs have to close down due to higher rents and that ACS mismanages payment to the landlords.

The Committee will present the Public Advocate's Office with its recommendations by next month's meeting and share it with the community. If you have any comments concerning this matter, please send your responses to Ms. Greene-Walker or e-mail it to her at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

To see whether you are eligible for the federally funded Head Start Program, email gethelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov for more information, or call (212) 669-7250.

On June 2nd, the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation(CBEDC) will launch its SONYC BIZ program for middle school students (grades 6-8), which is a higher learning, entrepreneurial and leadership program. Ms. La Shawn Muhammad, Director of the program, will introduce the program to selected students and their parents in School District 23. For further information concerning this program, call (718) 498-4513.

CBEDC also offers a TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) program, formerly known as GED, for residents in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. Students who successfully complete the program can obtain a Certificate in Financial Literacy and earn a \$25.00 gift card to open a bank account with City National Bank, a Black-owned and operated bank in Brooklyn. The TASC program has open enrollment and is located on the second floor at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, Room 205. Participants must be 17 years of age or older.

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be held on June 9, 2016 in the Community Board Office at 444 Thomas Boyland Street at 5:30 p.m.

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.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met and discussed criteria for consideration for nominating a member to an executive office.

The Committee considered the following criteria for nominations:

- 1) Number of years the member has served on the Community Board.
- 2) Does the member live, work or have a professional interest in the community?
- 3) Is the member actively serving on a committee of the Board?
- 4) Is the member in regular attendance at Community Board and committee meetings?
- 5) Is the member in conflict of interest according to the New York City Conflict of Interest Board or appear to be indicative of impropriety? The Committee feels strongly that a member who holds an Executive Office should not be in conflict, or give the appearance of being in conflict.

A memo was sent to all Board members with this information along with requesting names to be placed in nomination for any of the Executive Office positions, and a brief statement as to why the candidate should be considered for the position and respond to the Nominating Committee by the close of business on May 20, 2016. No responses were received.

Tonight, the Committee submits the following recommendations for consideration:

Chairperson – Genese Morgan
1st Vice Chairperson – Adrainer K. Coleman
2nd Vice Chairperson – John McCadney, Jr.
Secretary – Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Treasurer – Sarah Hall
Parliamentarian – David Alexander

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of Chairperson. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Ms. Patricia Winston, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to close the nomination.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of First Vice Chairperson. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to close the nomination.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of Second Vice Chairperson. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to close the nomination.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of Secretary. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to close the nomination.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of Treasurer. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Ms. Patricia Winston, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to close the nomination.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the office of Parliamentarian. There being no further nominations for the office, a motion was made by Ms. Patricia Winston, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to close the nomination.

Ms. Pierre thanked the Board members, especially the members of the Nominating Committee for their work and cooperation on this matter. She encouraged the membership to be active within their committees and on matters of the Board and congratulated the new slate of Executive Officers.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Menelik O’Neal, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III.

Mr. O’Neal stated that Senator Hamilton’s district spans across eight different communities in Brooklyn and as such he cannot present at every meeting. He has been tasked to be the liaison to Senator Hamilton’s Office for the Brownsville community and looks forward to working with everyone.

He announced that Senator Hamilton will host his State of the District and Resource Fair on June 2nd and he invites everyone to join him.

Ms. Joy Simmons, representing the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron, stated that over the years, their office has allocated funding for various renovations to the Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC). Most recently, the renovation of the pool. The BRC is about to undertake a major renovation and a meeting was held last week to discuss how best to proceed with the renovation. They want to ensure that the BRC remains open during the renovation and that the cultural heritage of the Center remains intact. An advisory board was suggested and they look forward to working with Community Board #16 and other community partners to ensure that the process is transparent and takes into consideration the concerns of all parties.

Over the years, Councilmember Barron has also allocated funding to Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center. Because of past financial malfeasance by persons who have since been prosecuted, they are having difficulty in continuing to fund Brookdale. They hope to work with other elected officials and the Board to pressure the state and city administrations to push forward the funding that is needed to keep Brookdale relevant and properly equipped with state of the art equipment and technologies to serve our communities.

They are also in conversation with Omni New York, LLC, which is seeking to purchase Newport Gardens. They are the owners of several developments in the Brownsville and East New York communities (Nobel Drew Ali and Alameda in Brownsville). Councilmember Barron wants to know that they are addressing the concerns of the tenants of the properties they already have before she lends support for any future acquisitions.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated that there are persons who are targeting homeowners in the community in order to takeover their deeds. They may offer to save you from a financial crisis by buying your home; but do so at prices that are far under market value. He urges property owners to not give their deeds to anyone or risk losing their homes.

He also wants to put the audience on notice that voting irregularities took place during the recent primary election. Persons who are regular voters did not have their names appear in the book. It is important that we hold the Board of Elections responsible and ensure that this not happen again.

Ms. Marie Monk-Boone, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud, stated that the Senator’s office is located at 1222 East 96th Street (between Avenue J and Flatlands Avenue). The Senator also has mobile office events throughout her district. The next such event will take place at the Brownsville Recreation Center on June 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you

cannot easily make it to her 96th Street office, you can go to a mobile office for assistance with issues such as housing, SNAP, social security, or other issues. They can be reached by calling (718) 649-7653.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., stated that Councilmember Espinal's office may be reached by calling (718) 642-8664. Councilmember Espinal wanted to be here tonight to discuss the rezoning but will instead be present at the Board's June 28th meeting. Persons with questions concerning the rezoning may call their office with the questions and have Councilmember Espinal address it at the meeting.

Councilmember Espinal is promoting a free Customer Service Job Training Program being offered by Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, located at 280 Wyckoff Avenue. Please contact (718) 381-3222, for more information.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the representatives and next recognized Ms. Layman Lee of Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Lee announced that the Brownsville Youth Markets will reopen this July at Pitkin Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and at Rockaway and Livonia Avenues on Fridays from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. This year, half of the produce will come from a youth farm that they operate in Marcus Garvey Village.

The Brownsville Root Collective: The Village Lives would like to invite the community to participate in the largest community quilt ever made for Brownsville. You are asked to submit a 12" by 12" square that represents how you envision the past, present and future of Brownsville. Submitted squares will be stitched together into a 6' x 18' community quilt representing the voice of this neighborhood that will become a permanent installation at a new development.

There will be a visioning session hosted by the Friends of Brownsville Parks on June 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium of the Betsy Head Recreation Center. All are invited to give their ideas on what they would like to see in the park. Refreshments will be served.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sankofa Ra of the Womb Collective's Womb Kitchen Project.

Ms. Ra stated that the Womb Kitchen is a project to bring women of all ages together to learn how to buy and prepare fresh foods for the wellness of their wombs throughout their lives.

She will be hosting a twelve-week workshop beginning in July. The venue has not yet been finalized but will be announced. Interested persons may speak to her after the meeting or visit their website at wombcollectiv.wildapricot.org.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the presenters for their announcements. She also thanked members of the Board for allowing her to serve as Chairperson for these past few years. She steps aside to give others an opportunity to take the helm and looks forward to continuing to work with the Board.

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