

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – June 28, 2016

Attendance

David Alexander
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith
Margaret Brewer
Aaron Brown (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown
Anthony Clark
Adrainer Coleman
Carlos Diaz
Brenda Duchene
Christopher Durosinmi (A)
Danny Goodine (A)
Chyanne Hairston
Chanel Haliburton (A)
Sarah Hall
Jessie Hilliard
Michael Howard
Prince Issachar (A)
Carl Joseph
Pamela Junior (E)
Eula Key
Danny King
Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Charles Ladson, Sr.
Wendy Lanier
Carolyn Lee
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)

Albion Liburd (E)
Virginia McClam
Deborah Mack
Yolanda Matthews
John McCadney, Jr.
Andrea McCullough (A)
Ronella Medica
Shemene Minter
Genese Morgan
Anita Pierce
Wendy Rutherford (A)
Evelyn Sanchez (A)
Delores Slaughter (A)
Celina Trowell
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Patricia Williamson
Pat Winston
Sylvester Yavana (A)
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Hon. Latrice Walker
Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clark
Menelik O'Neal for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron

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.

District Manager Greene-Walker requested that the newly appointed Board members: Wendy Lanier, Anita Pierce, Patricia Williamson, Carolyn Lee, Shemene Monique Minter, Chyanne Hairston, Evelyn Sanchez, Ronella Medica, Virginia McClam, and Delores Slaughter come forward to take their oath of office. Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr. administered the oath to those new members who were present.

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace congratulated the members and encouraged them to take active roles on the Board.

Councilmember Espinal next administered oaths of office to the newly elected Executive Board members.

New Chairperson Genese Morgan presented flowers to former Chairperson Kollock-Wallace in behalf of the Board and Ms. Kollock-Wallace passed the gavel over to Ms. Morgan.

Councilmember Espinal then reported that the City Council passed the Affordable Housing Rezoning Plan about two months ago. There was much concern voiced that the plan would displace current residents and did not take into consideration the desires of the people that help build the community. He made sure that this didn't happen.

In the past when the City would rezone a neighborhood, they did not take in to account the infrastructure, affordable housing, or the need for jobs. This time around, he pushed the administration to invest a quarter of a billion dollars in the Ocean Hill, Brownsville, and East New York communities. The money will be used to improve the Industrial Business Zone where

there are currently 3,000 jobs at an average income of \$50,000 per year. The improvements will produce 4,000 new jobs over the next ten years that will be targeted towards the local communities. This will be done by the placement of a WorkForce1 Center in the Broadway Junction area. The WorkForce1 Center will be a hub where individuals may drop off their resumes and see what jobs are available.

Additionally, three thousand affordable units will be built in the Ocean Hill and East New York communities. The City has committed to make the housing affordable to individuals earning as little as \$18,000 and families earning up to \$70,000, making the units truly affordable to a majority of the community.

For homeowners, \$12,000,000 has been set aside to assist those who are struggling with their mortgages. For the first time, the City will implement a pilot program to see how it might legalize the rental of basement apartments by homeowners as a means of supplementing their income to help them meet their mortgage obligations.

Three homeless shelters will be closed and replaced with affordable housing. Families from the communities, who are currently residing in one of the shelters to be closed, will receive vouchers that will allow them to find housing in the community.

A new 1,000 seat school will be built to reduce overcrowding in existing schools.

Much of what he was able have put in the plan has already begun. From 1,500 affordable housing units to come online within two years to funding for the Industrial Business Zone to create new jobs.

The truth of the matter is market pressures are causing housing in Brooklyn to rise. Living in the borough is expensive. Property owners know this and sometimes attempt to force residents living in rent stabilized apartments out of their apartments, in order to collect larger rents from new tenants. If he had sat back and done nothing, we all would feel the effect. Instead, he did the responsible thing by getting the administration to do more for our communities. A level of investment in our communities that has never been seen before is being made due to his work in the City Council Chambers. He did this to protect the interest of our communities. He thanks the Board for their support and input through the process. Because of the input, some height limitations were imposed and Callahan Kelly Playground will be receiving an \$18,000,000 rehab which will include comfort stations.

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

- Americorps Recruitment - Habitat for Humanity New York City is currently recruiting for their next class of AmeriCorps Service Members to help build, rehabilitate, and revitalize homes and communities.

For questions, contact krossiter@habitanyc.org or call (212) 991-4000 extension 343. You may also apply online at www.habitatnyc.org/volunteer/americorps.

- Youthmarket - GrowNYC's Youthmarket, a network of urban farm stands operated by neighborhood youth, supplied by local farmers, and designed to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to underserved communities throughout New York City, is seeking youth 17 to 24 to operate their produce stands July-November.

For more information, contact Daphne Brunache by calling (212) 612-1528 or emailing dbrunache@activecitizenproject.com.

- Free Training for Green Jobs - LaGuardia College is offering free training in green jobs. The Green Jobs Training Program is a program that prepares workers for careers in Green Cleaning and Waste Management and Building Operations and Maintenance. The program helps participants develop job readiness skills, prepares them to apply for green jobs, and connects them with employers and companies that have or want to develop a green focus.

Trainings are 13 days long and take place Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

An info session will be held on June 30th and classes for the Building Operations and Maintenance program are July 11 through July 26, 2016.

For questions about the program or to register for an info session, call (718) 663-8407 or visit greenworkforcenyc.org.

- NYC Public Pools Open - New York City's FREE outdoor pools open the day after public school lets out (Wednesday, June 29, 2016) and remain available through Labor Day. Year-round indoor pools require a recreation center membership. Kids (and their chaperons) looking to cool off can go to Betsy Head Pool (Thomas S. Boyland Street between Dumont and Livonia Avenues) or Howard Pool (East New York Avenue at Mother Gaston Boulevard) to take a no-cost dip. The pools are open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

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

Chairperson Morgan recognized Inspector Miguel Iglesias, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Inspector Iglesias stated the 73rd Precinct was presented the Unit Citation Award by the New York Police Department for the Calendar Year 2015. The award is given to the top four or five commands in the area of crime reduction and community engagement. He thinks this is a testament to the hard work performed by men and women of the command.

During the past 28-day period, overall crime decreased by 13%. They had been fortunate enough to go 23 weeks without a homicide in the Precinct. However, in the past two weeks, there were 3 in the command. One was resolved and they are close to resolving the other two. One occurred on Ralph Avenue, one on MacDougal Street, and the other at Christopher Avenue. Anyone with information is encouraged to call (800) 577-TIPS (8477) or call him directly.

He is doing his best to have coverage for all the block parties. He asks for the cooperation of the community in shutting down their events by 5:00 p.m. and have the streets reopened by 6:00 p.m., in the interest of public safety.

Ms. Mabel Davis presented Inspector Iglesias with an award in recognition of his work with the community.

Someone stated that their block party was denied. Can Inspector Iglesias provide an explanation for the denial?

Inspector Iglesias asked for the location. Upon being told the location, he asked that the questioner speak to him one on one after the meeting. He further stated that he does not deny block parties without cause. Generally, he asks his Community Affairs Officers to have the applicant meet with him so that he can discuss the reasons for the denial.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Andy Ingelsby of MTA New York City Transit (NYCT).

Mr. Ingelsby stated that he is with the Intergovernmental Affairs Office of NYCT. He is present today with colleagues from the Operational Division to discuss upcoming changes along the Canarsie "L" line. They are out reaching to every community board along the line in Brooklyn and Manhattan to inform them of the changes. He introduced Mr. Dan Zarkowsky.

Mr. Zarkowsky stated that Hurricane Sandy was the worst natural disaster to affect NYCT. Essentially, every tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan suffered significant damage. He displayed pictures depicting the flooding in some of the tunnels and stated that the water was salt water which is highly incompatible with electronics. Aside from the tracks, there are signaling, communication, and other equipment in the tunnels that were corroded by the salt water, even though they were able to quickly pump out the water.

The Montague Tunnel which connects lower Manhattan to Brooklyn was closed in August of 2013 for 13 months with NYCT completely deconstructing and reconstructing the entire interior of the tube. Riders along this line - "R", had options to use other lines. The closure affected about 65,000 passengers per weekday. They used the process to learn what efficiencies can be made and completed the project under budget and three weeks ahead of schedule.

There are many more riders of the Canarsie – “L” line and most of them do not have duplicative access to other lines. The Canarsie Tunnel is a cast iron tube with two smaller concrete contained therein. Both tubes sustained damage due to flooding during Sandy.

The L line runs from Eighth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan to Rockaway Parkway in Brooklyn, making it one of only three crosstown subway lines in Manhattan.

The L train's daily weekday ridership between Manhattan and Brooklyn is 225,000, while its daily ridership along the entire line is 400,000, according to the MTA. Ridership on the “L” line has more than doubled since 1990.

When Sandy slammed into New York, it brought a massive storm surge that flooded the coast. The Canarsie Tunnel in particular was flooded with 7 million gallons of salt water. A 7,100-foot-long section of both Canarsie tubes suffered damage to tracks, signals, switches, power cables, signal cables, communication cables, lighting, cable ducts and bench walls. In order to protect the structural integrity of the tunnel, the bench walls need to be rehabilitated.

The MTA also plans to repair and improve stations closest to the section that runs under the East River. New stairs and elevators will be placed in the Bedford Avenue station in Brooklyn and the First Avenue station in Manhattan.

Some of the questions that they have heard include: “Why can’t the work be done at nights and on weekends?” The answer to that is because the particulates that will be caused by the demolition will remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and it does not make practical sense to do the work over weekends considering the time needed to clear the tunnel of the particulates. Another question asked is: “Why not build a new tunnel?” The time needed to plan and build a new tunnel is longer than they anticipate that they can safely operate regular service through the current tunnel without repairs.

Earlier this year, the MTA set forth two proposals on how to go about shutting down the L line for repairs. One is to suspend service between Eighth Avenue in Manhattan and Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn for 18 months beginning January 2019 at the earliest. During that time, “L” train service will continue to operate in Brooklyn between Bedford Avenue and Rockaway Parkway.

The other option that is on the table is to shut down one tube at a time, which would allow for limited subway service between Manhattan and Brooklyn, but would take three years to complete the needed repairs.

In both options, the concrete will be reinforced and the signaling, communications and lighting equipment will be replaced.

To accommodate displaced riders during a full tunnel closure, there would be extra service on nearby “M”, “J” and “G” lines, faster Select Bus Service routes across 14th Street and a new ferry landing at 20th Street for service from Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

To get riders onto other lines, the MTA will allow free out-of-station transfers between the “L” stop at Livonia Avenue and the No. 3 stop at Junius Street, and the “G” train station at Broadway and the “J”, “Z” and “M” Lorimer Street station.

There would also be a shuttle bus that runs over the Williamsburg Bridge between Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Mr. Ingelsby stated that work also needs to be done along the “M” line between Myrtle Avenue – Broadway and Metropolitan Avenue in Queens. (The Myrtle Viaduct at Myrtle Avenue and Broadway as well the Fresh Pond Bridge in Queens). Because of this work, the “M” will be out of service beginning July 2017 for three months between Myrtle Avenue – Wyckoff Street and Metropolitan Avenue and between Myrtle Avenue – Broadway and Myrtle Avenue – Wyckoff Street for ten months with the work ending in May 2018.

They are seeking to award the contract by November 2016 and anticipate a decision on which plan to undertake by the end of next month. Flyers were distributed earlier with information about the work to be done. You can also find information on the closures by visiting their

website at www.mta.info and click the link for the closure. You may also leave comments on the proposed plans there.

Ms. Anita Pierce stated that she noticed that the plan calls for additional service on the “M” line during the closure of the Canarsie Tunnel. Will there also be increased service along the IRT #3 line?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that this is the type of input that they are seeking as they meet with the affected community boards and he will take request back to their team for consideration.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that Community Board #16 has been requesting and advocating for the installation of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) elevators and/or escalators at the Junius Street IRT #3 station along with the Livonia Avenue station on the “L” line along with other stations within Community District #16. What is the MTA doing to bring accessibility to this community?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that current MTA plans call for ADA accessibility to 100 stations by 2020. Those plans do not include any stations in this district. That does not mean that they will stop their efforts to make additional stations ADA accessible after 2020. He knows that they are looking at making the Broadway Junction station accessible and ask that the Board to continue to reach out to the MTA and advocate for accessible stations.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. stated that he is a 63-year resident of Brownsville as well as a retired MTA motorman. He has seen the evolution of the Livonia Avenue Line. There was once a booth on the south end of the Junius Street station that allowed passengers to transfer to the Canarsie Line. He understands that there will be a free out of station transfer between the two lines using one’s Metrocard. However, because of the height of the stations accessibility will be quite difficult without the reintroduction of the booth on the south side of the Junius Street station of the IRT #3 Line.

Mr. Ingelsby stated that in their 2015 – 2019 Capital Budget there is funding to address the Junius Street-Livonia Avenue transfer point but he does not have any details on how it will be physically implemented.

Mr. McCadney stated that if the MTA can rebuild the Fresh Pond Bridge and the Myrtle Viaduct, comparatively, the Junius Street-Livonia Avenue transfer point is a drop in the bucket. Regarding ADA accessibility, the Brighton Beach station is but a flight up from street level and has an elevator, every elevated station along the White Plains Line has been made accessible. Why, after all these years, is there not a single accessible station in Community District #16. The MTA needs to step it up.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil asked if the free out of station transfer will be permanent?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that it would be permanent as part of their 2019 Capital Budget.

Mr. Brevil asked why it could not be implemented immediately, as it only requires an update to their software?

Mr. Zarkowsky stated this question was raised at several of the meetings that they have attended. Current policy does not allow for this type of transfer.

Mr. Brevil stated that it is allowed between the 59th Street-Lexington Avenue complex and the 63rd Street-Lexington Avenue station. Why are they unable to do it here?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that the out of station transfer between the two Lexington Avenue station was done due to there no longer being a direct transfer between the two lines.

Mr. Brevil stated that removal of the south booth at Junius Street did the same thing.

Mr. McCadney stated that there was an out of station transfer point in Queens, prior to the rerouting of the “F” train at Queensbridge Plaza.

Mr. Zarokowsky stated that the Lexington Avenue transfer was done to preserve connectivity between the two lines that existed before the rerouting.

Mr. McCadney stated that they are including elevators at the Bedford Avenue Station which is only one level from the street in the plans but nothing at Livonia Avenue which is at a greater elevation. Is it because the Williamsburg neighborhood has become so gentrified?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that ridership has much to do with it. The Bedford Avenue Station is the 7th busiest in Brooklyn.

Mr. McCadney stated this is what has been told to the community time and time again. However, the MTA fails to recognize that the station will never be able to have high ridership when it continues to be so inaccessible.

Mr. Zarokowsky stated that the stations were chosen as part of the Key Station Plan, which New York City Transit put in place with input from the federal government and handicapped riders in 1994.

Ms. Margaret Brewer reiterated that ridership by persons who need the accessibility is not possible until the elevators are in place.

Chairperson Morgan stated that in the interest of time, the meeting's agenda must be carried forward. However, it is obvious that work must be done to resolve the issue of accessibility to the subway in our district. She suggests the Transportation Committee meet and send written correspondence to the MTA and Department of Transportation about our concerns. She thanked Mr. McCadney for his perspective on the issue.

She next called forward Ms. Mary Salig of the Department of Parks and Recreation to present on the rehabilitation of the Newport Playground.

Ms. Salig stated that she is the Director of Capital Projects for Brooklyn Parks. They are here this evening to discuss the CPI (Community Parks Initiative) Phase II Capital Project for the reconstruction of Newport Playground. This a mayoralty funded project that will completely reconstruct the playground. They have reached out to the school, the surrounding community, and now come to the Board for its input and a vote.

The plans call for the rehabilitation of the existing comfort station along with the playground. She introduced Ms. Amy Summer who worked on the design for the playground.

Ms. Summer stated that the playground is jointly operated with P.S. 41 which is adjacent to the playground. Their goal was to create a multipurpose recreational area with both passive and interactive uses.

In meeting with the school, one of the things that came up is the sightlines from the school's cafeteria. The proposed plans will remove the sightline obstructions.

She presented a slideshow to orientate the audience with location and current state of the playground. She stated that the playground has a dreary look about without much color. Settlement was noted around the comfort station and other locations on the asphalt. The playground contains many large London Plane trees which they are planning to conserve as many as possible.

Slides of the proposed reconstructed playground call for additional lighting, picnic tables, additional seating areas, a full size basketball court and junior courts, a three-lane running track, and additional entrances to the playground. Play equipment for 5 to 12-year-old children and 2 to 5-year-old children will be installed. There will be an eight-foot fence along the school and a 4-foot fence on the perimeter of the playground. Many color elements will be introduced through the installation of colored pavements and various plantings.

Someone asked why the handball courts are not on the plans?

Ms. Summer stated that they will be removed to create better sightlines from the school cafeteria. Ms. Salig stated that during scoping meetings, the handball court was one of the least requested items with some even requesting that they be removed. This, combine with the fact that there are several other handball courts within a five-minute walk from the site, factored into the decision to remove the handball courts.

Someone asked what the timeframe will be?

Ms. Salig stated that the design began in April of this year and will go through April of 2017. The construction phase should begin somewhere between late fall 2017 and early spring 2018 and should last about one year.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if there will be swings in the playground? She noted that the recently installed Imagination Playground at Betsy Head only included two swings which is insufficient for the number of children the playground serves.

Ms. Salig stated that the plans are to increase the number of swings to six and will also now have swings for older children as well.

Someone asked if there will be slides?

Ms. Salig stated that there will be slides as well as several other pieces of play equipment for youth from 2 years old to 12 years old.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the presenters and encouraged everyone to attend committee meetings for more in depth discussions on the issues. The Board meeting is not the proper venue for in depth conversations.

In a roll call vote of 29 – in favor, 0 – against, and no abstentions, the membership recommended that the proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to reconstruct the Newport Playground under the Mayor's Community Parks Initiative be approved.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Assemblywoman Walker stated that she chairs the Subcommittee on Renewable Energy in the Assembly. Consolidated Edison is required to spend \$250,000,000 in our district because we are part of what is termed the BQDM (Brooklyn Queens Demand Management which is part of a bigger initiative called the REV (Reforming the Energy Vision).

We have to decrease the load that we place on the electricity grid. Failing to do so will lead to brownout in our community. In attending meetings concerning energy usage, she heard much discussion about solarizing several upstate municipalities and it occurred to her that this should be done in Brownsville as well.

A group was formed consisting of Collette Pean, Keith Finch, Bloc Power, and others who applied for and received a grant to solarize Brownsville. Solarize Brownsville will give 100 homeowners the opportunity to place solar panels on their roofs in a 17-week period. She encourages homeowners, in the audience, to make an appointment for a consultation.

As an attorney, she is concerned that the contracts will not cause harm to the homeowners. She has had a team of lawyers go over them to ensure that there are no hidden clauses that may do so. She also asks that participants reach out to her office if they have any concerns about the process. There is no upfront cost to homeowners. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 342-1257.

She also announced that there is a SUNY ATTAIN Lab, located at 1604 St. John's Place. The Lab offers a host of services designed to ensure that adult learners succeed. They offer training and certifications in Microsoft's Office Suite, workplace math and reading, resume and cover letters, job readiness, child care worker, carpentry, electrician, plumbing, nursing aide, home care aide, administrative assistant, and security guard training.

She wants to have a SUNY campus in the community and this is a first step. It is important that the facility be utilized, otherwise, it will be removed.

Chairperson Morgan stated that she will not read the report of the Economic Committee this evening, as much of what is contained therein will be discussed by the next speaker, Mr. Malcolm Bliss of Level Solar. She does, however, wish to remind the audience of the Economic Development Committee's next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 15, 2016.

She invited Mr. Bliss to come forward and give his presentation.

Mr. Bliss thanked Assemblywoman Walker for her visionary leadership in bringing the solarize program to Brownsville and Economic Development Committee for their input on the special

needs of the community. He also thanked Collette Pean, Keith Finch, LaShawn Mohammed, and Melinda Perkins all of whom helped to bring the program to fruition.

The goal of Solarize Brownsville is to help residents save money on their energy bills. Level Solar installs solar panels on your roof that generate 100% clean electricity. They provide free solar installation to homeowners. The electricity generated by the panels replaces the majority of the electricity homeowners currently buy from Con Ed. After the solar array is connected, you immediately pay less for electricity.

At Level Solar quality is reflected in everything they do, from their initial meeting to completing your connection. they install the best equipment in the industry and hire the most qualified professionals. Level Solar puts customers first. They provide customer experience as can be seen by their five-star rating. They have installed solar panel on over 1,200 homes and determined to keep their 5.0 rating as well as their A+ Better Business Bureau rating.

Historically, solar has been expensive with installations costing as much \$40,000. However, it has become less expensive and that type of upfront cost are no longer required. The cost of solar installations has gone; plus, with the support of the New York State Green Bank, customers begin saving immediately. Today 100% of your electricity is purchased from Con Ed and pay one large electric bill. With Level Solar, electricity from solar panels purchase provides the majority of your energy, at a lower rate. You change nothing and pay less. You save on day one and lock in a lower rate for 20 years. Electricity prices from a traditional utility typically increase between 3 – 4% per year. Level Solar locks in a lower rate, enabling you to save more over time.

There three steps to doing this. First solar panels are installed, you start getting clean energy from the panels, you pay less for that energy and you pocket the savings. Those savings can be as much as \$500 in the first year, depending on your energy usage and the savings increase year after year. Additional savings will come from a New York City Property Tax Exemption given to properties with solar panel installed. Furthermore, you may be eligible for a New York State Tax Rebate of up to \$4,000. All these savings are available to everyone who install solar panels downstate, but Solarize Brownsville have an additional rebate of between \$250 and \$500, depending on the number of installations done in the 17-week program period. The more installations the greater the rebate.

Solar panels provide clean energy thereby protecting the environment. Each solar installation prevents 250,000 pounds of carbon monoxide from entering the atmosphere. This the equivalent of about 10,000 gallons of gasoline burnt or planting 1,000 trees.

They are here to make the process as smooth as possible. Here tonight are colleagues who can setup appointment for a no cost consultation. Level Solar will take of obtaining proper permits for the installation.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked how do the panels get paid for if there is no upfront cost?

Mr. Bliss stated that the panels are paid for through the energy bill that is paid to Level Solar in place of Con Ed.

Assemblywoman Walker added that even though the program is called Solarize Brownsville, homeowners in Ocean Hill can also participate. It covers the zip codes of 11212, 11233, 11207, and 11208.

Ms. Linda Rivera testified that she signed up for the program and will have her installation done on Friday. Thus far, the process could not have been easier.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Senator Roxanne Persaud.

Senator Persaud presented an award to Mr. Charles Ladson for his dedicated advocacy to the community.

She stated that over the summer, she will be working on finalizing some of issues that they worked on in Albany. The Office of the New York State Comptroller has approximately \$100,000,000 in unclaimed funds belonging to about 10,000 residents of the 19th Senatorial District. She encourages everyone to visit the Comptroller's website

(<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm>) and input their basic information to find out if you are due any of these funds.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Vice Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 14, 2016 with representatives from CAMBA who presented a proposal to construct 71 units of supportive housing on vacant City-owned land on Hegeman Avenue between Watkins Street and Mother Gaston Boulevard. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

The Committee also met with representatives from the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Office of Neighborhood Strategies which is working with communities to ensure that new housing is coordinated with services and infrastructure in order to promote diverse, livable, happy and healthy neighborhoods.

They will be convening a community planning process for the area bounded by East New York Avenue, Van Sinderen Avenue, Long Island Railroad and East 98th Street in mid-July and will be reaching out to community stakeholders for participation.

She called upon Ms. Giovania Tiarachristie, from HPD's Office of Neighborhood Strategies, to come forward and give a brief presentation.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated that she is present this evening with her colleague, Michael Sanders.

They are here to tell the community about a neighborhood planning process. There are many vacant lots in the district and most are owned by HPD. They want to respond to the community's vision for activating those lots for use as affordable housing, retail, and community facilities.

They do not want to come and build what they think belongs on the lots. They want the process to be informed by the community. There are many lots and they can be developed into diverse uses. Additionally, there are always sister agencies working in and around the area on issues of safety, health, and criminal justice. Instead of working in silence as they have traditionally done, they are seeking to develop the lots in coordination with the agencies to promote the needs that are brought about by these issues.

In July, they will have a stakeholders meeting and also have a table at Brownsville Old-Timers' Day to collect input and give out information on the project. There will also have a website to gather information and give timelines on the process. The site will also have an interactive map where you may comment on specific sites.

There will be another meeting in September 2016 continuing the visioning process, gathering goals, and setting priorities and in winter 2017 they want to create a neighborhood plan document summarizing and cataloguing the different goals and visions identified through the process. It will also show the plans of the varying agencies in one place where everyone can see them on a clear tracking system.

She stated that this is not part of the rezoning process. This is about coordinating the different agency work to maximize the benefits for people who live, work, and play in the Brownsville community.

Thorough this process, they heard from many people that communication dropped off on the 100 Days of Progress in Brownsville which last issued an update in 2014. They went back to the agencies in the last month and found out the status of their various projects and produced an update which they have about 60 copies available for distribution tonight. They welcome suggestions on how to make the process more inclusive, effective, or transparent.

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

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on June 1st the Committee met to discuss the following:

- Safe play in NYCHA developments. Over the summer months, she plans to continue circulating the Safe Play guidelines to residents of the developments.

- Review of the session past. The Committee was able to maintain open communication with our partners in public safety which has enabled us, as a community, to achieve goals and grow as a unit.
- The Committee feels that they would have had better results if there were more residents participating in the efforts. There are plenty of agency and organizational support, residents need greater involvement, as well as the full weight of our Community Board when we need to leverage issues for our District.
- Going forward, the Committee plans to continue to reach out to the NYCHA developments and block associations for activity collaboration.

These actions will be effective in getting on one accord as a community, as well as to inform the community at large of the available resources and activities.

She will be working throughout the summer and want to wish everyone a healthy and joyous summer.

They ask that you check in on your elder neighbors during the hot weather and keep an eye out on our children.

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

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Brooklyn. The guest speaker was Civil Court Judge Robin Shears.

Judge Shears stressed the importance of having a will. The will is a written declaration, when legally executed, by which you will dictate what happens to your assets upon your death. Not leaving a will can complicate things for those you leave behind.

Some people say I have nothing to leave anyone. Take inventory of what you have. If there is no will, the state will come in and divide your estate however the law dictates. The state does not know your family. Family members will fight over the least little thing. If the deceased was separated from the spouse and there is no divorce decree, the surviving spouse will have more rights than the decedent's children. You must legally divorce your spouse if you don't want the spouse to inherit anything. If there is no spouse, your children will get your portion.

Seniors should do their will when they are in their right mind, and not angry. You should have a family meeting and put down the different scenarios in your family. Know your children. Some seniors give their property to their children while they are alive. This has proven not to be a good deal for some seniors who have been placed in senior housing or nursing homes.

If you own a home, speak to a lawyer. There is a way to transfer the deed and do it properly. Suppose you have a brother who has special needs and that brother receives SSI. You don't want to jeopardize his SSI. You have to do a Special Needs Trust separate from your will. If this is not done, he will have to spend down the inherited money first then re-apply for SSI. We don't want that.

Judge Shears further stated that it is a fact that today, you cannot tell people about their children. Bad children or wayward children, it does not matter; in your heart you still want to leave them something.

If a house is paid for and is left to all of the children and the wayward child wants the money, but the other siblings don't have the money and don't want to sell the house; you have to find a way for the children to talk to a lawyer on how to accomplish this.

The question was asked what is heirs property? The response was it could be as simple as a key, because it is property that is passed on and has value to you but not to the rest of the world.

A living will (also known as an advance health care directive) is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness or incapacity.

Judge Shears also encouraged us to update our records. Life insurance speaks for itself. If you have been married for 10 years, you are entitled to your spouse's social security benefits even if you are separated or divorced. Once you have gathered all of your information, write down what you wish to be done with your estate and the lawyer will formalize your documents. You want to have the last say.

The Committee hopes that we have given you food for thought and asks that you share the information with others.

The next Senior Citizens Affairs Committee meeting will convene on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. She wished everyone a wonderful summer.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 9th to discuss the year's assessment of schools in the Ocean/Hill Brownsville community. The Committee found that there are 31 schools in Community District #16, however, only one of the seven high schools are in School District 23 (the others are in School District 17). The breakdown is as follows:

- 10 schools are pre-k to 8
- 6 schools are pre-k to 4 and 5th grades
- 8 middle schools
- 7 high schools

The Youth Services Planning Committee found that there is a high volume of students living in transitional housing. Moving forward, the Committee will reach out to the Department of Homeless Services and Department of Education liaisons working in the shelters to ensure that appropriate services are being provided to the students.

School District 23 had no op-outs during the New York State exams. Another gifted school was added to School District 23. A vote was taken to truncate P.S. 327 by removing grade 6 from the school, which is the beginning of breaking up pre-k to 8 schools to make the schools more age appropriate. The pre-k to 8th grade schools do not get funding for middle schools. The truncation of schools is parent driven. Thank you parents for voicing your opinion in this matter.

The Single Shephard Program in School District 23 will begin in September 2016. The assignment of one counselor per 100 students beginning in the middle schools will assist middle school and high school students as they navigate through high school with an array of social services. The Single Shephard Program is for public school students only. Two hundred counselors will be hired for this new initiative. School District 7 in the Bronx will also be allotted some of these counselors.

There is one community school and two partial community schools in District 23. The partial community schools are being offered services due to their low performing status. The Committee will visit the overall school performances when they are produced this summer to ascertain what services need to be provided to the schools to bring them to a satisfactory level, although there has been improvement in most schools.

He congratulates Ms. Mauriciere de Govia for her perseverance and hard work in School District 23, and for turning our schools into a better learning environment for our students. She will be leaving the fold and will be replaced by Dr. Mathersa Pate, who will be serving as Acting Superintendent beginning in July. I would like to also thank the Community Education Council's Melanie Mendonca and Page Best-Harding for their assistance and support during this school year's surveillance of schools by the Youth Services Planning Committee. The Committee thanks all of you as does the community for your hard work with making the school system work better for our youth.

The Committee also met with Public Advocate Letitia James' Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Pereira in May to discuss ways to reform Child Care Early Learning Programs for children age 0 – 4 years old by making child care more affordable, eliminate salary disparities between staff who have the same education as Department of Education teachers, but earn \$20,000 less in pay,

expand tax credit from \$30,000 to \$65,000, and how to negotiate leasing space from the landlords for providers of the programs.

The Committee's recommendations are as follows:

- Approve the increase of the tax credit from \$30,000 to \$65,000 and where there is an overage in income (due to two income households), increase the cost of child care by a reasonable percentage ratio to keep the family living in the community and have the child care services affixed in the community.
- Dedicate funding to child care slot for infants and toddlers
- Remove the major funding from Administration for Children Services
- Create Mayors Office of Childhood Development under the Department of Education where they can modify the criteria to employing staff for the Early Learning Program, which will reduce the rate of pay because it would no longer require a fully qualified teacher with a Master's Degree in Education. Whereas, newly hired staff with a reduced amount of educational credits would acquire professional and educational credits designed for a degree in teaching, if this is the staffs desire, which is offered by DOE. This would reduce the rate of pay, and minimize the turn-over rate that leaves the child without a caregiver and ultimately close the programs due to lack of staff.
- Retro-fit vacant space/classrooms in schools to accommodate the children in the Early Learning Program just like P.S. 41. This would ensure that the vacant classroom space is utilized for a service that is ongoing; whereas the child, when he or she becomes regular school age, could just move into the appropriate class in the same school.
- This will also reduce the cost of leasing space from landlords in private buildings

On June 24, 2016, he and District Manager Greene-Walker met with Ms. Felicia D. Lemons, Senior Manager for United Way of New York City - ReadNYC. Her organization is a funding stream for school programs to enhance the reading level of students from Pre-k to 3 grades. She will be meeting with various school principals throughout Ocean Hill-Brownsville to discuss her program's initiatives. United Way works with existing programs that enrich the education of young children throughout NYC.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, 3rd Floor has begun taking applications for the upcoming programs for Brownsville Middle school students listed below.

- SONYC BIZ has begun to enroll students for its July – August program. This is a four-week program
- SONYC BIZ will soon begin to enroll students for it entrepreneurial program beginning in September 2016
- Green Ready Alternative Energy Program – (GRAEP) is currently enrolling students to learn about Wind Turbines and Experimentation, Mechanical and electrical engineering, solar energy and how they work as a cleaner alternative to conventional energy. This is a four-week program.

Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation also has an open enrollment for individuals ages 17 and above, who wish to obtain their Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) – formerly GED. To make an appointment, call (718) 498-4513 for enrollment.

He thanks everyone for their support during this year as the Youth Services Planning Committee addressed many issues concerning our youth. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Ms. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or e-mail at bk16@cb.nyc.gov. The next Committee will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Nathan Albert from the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mr. Albert stated he has been the liaison to Community Board #16 since last fall. He introduced Mr. Patrick Kennedy as part of DOT's outreach effort on their plans to expand bike lanes in the District.

Mr. Kennedy stated that about five years ago, DOT and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene formed a partnership to improve roadways for cyclist in Brownsville. It started with a meeting at the Brownsville Recreation Center to identify places which cyclist wanted to be and prioritize changes to roadway conditions to meet those desires. DOT now has a new unit devoted entirely to public outreach. The Street Ambassadors will try to have a presence at local events and will seek feedback on other locations where cyclists want to travel to safely. He distributed flyers showing locations where they will be present and his business card.

Someone asked if DOT has any programs to help person who cannot afford bicycles?

Mr. Kennedy stated that while he does not work for them, he believes that Bike NYC has a program to provide people with low income access to bikes. He suggested that they be contacted directly at (212) 870-2080.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace stated that while having the bike lanes in the community is a good thing, she would like to see them demarcated better. There were bike racks in the community that were remove without a reason given to the community. She was instrumental in getting the lanes in the community would like to see it improve.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he knows there are a few signs along the routes, but the unit provides the signs has a long lead time to issue the signs. Regarding the racks, if a bike rack is removed and not replaced, call 3-1-1 with the location to have it replaced.

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