

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – September 27, 2016

Attendance

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

Deborah Mack
Yolanda Matthews
John McCadney, Jr.
Virginia McClam (E)
Andrea McCullough
Ronella Medica (A)
Shemene Minter
Genese Morgan
Anita Pierce
Marie Pierre (E)
Linda Rivera
Wendy Rutherford (A)
Evelyn Sanchez (E)
Delores Slaughter
Celina Trowell (A)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Patricia Williamson
Pat Winston
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Hon. Latrice Walker
Hon. Anthony Jones
Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clark
Frieda Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Marie Boone for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
H. L. Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry
Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Shawn Francis for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. and an invocation was said by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

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

- Callahan-Kelly Playground - There will be a community meeting to discuss improvements to Callahan-Kelly Playground on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of P.S./I.S. 155, located at 1355 Herkimer Street (between Rockaway Avenue and Eastern Parkway).
- Brownsville Planning Process – Workshop 2 - on Thursday, September 29, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of P.S./I.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street (between Sutter and Blake Avenues).
- Job Opportunities - The HOPE Program is currently recruiting for a 10-week HOPE works class which begins on Monday, October 3, 2016. Free job training and job placement in fast-growing careers including maintenance, clerical, retail, customer service, and animal care is available.

Information sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:45 a.m. at 1 Smith Street, 4th Floor, Brooklyn. The next cycle starts in December.

For additional information, please call Tzlil Hertzberg, Recruitment and Intake Coordinator at (718) 852-9307 Ext.15.

If you live in Brownsville Houses or Van Dyke I Houses, Brownsville Jobs Plus may be able to help find employment. They will host the following prescreening events:

- On Wednesday, September 28th at 12:45 p.m. in partnership with Bed Bath and Beyond, and The Cheesecake Factory for person seeking jobs in retail or the food industry.
- On Wednesday, October 5th at 12:45 p.m. in partnership with Rite Aid who are seeking Health and Wellness Associates and Assistant Managers for their Park Slope location. One year of sales experience, preferably in a pharmacy setting, is required.
- On Wednesday, October 26th at 12:45 p.m. in partnership with United Cerebral Palsy who are seeking Direct Support Professionals and Certified Teacher Assistants with high school diplomas or GED, a valid New York State driver's license. You must also have passed the New York State Teacher Certification Exam. Preference will be given to those who have at least six months of related experience.
- On Mondays at 12:45 p.m. in partnership with Allied Barton who are seeking Licensed Security Guards. Please call Mr. Vest at (347) 853-7926, for more information.

All of the above listed prescreening events take place at Brownsville Jobs Plus' offices, located at 330 Powell Street (between Blake and Dumont Avenues). You are requested to bring your resume and dress in interview attire.

Brownsville Jobs Plus can also assist you in getting your Food Protection License and Certificate on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. or your OSHA-10 Card on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. There is a \$25 fee for these certificate courses (payable by credit/debit card only).

- Department of Finance - The New York City Department of Finance has announced a new program, "Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program" which began on September 12th and runs through December 12, 2016.

"Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program" is a program that forgives penalties and interest on violations received by individuals and business owners from the Department of Sanitation, Department of Buildings, and other city agencies. The program covers violations left unpaid that are now in judgement. To have a violation in judgement means the City of New York has filed a public record of liability due on a violation for the entire amount. To find out more information, and the most frequently asked questions on "Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program" visit www.nyc.gov/forgivingfines.

- Veterans Upward Bound Program - The Veterans Upward Bound Program at LaGuardia Community College offers FREE College Preparation/HSE classes to qualified veterans. The program assists veterans at no cost and provides them with the ability to refresh their academic skills while giving them the confidence to successfully obtain a college degree.

In addition to the Veterans Upward Bound Program, LaGuardia Community College will be offering FREE computer 101 basic skills workshops for veterans on November 8th to December 20th. The computer workshops are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

For additional information regarding all services LaGuardia Community College offers to veterans, call (718) 482-5386 or email vets@lagcc.cuny.edu.

- Work, Learn and Grow Employment Program - The Work, Learn, and Grow Employment Program (WLG) is a New York City Council-funded initiative designed to build off the experiences gained in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). WLG provides participants of the 2016 SYEP who are between the ages of 14 and 24, and currently in school with career readiness training and paid employment opportunities for up to 25 weeks from October to April. Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs including: Government Agencies, Hospitals, Non-profits, Small Businesses, Law Firms, Museums, Sports Enterprises, and Retail Organizations.

The next cycle will begin at the end of this month. For additional information, visit www.nyc.gov/dycd.

- Catholic Charities Fatherhood Program - The Fatherhood Man-Up Program at Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services exists to aid fathers, ages 16 to 24, reconnect and strengthen their parental skills needed to be socially, emotionally, and financially involved in the lives of their children.

The Fatherhood Man-Up Program is located at 444 Watkins Street (entrance on Riverdale Avenue). For more information, call (347) 915-0530.

- IRT- 3 Line - On Monday, September 19, 2016, the Saratoga Avenue and Pennsylvania Ave subway stations on the IRT-3 line reopened, having been closed since spring 2016.

These two stations are part of a capital project along the New Lots 3 line that includes substantial work at seven stations. The Rockaway Avenue and Van Siclen Avenue stations were reopened in March 2016 after their station renewal projects were completed.

The next two stations to be closed for station renewals will be the Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road and Junius Street stations, which are scheduled for full closure from Monday, October 3, 2016 until spring 2017. Similar to the previous temporary station closures during this project, MTA NYC Transit will be operating a fare-free shuttle bus to and from the Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road and Junius Street stations. The shuttle bus for Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road will operate to and from the Crown Heights-Utica Avenue 3/4 station, and the shuttle bus for Junius Street will operate to and from the Rockaway Avenue 3 station. Appropriate signage will be posted at each closed station and Transit personnel will be available to answer any questions. As always, service information can be found at the Transit Authority's website at www.mta.info

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

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept District Manager's Report.

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

Inspector Iglesias stated that they entered the summer looking to address many issues and he feels they did well. Since the start of this year, they have been focused on strategies to reduce crimes during the month of August. August 2015 represented a very bad month for the Precinct with 13 shootings taking place. While they did not come out unscathed, they did much better with 8 shootings and 12 less shooting victims.

This year, he asked for the cooperation of the community in shutting down their block parties by 5:00 p.m. and have the streets reopened by 6:00 p.m. This was very successful with no shootings having taken place at block parties.

They are looking to finish the year strong. There are a number of initiatives that they will be implementing. During the past 28-day period, overall crime decreased by 11% and 9% for the year. While they are down 5 shootings for the year, they are up 5 versus 3 for the period. This is due to them having two shootings last week and already one this week. There was a homicide at the Howard Houses last week involving two friends wherein one shot the other dead in a dispute over a girl. A delivery truck driver was robbed and shot on Ralph Avenue while making his delivery and collecting money. They have a suspect and a warrant already issued for the Howard Houses shooter and one to come shortly for the Ralph Avenue shooting. These incidents are great concern to him, as they occurred during daylight near locations that children are known to congregate.

Last night, there was shooting in the area of the Brownsville Houses which they expect to have solved quickly. There continues to be an issue between rival crews in the Tilden and Brownsville Houses. When he first took command of PSA (Police Service Area) #2, there was an issue of teens fighting each other, which graduated to sticks and chains, and now guns. Although there is a THV (Temporary Headquarter Vehicle) with lights at the location, they still had a shooting take place.

Year-to-date they are down 11 shootings. When you take into account the previous year's reduction of 9 shootings, they are down 20 shootings over a two-year span. This represents 27 less victims which is the number that most concerns him.

They are having some problems with robberies in the areas of the subway stations at Livonia Avenue and Sackman Street, and Livonia Avenue and Junius Street. He encourages everyone to be extremely vigilant and report any suspicious activity observed when traveling near the locations as well as the area surrounding the Long Island Rail Road East New York Station. If you do not already have the telephone number for your NCO (Neighborhood Coordinating Officer), please call the Community Affairs Unit at (718) 495-5422 to get it.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if the NCOs had a particular time for their patrols?

Inspector Iglesias stated that when they get information concerning certain activities they shift their patrols to that period in order to try and observe the activity. It is in this manner that they were able to apprehend a burglar who was working in the area bounded by Eastern Parkway, Van Sinderen Avenue, Fulton Street, and Atlantic Avenue. The condition was occurring mostly around dawn, so the officer patrolled during those hours and arrested the burglar who is suspected of committing at least 18 burglaries in the area since his release from jail in late March.

Mr. Danny King asked if there was anywhere an individual can go to see the statistics the Inspector is reporting?

Inspector Iglesias stated the statistics are from the COMPSTAT Report which can be viewed by visiting nypdonline.org on the web.

Mrs. Blanche L. Peltonbusch thanked Inspector Iglesias for the way that his officers are treating the residents of the community. She asked that he relay to his successor, if one is ever assigned, that this is how the community prefers to be policed.

Ms. Linda Rivera related an incident which occurred with police responding at her home and how the officer treated the incident with sensitivity.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Giovania Tiarachristie of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) who, in turn, introduced her colleague, Mr. Michael Sandler.

Mr. Sandler stated that in June they came before the Board with an overview of the Neighborhood Plan for Brownsville. There are many large city-owned vacant lots in the area. HPD is working with its sister agencies and many of the neighborhood's stakeholders to create a plan to develop the city-owned vacant lots in the community. Their outreach efforts include a number of workshops within the district, their website, and trying, as much as they can, to be in the neighborhood and speaking to residents.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated that they hosted an open house this past July and shared some of the data that they have gathered about the community, along with hearing some of the experiences of people in the community. Additionally, they attended various functions in the community throughout the summer. They have printed a summary of their findings, which is available on tonight's distribution table.

The next step in the process is another workshop to be held on Thursday, September 29th, at P.S./I.S. 323 (210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues). The discussions will be focused on the sites along the Pitkin Avenue and Livonia Avenue corridors where some of the city's largest sites exist. They will return to the next Community Board meeting with a summary of the workshop. Another workshop will be held in early November 2016 and they will again summarize the previous workshops and delve deeper into what needs to take place.

Mr. Sandler stated that details and updates of the plan can be found on their website: nyc.gov/Brownsville.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Malcolm Bliss of Level Solar.

Mr. Bliss stated he is present this evening to provide an update on the Solarize Brownsville initiative which he introduced at the last Community Board meeting.

Solarize Brownsville is a community campaign led by East New York Restoration LDC, Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, Bloc Power and Sun Ra Solar with extremely valued support from Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

The purpose of the program is to bring rooftop solar energy to Brownsville in support of Assemblywoman Walker's vision to have 100% renewable energy in the community by 2030. He is pleased to report that 15 1/2 weeks into their 17-week program with ten days to go, Solarize Brownsville has been recognized by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) as the most successful solarization program in the state. With ten days remaining, there is still time to do more.

Everyone who participates in this program and places solar panels on their rooftops will benefit from reduce cost of energy, receive tax breaks from the state and city, and help provide an economic boon to the community.

He especially invites homeowners who live in a Nehemiah home and have not yet registered for the program to do so, as those homes are exceptionally well suited for the solar panels. Owners of other one- to four-family homes are also invited to participate.

He presented a PowerPoint which displayed photographs of their first installation on a Nehemiah home in the community. Their trained staff typically take 3 to 4 hours to do a complete installation and do about two homes a day. Safety is a top priority for the specialized crews.

Level Solar will do all the paperwork to acquire all the required permits. Upon completion, their work is inspected by New York City Inspectors to ensure quality and safety. The program is available to property owners in the 11212, 11233, 11207, and 11208 ZIP Codes. He displayed a map denoting where they have done installs, have pending installations, or have begun the process within those ZIP Codes. They have completed 64 installations, have 25 locations that are pending permits, and 108 locations where they have entered agreements for installations.

There is no out of pocket expense to the property-owner for the installation of the solar panels. The cost is paid through the payment of their electric bill which will itself be smaller. They estimate that an average homeowner will save \$200 on their energy bills in the first year of having the solar panels installed. Add to this the tax savings the average owner will save approximately \$20,000 over 20 years in addition the increased value of their property.

Placing solar panels on your roof not only saves you money, it also helps the environment by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas stated that overall she believes going solar is good for the environment. However, she has concerns about the amount of radiation (EMF - electromagnetic field) produced by the smart meters that are placed on the homes along with the solar panels. She has spoken to several people from the technicians doing the installations and several other people. No one has been able to provide a clear answer. She was also told that the meters, being installed in Brownsville, are more powerful than those being installed at locations such as on Long Island. How can she get a definitive answer to the question of how radiation is produced by the meters?

Mr. Bliss stated that they regard safety as their first priority. While the solar panels and the required meters are inspected twice by the city's Safety Inspectors, and meet or exceed all safety codes, she deserves an answer to her question. He will seek to get the exact answer to the question.

Ms. Linda Rivera asked what happens to persons who have initiated the process but have not heard back from Level Solar?

Mr. Bliss apologized for them not having followed up with her. He stated that fliers were placed on each seat this evening which contains their telephone number. There is someone who answers the phones weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. He encourages anyone with an issue or question about Solarize Brownsville to call them.

Someone stated that she is a Nehemiah homeowner and that there is some miscommunication going on. The community is not being told all the facts. For instance, we are not told that this is

a long-term contract. If you sell your home before the end of the 20-year term and the new owner does not want the solar panels, you are responsible for the removal and balance on the contract. We are also not being told that there is an option to buy or lease the panels.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this type of concern is best addressed in committee. She suggests that the homeowner reach out to the Board's office to have it placed on the Committee's agenda where it can be discussed in detail.

Mr. Mawuli Hormeku stated that there needs to be more hiring of Brownsville residents in the program.

Ms. Olivera-Douglas stated that Level Solar uses highly trained individuals for the installs. How can Brownsville residents receive this training?

Mr. Bliss stated that they work closely with LaGuardia Community College to train individuals on how to install solar panels. They have held job fairs at Assemblywoman Walker's office which were successful. He encourages individuals from the community to apply for positions in the company. Those who qualify will be trained. He can be reached by calling (617) 821-0422.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Juliette Lewis and Mr. Justin Hohn of Consolidated Edison (Con Ed).

Ms. Lewis stated that they are from Con Ed's Brooklyn Public Affairs Department and are here this evening to inform the community about some of the programs available to help residents lower their bills by reducing power consumption.

Mr. Hohn stated that Con Ed has programs to help every customer save on their energy bills by using energy more efficiently. The programs are designed to help everyone use energy more efficiently which helps the customer reduce their bill and allows Con Ed to purchase and deliver less power. As more developments are built, more cellphones and other devices are used and more power is being used. They recognized this and began responding to the trend with programs to assist residential, multi-family, small business, and commercial customers.

Around 2014, they began to forecast that the growth was getting very large and they started to adjust the programs. They are taking a variety of actions such as attaching more solar panels, using more fuel cells, making different uses of natural gas, and combining heat and power across the board at hospitals, New York City Housing Authority facilities, schools, and your homes.

This is an innovative approach to their typical way of doing business which would require that they build out their infrastructure to reliably bring the electricity to customers. They are now trying to defer the cost of the infrastructure builds. They know that there are many old buildings which have old windows and lighting systems which are inefficient. They are trying to help everyone by having incentives to help everyone take steps to make their building more efficient.

They can defer the cost of building substations and other infrastructure. To help this happen, they are making the programs free of cost to residential and small business customers and greatly incentivizing them for larger customers in the target area which includes, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick, Crown Heights, Cypress Hills, East Williamsburg, and Greenpoint. Anyone who directly pays a Con Ed bill is qualified for the program. They are making improvements to their infrastructure better, but it is a heavy lift and they cannot do it on their own.

They wanted to reduce the amount of energy used by 9 megawatts (1 megawatt can power about 1,000 homes), in 2016. They have already met this goal and now want to reduce the usage by 23 megawatts in 2017. This is a lofty goal which needs the participation of their customers to be achieved.

One way that they are doing this is by offering up to 12 LED lightbulbs per customer to replace less efficient incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. They are rolling this out door to door, neighborhood by neighborhood; so be on the lookout for them. Should they miss you on the first day they are in your area, don't worry as they will try to catch you at a later date. They will be in that area for a number of days and will make several attempts to reach everyone.

To reach their goal of a 23 megawatt reduction in usage, they have partnered with NYCHA, the Department of Citywide Administrative Service, and other agencies to make sure that they are

not leaving any rocks unturned. They also have rebates and pickup programs for individuals replacing their old inefficient appliance with energy saving models.

For small businesses in the target area (of which they have already visited over 4,000), they have programs to help them save on heating, cooling, and lighting cost. Multi-family building owners can save by making efficiencies in common areas and/or in the interior units.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if they have started going door to door?

Mr. Hohn stated that the rebate programs have been around for a while, but they only began going door to door about a week or two ago.

Ms. Mack stated that her concern comes from her elderly mother having been approached by persons claiming to be from Con Ed and asking to see her bill. She thinks that sending people into the community, without forewarning their customers, is a bad idea.

Mr. Hohn stated that was not likely a part of the lightbulb exchange program. Con Ed does not generate electricity; they buy that electricity. When larger utility services companies, like Con Ed, were deregulated, the electricity began to be available to be sold independently to the customer by an ESCo (Energy Saving Company). ESCos buy electricity on the open market and sell it to utility companies. He cannot comment on whether certain ESCos are good or bad. If you do not trust someone you are dealing with, do not give them your information. The New York State Public Service Commission has a website (www.newyorkpowertochoose.com) that you can visit to evaluate offerings from ESCos serving the state. You may also call the Competitive Energy Hotline to file complaints about Energy Service Companies (including complaints of fraudulent or excessively aggressive sales tactics) at (888) 697-7728. He can say that those ESCos who do practice unscrupulous business tactics tend to prey on the elderly and people who are speakers of English as a second language. Con Ed sends out mailers before going door to door and their employees will present their IDs. Anytime you have a concern regarding the identity of someone visiting your home under guise of being a Con Ed employee, you should call 1-800-75CONED.

Ms. Lewis stated that fliers with information about their programs are available on tonight's distribution table. She also encourages everyone to visit their website for information about the many resources available from Con Ed.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2016, and discussed updates of projects and initiatives that took place over the summer, and Committee goals and meeting requests with federal, state and local agencies responsible for economic resources.

In July 2016, the New York City Department of Small Business Services announced that the location of the Workforce1 Center for East New York and Brownsville will be located on Atlantic Avenue between Sheffield Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The New York City Department of Housing and Preservation launched the Brownsville Planning Process and Level Solar launched the Solarize Brownsville project.

During this year, the Committee will work to explore opportunities around employment for youth and adults, small business opportunities for minority and women owned business enterprises, career and technical programs, and continued improvements along Pitkin Avenue and Belmont Avenue.

Additionally, the New York State Empire Development Corporation will host its annual Minority and Women-Owned Business Forum on October 5th and 6th at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, New York. Please visit <http://www.nysmwforum.org>, for more information and registration information.

The purpose of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same. We invite members of the community with interests in economic development to attend our next meeting which will be Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone having any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report please feel free to contact Genese Morgan at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 and prioritized major objectives for the Committee for the year 2016/2017.

The Committee's major project is to identify and engage the mental health and substance abuse services/resources available to community residents, ensure their existence and hold them accountable for the services they provide in our community.

This research and process are aimed at improving not only the services provided for the children, youth, adults, and families of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community, but to also ensure equal quality of life comparable to any other community in the State.

The Committee also met with representatives from two agencies, Mr. Ray Knights of Elmy's Special Services Inc. and Mr. Jason Schneider from Human First.

Mr. Ray Knights, Executive Director of Elmy's Special Services Inc., gave a detailed presentation aimed at establishing their presence and services in our community.

Elmy's Special Services Inc. is an agency whose primary goal is to educate, serve, and support individuals who are diagnosed with developmental and emotional disabilities. The agency offers Case Coordination, Day Programming, Residential and other Community Support Services—including but not limited to After-School Programs, Habilitation Services, Family Support Services, Respite Care, Transportation and Crisis Intervention.

Mr. Jason Schneider, the Coordinator of Day Services for Human First, shared information on seeking referrals and volunteer sites/opportunities for their trainees.

Human First is a multicultural agency serving the developmentally disabled communities of New York City and Long Island. They provided greater opportunities for individuals with special needs to reach their personal goals and develop support systems for both individuals and their families.

Human First also offers the following services in New York City and Long Island: Service Coordination, Community Habilitation, Day Habilitation, Respite, Family Support Services, Reimbursement, Crisis Intervention, Mental Health Waiver Program, Brides to Health Waiver Program, Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Program and Long Island Mobile Crises.

The Committee decided that both organizations have programs that would be beneficial to our residents and invited them to the October Community Board meeting for presentations.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be on October 12, 2016 at 6.00 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Vice Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 13, 2016 with representatives from the African American Planning Commission, Inc. and Breaking Ground, who updated the Committee on their proposal to develop a city-owned vacant site on the north side of Livonia Avenue between Howard Avenue and Grafton Street (Block 3566, Lot 6).

When originally presented to the Board in October 2014, the developers proposed 118 units of affordable and supportive housing which the Board supported.

At the Committee's meeting on September 13th, the developers presented a revision to their proposal to now develop 122 units of housing and retail space on the ground floor. After a lengthy discussion, during which time the Committee members expressed a desire to see more units for formerly homeless families, the developers promised to meet with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development to discuss suggestions made by the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

In a letter dated September 15, 2016 to District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, Mr. Matthew Okebiyi, Executive Director of the African American Planning Commission, Inc. stated that in response to comments from the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, they will be doing the following:

1. Provide a chart for the community units showing rents and qualifying income ranges
2. Provide a chart showing the unit distribution for all units
3. Given that the Land Use Committee requested that there be at least 25 apartments for formerly homeless families, they will:
 - meet with their architect to design new schematics;
 - meet with HPD to discuss Community Board 16's request to increase the family units;
 - and meet with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to discuss Community Board 16's request to increase the family units.

They will return to the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee on October 11th with an update.

At the Committee's February 9, 2016 meeting, they heard a proposal from representatives of the Church of God of East Flatbush and Brisa Builders who are proposing to construct a mixed-use development to include a community facility, retail space, and 481 units of affordable housing on Blocks 3861 and 3862 (bounded by Christopher Avenue, New Lots Avenue, Powell Street, and Hegeman Avenue). The property is presently zoned M1. In order to build on the site, a rezoning of the lots to R7D and R7A is required.

The property is owned by the Church and because it requires rezoning it must go through ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) and requires the Community Board's approval. It is anticipated that the ULURP process will begin shortly and once the application is certified by the Department of City Planning, a public hearing will be held by the Community Board.

The Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee recommends that the Board supports the proposal to construct affordable housing and retail space on Block 3566, Lot 6 and a mixed-use development on Blocks 3861 and 3862 to include a community facility, retail space, and 481 units of affordable housing on what are now vacant land that is a blight in our community.

Someone stated that the old Chase building, located at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Pitkin Avenue, is undergoing renovation. What does the Board know about this activity?

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Board does not have information on this at this time. She suggests that the questioner reach out to District Manager Greene-Walker at a later date to get information.

Ms. Tarris Iriarte of the Brownsville Community Justice Center's Housing and Legal Affairs Department asked what price range is considered affordable?

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace suggested that Ms. Iriarte attend the Committee's meeting and ask the question directly to the presenters.

Brother Paul Mohammed stated that this question should be asked of all presenters of housing proposals for this community. The affordability of housing built in the community should correspond to the average income of the residents of the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Danny King, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee and that a vote on the matters be deferred to a later date.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on September 8, 2016 and discussed the findings from the September 2015 to June 2016 Assessment of District 23 schools and their needs for services. At the meeting, several objectives were suggested that the Committee should proceed with to ensure that appropriate actions were being taken based on the Assessment. These are the recommendations:

1. Reach out to the Department of Homeless Services and Department of Education (DOE) to determine their functions to service the students living in transitional

housing, who are the liaisons, which schools do these liaisons interact with and how the Youth Committee can assist to ensure that the social service needs of the students and their families are achieved. There are emotional, mental, psychological and transportation issues that should be the important points of the Committee's discussion.

2. Also discussed were the schools that were under performing. The Chairperson mentioned that the information for all schools' performances will be presented at the District Team Leadership (DLT) meeting on September 29, 2016 for social services, where he will be attending, reviewing the findings, and reporting back to the Board at the October meeting.
3. Review afterschool programs and make appropriate recommendations to the schools that do not have an educational afterschool program to be implemented in all schools to ensure that the students are performing at a higher learning level. Although there are afterschool programs in most of the schools, only a few programs in the schools address education, where our children need it most.
4. Ensure that the schools are staffed to guarantee that services are being implemented.
5. Follow up on the middle school student and parent workshop.
6. Discuss with the Superintendent of School District 23 about the new Single Shepherd program to ascertain how services to the students and parents will be rendered. Also, discuss with the Superintendent the Parent Empowerment Academy for Community Engagement (PEACE), what the Community Board's role to assist.

Maureen Outcalt of SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial Leadership Program for middle school-aged students operating out of Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, located at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, and Mr. William Boone from the Medgar Evers Beacon programs in the Ocean Hill-Brownville schools are working collaboratively to ensure that the middle school students are introduced to Career and Technological Education Programs at multiple sites in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. Open enrollment is underway for the SONYC BIZ Program where space is limited. The DOE is considering the CTE program for the school system as well. I will be learning more about this on September 29th at the meeting with the Community Education Council. Senator Jessie Hamilton is also working on the same initiative as part of the afterschool program called CAMPUS for Ocean Hill-Brownsville, whereas many community locations are being considered for the program's implementation.

At a meeting on this past Saturday, September 24th with Chancellor Farina, I asked one of her representatives if we could utilize vacant classrooms in the schools for the Early Childhood Development (children ages 0-4 years old) to offset the cost of paying landlords for the space. The response was unacceptable. The Committee will revisit this matter with the Legislative Committee to see what can be done to stop using our schools for Charter School space.

The next meeting of the Youth Services Planning Committee will be held on Thursday, October 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. If you have any concerns or issues that you would like to address regarding school matters, please feel free to come to the meeting. You can also join the Committee at this time.

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.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, announced that the Committee will meet on Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office. She invites anyone interested in transportation issues in our community to attend.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, invited anyone with interest in public safety issue to attend their next meeting on Wednesday, October 5th in the Community Board Office.

Chairperson Genese Morgan thanked members of the community for coming out this evening and invited them to regularly attend Community Board meetings. Their participation is needed and their input valuable.

She reported that last evening, members of the Board met in Executive session and received a brief presentation on conflicts of interest and were reminded that if and when a conflict of interest exists between a member of the Board and a matter before the Community Board it is highly important to disclose the conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest exist, members should **NOT** abstain from voting, but state that they are **INELIGIBLE** to vote due to a conflict of interest. An example of a conflict of interest is voting on a matter that pertains to family members, places of employment and/or board membership with an organization that could possibly benefit a Board member indirectly.

Additionally, members were reminded of their responsibility as Board members to attend Community Board meetings each month and to serve on at least one committee as per Community Board #16's By-laws. It is equally important that once a quorum is established that members remain present at the Community Board meeting for the duration of the meeting in order to properly vote on matters before the Board that pertain to the best interests of our community.

Furthermore, there are a number of very important matters in the pipeline for our community and she cannot put greater emphasis on the importance of attending regular committee meetings to ensure that these matters are thoroughly discussed with the individuals, agencies and organizations bringing forth these matters and projects. This allows Board members adequate time to ask the necessary questions and receive timely responses. The responsibility to serve the best interests of the community is not just committee chairpersons alone, but also each and every appointed member. The community at large is not exempt, and is encouraged to participate as well. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to participate in the Community Board process.

Going forward, each committee should consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Every committee must have a tentative committee work plan for each year in order for Board members to effectively work together and evaluate the importance and priority of matters that pertain to quality of life in our community. Each committee should be prepared to present their tentative work plan at their respective October 2016 committee meetings and be prepared to further discuss at the October 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

Last, but not least, there are a number of important matters that committees and the community should be engaging in discussion and follow-up around such as the impending energy crisis which is known as the Brooklyn Queens Demand Management (BQDM) project; possible changes to Brookdale Hospital, funding allocated to Betsy Head Park, the re-consideration of possibly locating a criminal justice center in Brownsville, the Mayor's Health Initiatives, the HPD Brownsville Planning Process, the need for handicap accessibility at our train stations, and small business and job creation in our community. Finding solutions to the challenges in our community is each of our responsibility and therefore she encourages you to not leave the decision to just a few individuals.

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace., seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept the Chairperson's report.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Senator Jesse Hamilton, III.

Senator Hamilton stated that he represents the 20th Senatorial District of New York State which covers Sunset Park, Gowanus, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Brownsville. His office is located at 1669 Bedford Avenue (corner of Montgomery Street). The office now offers extended hours on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

On the first Monday of each month, he hosts a family law clinic wherein constituents may receive individual and confidential legal consultations on the following issues:

- Child /Spousal Support
- Custody/Visitation
- Orders of Protection
- Issues regarding consumer debt and identify theft
- Assistance completing Crime Victims Compensation applications

- Options for victims of crime
- Assistance for victims of financial abuse
- Information about domestic violence

Last week, while he was visiting Howard Houses to introduce a new initiative that will take place in Brownsville, a young man, Rysheen Ervin, was fatally shot near the Howard Houses Community Center. He expressed concern with the manner in which our first responders reacted to the situation. After witnessing Mr. Ervin collapsing from a gunshot wound, he was calling 9-1-1 when he noticed that there were police officers nearby. The police only cordoned off the scene which impaired access by ambulance which took 12 minutes. He then saw some firefighters standing across the street and asked them why they are not assisting the victim? The firefighters stated that they are not required to when there is a shooting. He believes that, but for the slow access to medical assistance, the young man may have lived longer. He wants to make sure that first responders have to act in these situation and not be spectators. He is committed to stopping young men in the community dying from gun violence.

Only 10% of students in schools in Brownsville are reading at grade level. How can they get good jobs if they are not being properly educated? This needs to stop now. He is a product of NYCHA housing and was able to become an attorney, holds an MBA, and is a licensed appraiser. Our children are not dumb. They need proper resources in order to be competitive. What are we doing for our children? Why are they killing each other in record numbers? Why does the community have the second highest rate of youth being hospitalized for psychiatric help? This should not be the norm. We must educate our children. If you are educated, you are not likely to be gang banging, you are not doing drugs. If you are educated, you are doing positive things with your life.

He congratulated Chairperson Morgan on her being elected chair of the Board and stated that he is pleased to see so many young people in the audience. He encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker thanked those who voted in the recently primary election. She also thanked Chairperson Morgan for her putting forth a set of priorities and goals for the District. She has been working on some of these goals as well.

She has helped obtain \$700 million to improve health care services in the District. As Chair of the Renewable Energy Committee, she is committed to increasing energy capacity, and reducing demand in in Brownsville. Earlier you heard from representatives of Con Ed and Solarize Brownsville. There is much taking place in the area of energy and she is committed to making sure that our community get its fair share of the resources from \$250 million being invested in the Brooklyn-Queens Demand Management (BQDM) project.

She echoes the sentiments of Chairperson Morgan in saying that it is important that we be involved in the various committees of the Board, whether or not you are a member of the Board. She suggested selecting a committee that works on an issue that is important to you and joining that committee. Additionally, she encourages the audience to attend her Advisory Board meetings which are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Today is National Voter Registration Day and she encourages anyone who is eligible to vote but has not registered to do so. Encourage your friends and family members to also do this as well. Youth who are 17 years old can register and vote if they will be 18 years old by November 8, 2016.

She wants to work closely with the Transportation and Franchises Committee on extending the route of the B12 bus and on making subway stations in the community accessible, along with reopening some of the closed subway entrances.

When she first took office, President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative had been funded with \$21 million. However, none of that funding was ever allocated to schools in the 19th and 23rd School Districts. After looking into this matter for a week, she was able to have \$300,000 allocated to District #23 and another \$150, 000 to District #19.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked how will these funds be used?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that they will be used to provide "wrap-around" services as they relate to education. They can be used to provide additional education services to families in

situations such as the death witnessed by Senator Hamilton. As an example, the victim may have had a sibling or child whose learning process was affected by the homicide who can receive assistance to help them get back on track.

She is also working to retrieve funds that are due the City from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) school funding lawsuit. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 342-1257.

Ms. Frieda Menos, Director of Community Services for Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, shared the following deadlines:

- Nomination applications for entry to any of the United States Service Academies are due by December 4, 2016. The academies provide a free, four-year undergraduate degree and prepare applicants to be officers of the uniformed services.
- Submission of original concept for the 2016 Congressional App Challenge are due by 12:00 p.m. on November 2, 2016. The Congressional App Challenge, open to all public school students, is designed to encourage students nationwide to create new apps for mobile devices.

Congressman Jeffries' office can be reached by calling (718) 373-0033. Constituent fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, reported that Congresswoman Clarke sits on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Small Business Committee, and Ethics Committee. These are three powerful committees in the House of Representatives.

He encourages everyone to reach out to her office and be aware of the issues that she is advocating for in Congress. Congresswoman Clarke seeks to have diversity in the energy and commerce industries. As Vice-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, she has signed a letter that was submitted to Attorney General Loretta Lynch regarding police and community relationships as it pertains to young black males. She has also joined her colleagues in signing a letter to the Department of Housing and Urban Development calling attention to the challenges homeowners continue to face in fighting foreclosure.

They continue to work on improving service at the Brownsville Post Office and are hearing that there has been some improvement. However, improvement does not necessarily mean that service is as it should be. They continue to urge everyone to report to Congresswoman Clarke any issues of concern with the post office. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142 or by visiting 222 Lenox Road (between Rogers and Nostrand Avenues).

Congresswoman Clarke also invites submissions to be nominated to one of the United States service academies.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, recognized the youth in the audience and thanked them for their interest in improving our community.

She next reported that Senator Montgomery extends her gratitude to those who voted during the recent primary election and asks that they not take the upcoming general election for granted. She reminds everyone to vote and encourage your neighbors to register and vote on November 8th.

Ms. Marie Boone, representing Senator Roxanne Persaud, reported that Senator Persaud thanks the community for its continued support. Her office is available to provide constituent support by calling (718) 649-7653 or visiting them at 1222 East 96th Street.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Borough President Eric Adams, congratulated Chairperson Morgan, newly appointed members of the Board, and returning members, and gave well wishes towards having a successful season.

He stated that Borough Hall has been involved with a number of events, over the past few weeks, including hosting more than 500 seniors during his annual "Seniors by the Sea" at Kingsborough Community College, the Brooklyn Dominican Day Parade, the International Day of Friendship, and the commemoration of World Breastfeeding Week.

Borough President Adams' website is in operation and is user friendly. He encourages the public to visit the site.

He reminded the audience that the Borough President is making turkeys available to community organizations providing Thanksgiving dinners to the community. Groups should contact Ms. Eileen Newman at (718) 302-3806 or email her at enewman@brooklynbp.nyc.gov. He urges that the groups not wait until the last minute to make their requests.

The Borough President's Office can be reached by calling, (718) 802-3700, (718) 802-2681 for Constituent Services, and (347) 942-1692 (cell) or (718) 802-3777 (office) to reach Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., reported that Councilmember Espinal's office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664. They are available to assist constituents with issues involving housing, immigration, and many others.

Mr. H. Leroy Hutchinson, representing Assemblyman Nick Perry, stated that he is new to this position. He is a retired New York City Police Detective who served for 27 years and also a veteran of the United States Air Force. He has dedicated his life to public service.

Public safety is a great concern for him and he looks forward to working with the Board's Public Safety Committee.

He can be reached by calling (347) 200-4328. He welcomes your calls, especially regarding policing issues.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Matt Linder of Project EATS.

Mr. Linder stated that he is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Operations at Project EATS. They build urban farms throughout New York City. In 2009, they built a farm at Amboy Street and Blake Avenue and have operated it since then. They have reinvested in the community with additional farms on Herzl Street and at Dumont Avenue and Chester Street.

He introduced Mr. Johnnie Vickers, one of the gardeners, who stated that the farms belong to the community. They simply work on them. He invites everyone to come visit them, ask questions, and take pictures. They accept cash, EBT, and even compost as payment for the produce they sell.

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