

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – October 25, 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 (A)  
Chanel Haliburton (A)  
Sarah Hall  
Jessie Hilliard  
Mawuli Hormeku  
Michael Howard  
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  
Deborah Mack

Yolanda Matthews  
John McCadney, Jr.  
Virginia McClam (E)  
Andrea McCullough  
Ronella Medica (A)  
Shemene Minter (E)  
Genese Morgan  
Anita Pierce (E)  
Marie Pierre  
Linda Rivera  
Wendy Rutherford (A)  
Evelyn Sanchez (E)  
Delores Slaughter  
Celina Trowell (A)  
Ernestine Turner  
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu  
Patricia Williamson (A)  
Pat Winston  
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager  
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant  
Hon. Darlene Mealy  
Menelik O'Neal for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III  
Keith Tubbs for Hon. Latrice Walker  
Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clark  
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.  
Tahira Moore for Hon. Bill DeBlasio  
Shelton Jones for Acting DA Eric Gonzalez

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the hearing to order at 6:37 p.m. and an invocation was said by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

IN THE MATTER OF Statements of Community District Needs and Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018 Pursuant to Sections 230 and 2800 (d) (10 and 11) of the New York City Charter.

Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on October 17, 2016 and reviewed the Capital and Expense requests that were submitted for Fiscal Year 2017.

Each year, as part of the City's budget process, the Community Board must submit its capital and expense budget needs and priorities for the District.

The capital budget covers the cost of the City's long-term construction program, purchase of land and large equipment. The reconstruction of parks, streets, sewers, and buildings are examples of capital projects. The expense budget covers all of the City's day-to-day operations such as salaries and supplies as well as debt service. The Board can submit up to 40 capital budget requests and up to 25 expense budget requests.

He listed the recommendations made by the Committee and District Manager for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. David Alexander stated that regarding Items 1 and 2 of the Capital Budget, there should be an emphasis made on the need for 3- and 4-bedroom apartments to accommodate large families in the community.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that Mr. Alexander's point is well taken. However, the budget priorities are the beginning of the process. By placing the need for affordable housing high on our priorities, the Board is informing the city of its importance to the community. Without the funding, there will not be any projects. Once the projects are presented to the Board, the Board can request specific type of units they would like to see built.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

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

- Brownsville Ascend Charter School's public hearing to solicit comments from the community with a charter renewal process on October 27, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at 1501 Pitkin Avenue.
- Internship for High School Students at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. For questions, send an email to [hsap@mjhny.org](mailto:hsap@mjhny.org) or call (646) 437-4273.
- In partnership with NYC Service, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is forming 15 Youth Leadership Councils (YLC) across the city. Youth can apply online at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/getting-involved-as-a-resident.page>.
- The Brownsville Community Justice Center is seeking a Youth Advocate. Details and the requirements are contained within her report. Interested persons may send their resumes to the Brownsville Community Justice Center at 519 Rockaway Avenue. The deadline to apply is October, 31 2016.
- NeON Arts is seeking artists and art organizations to implement arts projects. The spring application deadline is December 9, 2016. To apply, go to: [www.carnegiehall.org/NeONarts](http://www.carnegiehall.org/NeONarts).
- The New York City Human Resources Administration's Department of Social Services invites everyone to their free workshops to take place on November 1<sup>st</sup> - Child Support Basics for Moms and Dads, and December 6<sup>th</sup> - Child Support Debt: How to Get Rid of It and How to Avoid It in the First Place.
- AARP Foundation's Back to Work 50+ provides job seekers with relevant strategies and approaches in addition to job leads and training resources. For more information, call (212) 346-8427.

The AARP Foundation will also present: Finances 50+, a financial capability program designed to motivate and empower participants to take charge of the financial future. The workshops consist of: Budgeting and goal setting, Take charge of credit and debit, and Protecting your assets. For additional information, call Wanda Ortega at (212) 346-8444 to reserve seating.

- The New York City Department of Finance has announced a new program, "Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program" 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 which began on September 12<sup>th</sup>, runs through December 12, 2016. For additional information, visit [www.nyc.gov/forgivingfines](http://www.nyc.gov/forgivingfines).
- Volunteer opportunities are available at the Brooklyn Public Library. Patrons who wish to learn more about these services may contact their local library or apply online at: [www.bklynlibrary.org/support/volunteer](http://www.bklynlibrary.org/support/volunteer).
- Brownsville Jobs Plus, located at 330 Powell Street, has announced that they can assist with getting your Food Protection License and Certificate, and your OSHA-10 card. Please visit Jobs Plus at 330 Powell Street, to learn about their current opportunities.

Additionally, the report contains complaints received by the Board's office and forwarded to various agencies for resolution.

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

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the

Committee met on Thursday, October 20, 2016 and reviewed three (3) liquor license applications for business establishments within the District as follows:

- An application for a Beer and Wine License was submitted by 3 Black Cats Café at 3 Belmont Avenue.
- An application for a Liquor Catering License was submitted by Majen NCA LLC d/b/a The Golden Hall at 183 Hegeman Avenue.
- An application for Retail License Grocery Store Beer/Wine Products was submitted by People's Choice at 41 Belmont Avenue.

The Committee recommends that the Board support the three applications.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. and MWBE access and opportunities for small businesses in the District will be discussed.

Mr. Danny King stated that he opposes the liquor license applications as he believes that there is too much crime in the area. Adding the element of alcohol may add to the problem.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Board should not hold the businesses responsible for the action of individuals who act improperly. If we are asking Applebee's, which has a liquor license, to come into the community, we should not block a local business from obtaining a license.

Mr. King stated that it is not that it is a local business that causes him to vote against the issuance of the license, he would against Applebee's obtaining a license as well. He wants to see positive things come into the community.

In a roll call vote, there were 22 in favor, 4 against, and 0 abstentions to support the application for a Beer and Wine License submitted by 3 Black Cats Café.

In a roll call vote, there were 19 in favor, 4 against, and 0 abstentions to support the application for a Liquor Catering License submitted by Majen NCA LLC d/b/a The Golden Hall.

In a roll call vote, there were 19 in favor, 7 against, and 1 abstention to support the application for renewal of a Grocery Store Beer/Wine Product License submitted by People's Choice.

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

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Daniel Murray, Executive Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Captain Murray stated that Inspector Iglesias is unable to attend this evening due to another engagement. He then gave a brief curriculum vitae of his 13-year career in the New York Police Department.

Since the inception of the NCO (Neighborhood Coordinating Officer) program in October 2015, they are down about 141 crime complaints. They are down 18% in crimes for the 28-day period and down 8% year-to-date. There has been a slight downtick in auto thefts going from 85 to 80 year-to-date. They attribute the downtrends to the outreach by the NCOs and the feedback from the community.

They are asking for the assistance of the community in relaying any information that they may hear about crimes to the NCOs or the Community Affairs Officers.

There will be a Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, that will begin at the 3 Black Cats Café (3 Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Thatford Avenue) and end at the Precinct where there will be a haunted house setup with some treats for the youth.

Ms. Nikita Carr of the Housing Resource Center asked that considering the recent shooting of an emotionally disturbed person (EDP) by a police officer in the Bronx, are there any plans to have officers trained on how to respond to such situations?

Captain Murray stated that without commenting on the specific incident for which he does not know all the facts, the Department does train every officer on how to respond to situations involving EDPs.

Ms. Carr asked if the Department maintains a database of persons in the community who have been involved in EDP arrests?

Captain Murray stated that they do not have information pertaining to persons who have no previous incidents involving the Department. As the EDP becomes known to them, they do respond with the condition in mind.

Ms. Carr encouraged members of the audience who have the need to call 911 concerning a person with emotional/mental disorders, make the operator aware that there is an EDP involved so that responding officers are aware when they arrive at the scene.

Captain Murray stated that the information is broadcasted by the operator when known.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that initially when she received contact information for her NCOs, they were available and responded to her calls. Lately, she had to reach out to the Community Affairs Unit to have the officers respond to her regarding an issue involving teens and gang activity near the bleachers in Betsy Head Park.

Captain Murray apologized in behalf of the NCOs and stated that because of the success of the program, the NCOs are now receiving a substantially greater number of calls which makes it difficult to respond immediately. Be assured that they are concerned and do respond to their calls.

Ms. Louise Peltonbusch asked if they moved the sector car that was parked on Bristol Street near Marcus Garvey Village?

Captain Murray stated that in response to a couple of shots fired calls in the area, they placed a sector car in front of 341 Bristol Street. Since placing it there, crime in the area has gone down. To his knowledge, the car is still assigned to the location, but he will follow-up on her question.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, next reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 to discuss new strategies concerning Department of Homeless Services continuous assignment of mushroom shelters in Brownsville, disregarding the Community Board's 2015 communique, their accountability and commitment to reduce and stop further allocations in our community which is already inundated with shelters.

The Committee issued the following update in view of the City's homelessness situation and Mayor di Blasio's current objective.

Howard Johnson Hotel at 524 Rockaway Avenue, Quality Inn at 95 Chester Street, and La Quinta Hotel at 1424 Pitkin Avenue are being used to house homeless families under contract with Department of Homeless Services. The Committee seeks to find out who are the contracting agencies; what are the terms of the contract and, why was the Community Board not notified by DHS that these three locations are being used to house homeless families?

The Committee concluded that they should invite the DHS Commissioner to their next meeting. As a community, Brownsville should organize a fierce public opposition to stop NYC from converting these hotels into shelters. Every committee of Community Board #16, as well as all residents of Ocean Hill-Brownsville, should involve themselves in this event. The dynamics and date of this planned event will be announced soon.

The Committee also met with Dr. Torian Easterling, the Assistant Commissioner of the Brooklyn Neighborhood Action Center and several of his staff. He made a presentation on the purpose and benefits of the establishment of a Brooklyn Health Action Center in Brownsville.

Neighborhood Health Action Centers is the NYC Health initiative to increase clinical and non-clinical community-based programs in neighborhoods with disproportionately/high rates of chronic diseases and premature death. The Action Center will offer space in the Health Department building to high-quality health-care providers, community-based organizations and other non-profits to co-exist and engage in the planning, coordination and advocacy that are critical to address the often complex and multiple needs of our community. Above all, the Neighborhood Health Action Center will provide primary care, mental health care and in-some cases dental care, critical health and wellness classes and programs, community spaces for agencies to work on neighborhood/health planning, and links to social services.

This initiative is in sync with the Committee's 2016 objectives and they invited Dr. Easterling to elaborate on it during tonight's meeting. The Committee also met with representatives of Elmy's Special Services, Inc. and Human First on September 14, 2016 and they will also make brief presentations tonight.

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

Residents of Community District #16 should be aware of and take advantage of the support services available to the community. Please support the Community Board in its community building efforts by participating in the Committees.

She encouraged the audience to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming general election.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu called forth Ms. Brandy Howard of Brownsville Health Action Center.

Ms. Howard stated that she is the Neighborhood Health Manager for the Neighborhood Health Action Center, located in the Department of Health building at 259 Bristol Street. They are looking forward to bringing many services to the community as the Action Center comes into being. One of the things that they are currently doing is having panels focused on mental health in the community. They want to find out how they can break the stigma surrounding mental health in the community.

They are offering \$150 to survey participants who spend the day with them and help them understand how resources should be used in the community.

Citywide, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is offering free Mental Health First Aid training to all New Yorkers. Mental Health First Aid is a public education program that teaches the skills needed to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health.

While most City agencies will be closed on Election Day, they will be working in Brownsville, collaborating with organizations such as Girl Trek, We Run Brownsville, and Black Girls Do Bike to encourage to bike or walk to their polling place to vote.

They are also forming a Neighborhood Health Planning Council and want community members to share what issues they see as most urgent in the community. The Health Department is supporting community organizations as they bring together local stakeholders to plan for action, assess priorities for change, and identify strategies for creating healthier neighborhoods.

They encourage all community members and stakeholders to participate in the health planning processes happening in their communities.

Mr. Jason Schneider, Coordinator of Day Services at Human First next stated that their Brooklyn Day Habilitation and Transitions Program Office is located nearby at 8814 Foster Avenue.

They provide service to adults with special needs to reach their personal goals. Their programs help develop participants' vocational and daily living skills, enhance social and communication abilities, and provide each individual with goal-oriented activities. They encourage volunteerism as a means of stopping the circular issue of getting a job without experience and getting experience without a job.

They are also looking for businesses that will allow the participants a means of learning the things that go on behind the scenes in a particular industry. For example, many people send and receive mail. But what happens to that letter between the time you drop it in a mailbox and the

letter carrier places it the recipient's mailbox. Fliers about their programs with his contact information are available on tonight's distribution table.

Ms. Michaela Lafontaine, Director of Operations for Elmy's Special Services, Inc. next stated that Elmy's Special Services was initially created to support adults and children with special needs in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. They provide a plethora of services. However, she is present this evening to speak about their Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver program.

The Home and Community Based Services Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver (HCBS/NHTD) provides support and services to assist individuals with disabilities and seniors toward successful inclusion in the community. Participants may come from a nursing facility or other institution, or choose to participant in the program to prevent institutionalization. HCBS/NHTD waiver helps pay rent for participants (easier if they already live with someone).

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu announced that the Committee's next meeting will be on November 16, 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.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy thanked those who voted for her at last month's primary election.

She is conducting a survey to ascertain the quality of service of the B46 bus. She will be collaborating with the Transit Authority to host a Town Hall Meeting regarding service on the line.

She stated that she passed legislation to prevent people from being judged based on their credit scores.

Someone stated that he was at a groundbreaking ceremony for Saratoga Ballfield and wants to know when is it anticipated to reopen?

Councilmember Mealy stated that the rehabilitation is expected to take a year. Furthermore, \$30,000,000 have been allocated for the rehabilitation of Betsy Head Park. Additionally, the Imagination Playground at Betsy Head, which she helped bring to the community, did not have a comfort station included in the original project. She has allocated \$1.5 million to have a comfort station installed.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that the Imagination Playground at Betsy Head only has three swings which are not enough to accommodate the number of children who want to use them. As a result, this causes fights.

Someone recalled Councilmember Mealy speaking about having a dome placed over Betsy Head. What is the status of that proposal?

Councilmember Mealy stated that additional support from other elected officials is needed. She allocated \$17,000,000 toward the project but the cost is slated to be \$130,000,000. Having the park dome would provide a year-round location for our youth to play. She has stated this to the mayor. She is hopeful that the community will continue to fight for this.

Someone stated that there is a need for elevators at the Junius Street subway station.

Councilmember Mealy stated that the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has stated that they will place 30 elevators at Brooklyn stations. She has informed them that this is not enough. She hopes that the Community Board will continue to pressure the Authority to place elevators at the Junius Street, Rockaway Avenue, and Sutter Avenue stations.

She also found out, during one of her Advisory Board meetings, that there are tracks from the #3 line that go out to the Kings Plaza Mall and she wants the MTA to open the line up to allow passengers to go to and from this community and the mall.

Mr. C. Aaron Hinton of D.U.E.C.E.S. stated that he has been seeking funding for his organization to further assist youth in our community. Can Councilmember Mealy offer any assistance?

Councilmember Mealy suggested that he attends her Advisory Board Meetings and raise the issue.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that there have been several crimes committed on the grounds of Howard Houses and they have requested cameras be installed. Has Councilmember Mealy allocated funding for the cameras?

Councilmember Mealy stated that she has had conversations with Naomi Johnson and has asked that they provide a written request for the cameras. She stated that she provided funding for the Brownsville CURE Violence program to help address some of the violence in the community.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, next reported that the Committee met on October 11, 2016 with the developers of Ebenezer Plaza which is a joint venture between the Church of God of East Flatbush, Brisa Builders, and Procida Development to construct 511 housing units and a church and community facility on two blocks bounded by Hegeman Avenue, Powell Street, New Lots Avenue, and Christopher Avenue. This is a proposal that the Committee reported on at last month's Community Board meeting.

The Committee recommends that 1) the number of studios be reduced by 73 and the number of one- and two-bedroom units be increased. 2) Social services for those who require these services be made available on the premises and they be monitored to ensure that clients are serviced. 3) Developers meet with Nehemiah homeowners and neighbors of the project to apprise them of the proposal and hear their concerns.

She called upon the developers to come forward to present their plans.

Ms. Erica Keller, representing Ebenezer Plaza, stated that the Church of God of East Flatbush is currently located on East 95<sup>th</sup> Street near Willmohr Street and they are the owners of the two city blocks bounded by Hegeman Avenue, Powell Street, New Lots Avenue, and Christopher Avenue. They are moving their place of worship to this location as well as providing 25,000 square feet of retail space and 511 units of affordable housing.

A PowerPoint presentation of the proposal was displayed. The site is located directly across from the Brownsville Recreation Center. The site is currently zoned as M1-1 and they have applied for a rezoning. There will be about 34,000 square feet of community facilities space which will also house the church's sanctuary and its ancillary services, and retail space is proposed for ground floors along New Lots Avenue. The buildings will be 7-stories along New Lots Avenue and 9-stories along Hegeman Avenue with setbacks on the top floors. There will be 326 units on the larger site between Powell Street and Sackman Street with the remaining units constructed on the smaller site. All of the residential units will be affordable units targeting families and individuals earning less than thirty percent of AMI (Area Median Income) to a hundred percent of AMI.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked when do they expect to begin construction?

Ms. Keller stated that construction will be done in two phases. They are anticipating that the first phase (326 units) will begin in June 2017, dependent upon the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) going through smoothly.

Someone asked how would one apply for the housing units?

Ms. Ms. Keller stated that there will be a lottery through the NYC Housing Connect program with 50% of the units set aside for certain ZIP Codes which are near the development.

Someone asked what will happen to the automobile shops that are currently located on the site?

Ms. Keller stated that most of the current tenants will vacate by January of the coming year.

Someone asked what will be the rents?

Ms. Keller stated that in very general terms, the rents may be as low as in the \$300 range for a studio apartment ranging to \$1,000 plus for a larger unit based upon the applicant's income and the current Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the developers are taking into consideration how congested the streets are in the area?

Ms. Keller stated that there are several studies done as part of the ULURP to ensure that the impact of the development on the community will be a positive one. It is understood that they will be adding an additional 511 families, commercial and retail space, as well the traffic stresses created when a church that size holds its services. It may be that some traffic modifications may be necessary and the studies will help them determine this.

Someone asked what will happen to the people that are being displaced?

One of the developers stated that no families are being displaced by this project. Much of the site is currently occupied by a used car dealership.

Someone asked how long will the units remain affordable?

Ms. Keller stated that it will be between 40 and 60 years.

Ms. Kollock-Wallace announced that the next Brownsville Plan Workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the P.S. / I. S. 323 Cafeteria, located at 210 Chester Street (between Sutter Avenue and Blake Avenue).

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support the proposal by the developers of Ebenezer Plaza to construct 511 housing units and a church and community facility on two blocks bounded by Hegeman Avenue, Powell Street, New Lots Avenue, and Christopher Avenue with the Committee's recommendations, by a vote of 19-in favor, 1-against, and 3-abstentions.

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

Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a teleconference on Monday, October 10, 2016, and spoke briefly on some of the topics they would like to include in this year's agenda. They reviewed and discussed some pieces of legislation that may affect the community and now seek to update the audience on some current legislation.

The first piece of legislation that they looked at was the Public Advocate's legislation to protect pedestrians which was enacted into law on September 28th, 2016. This legislation protects pedestrian crossing at intersections. A loophole in the previous text of the law allowed that when the countdown clock was running, pedestrians did not have the right of way. The current text provides pedestrians with the right of way until the countdown clock expires, signaling to both walkers and drivers that it is no longer safe for pedestrians to cross. This now allows law enforcement officers, investigators, and prosecutors to hold drivers accountable if they fail to exercise due care.

At previous Community Board meetings, they began to educate the community on the "Plastic Bag Bill" which was supposed to go into effect in October, however, this bill has been delayed and is being scrutinized in Albany. The Committee hopes to review the new version of this legislation during their next Legislative Committee meeting as well as other pieces of legislation which were tabled.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on November 14, 2016, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

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

Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on October 5, 2016, the Committee met to discuss the following:

*NYCHA Developments: Bridging the subtle divide between our public and private neighbors.*



The Committee will begin meeting with the Resident Association Presidents in the NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) developments to share important information that often is missed due to conflicting meeting dates.

*Public Safety Trainings:* The Committee discussed bringing various certified course trainings to the District in accordance with their plan to strengthen our community by having as many “trained neighbors” as possible. Courses will include CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), First-Aid, CPR, Mental Health (this will be coming through the Health and Human Services Community) and Citizens Police Academy to name a few.

She wants to encourage everyone to get involved. This will work to give participants an opportunity to work closely with different members of our community while learning lifesaving skills, help encourage patience and cooperation with each other, and add to the manpower needed in emergency situations that may occur in the District.

She will be announcing the trainings through the District Manager’s office as they become available and asks that you respond quickly when you get the notices.

*PROP/Brooklyn Defenders:* The organization first met with the Committee in June, and was asked to return with revised language in the resolution for the Committee to reconsider extending the support they are requesting.

The presentation made by the Brooklyn Defenders was again informative. However, there remain points that the Committee does not agree with. Many of the quality of life issues that made our District unsafe in the past have been or are being addressed positively by the Police Department. The new language highlights a need to review and address ticketing measures in the District which may lead to unfortunate arrests, tows and unaffordable fines that are imposed.

While the Committee works to organize a Public Safety Town Hall discussion, she will ask the Legislative and Transportation Committees to review and analyze this portion of the resolution. It is necessary to get the consensus of the community and review the current legislation as well as DOT rules for this community to conclude a position for the proposed resolution.

As Halloween approaches, she wants the community to enjoy the holiday as they please, but do keep in mind that many people are at their worst in this occasion. There will be community centers, after school programs, and libraries hosting activities. Contact the one nearest you for information. If you are doing the traditional Trick-or-Treat, please remember to stay alert, keep children safe, travel in groups of two or more, consider uncovering your face while Tricking for Treats, and please stop at a reasonable time.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on November 2, 2016, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 in the Community Board Office and discussed the participation of seniors in the “Walk Against Breast Cancer” with the assistance of Kristine Collins, Deputy Director of the Wayside Outreach Development Senior Programs.

This will be the Committee’s 1<sup>st</sup> Walk Against Breast Cancer and will hopefully be an annual event. The walk will take place on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at Betsy Head Park’s running track (located on Dumont Avenue between Herzl and Strauss Streets). They invite everyone in the audience to join them.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 12:00 noon in the Community Board Office.

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

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women’s Committee, reported that the Committee conducted a conference call on October 7, 2016.

The Committee was informed that an account was created with the team name “*Brooklyn Community Board 16*” on the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer website. It was determined that each member would partake in fundraising prior to the walk and agreed to drum up as much traffic to the website so that donations could be made online and checks would be dropped off at the Community Board. She informed the Committee members that this year, the team will be walking in memory of Daisy Jackson, our former Board member who passed away on March 16<sup>th</sup> of this year of breast cancer. The Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, in the Community Board office to discuss team strategy and fundraising abilities. Unfortunately, no Committee members attended the meeting and it was used as an opportunity to strategize for the walk.

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, the Community Board team was joined by members of Daisy Jackson’s family to participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. She is proud to announce that the team exceeded their goal of \$500.00 with the total donations to date being \$708.00. Anyone who is still interested in donating, may log onto the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* website ([www.makingstrideswalk.org](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org)), search by team name and entering “**Brooklyn Community Board 16**” in the designated box.

The next Women’s Committee meeting will be held on Friday, December 16, 2016. If there are any topics that you would like the Women’s Committee to address or would like to join the Committee, please contact her at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) or by calling the District Manager at (718) 385- 0323.

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

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 13, 2016, to conclude its findings on how the schools in School District 23 did over the past year. It was ascertained that there were many social services that need to be implemented in the schools in Ocean Hill-Brownville to bring the school performances up to an acceptable level of improvement. Although there are many afterschool programs at each of the schools, only a few schools at the Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels concentrated on education. The lack of the appropriate afterschool programs may have impacted learning for our school-aged children. Moving forward, the Committee has decided to produce a school assessment tool and issue it to the principals of each school to ensure that the schools are utilizing their funding for afterschool and social programs that will generate higher levels of student performance and keep the students well rounded.

The Single Shepherd Pilot Program has begun in Ocean Hill-Brownville for middle school and high school students that will focus on supporting this group inside and outside of schools. Each eligible student will have a counselor who will stay with them until they leave for college. The entire family of the student will be engaged by the counselor who will offer emotional and academic support to ensure that the student is on a path to success.

He reached out to the Department of Homeless Services’ Educational and Social Services Liaison to establish a meeting with staff at the family shelters in Ocean Hill-Brownville, but have not received a response to set up a date.

Also, discussed is the utilization of empty classrooms in our schools for Early Childhood Development (children ages 0 – 4 years old). They met with Dr. Miatheresa Pate, District 23 School Superintendent, who suggested that the Committee send her a copy of their correspondence to Public Advocate Letitia James of recommendations for the use of space as opposed to giving the empty space to Charter Schools.

The Road Runner program for the children and youth made an impressive presentation on self-esteem and goal setting through running. Per the presenter, her organization can link up with any program in the Ocean Hill-Brownville area to participate. Prizes are awarded to eligible children that complete the program. For further information, please contact Ms. Greene-Walker for the Road Runner’s contact information.

The Medgar Evers Beacon Program Coordinator brought four teenagers who are attending several different high schools in and outside of the Ocean Hill-Brownville community to talk about their school experiences. Collectively, the young high school students gave the Committee insight on the many social services that are in the schools that ensure they have a successful transition to higher education and adulthood. These are the types of programs that are needed in

the Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> grades schools. The Youth Committee's School Assessment Tool will address the lack of supportive programs and insufficient staffing for these programs in the lower level schools.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation has announced open enrollment of the SONIC BIZ Entrepreneurial Programs for student attending Middle Schools and for their GED Program for ages 17 and up. Both programs are located at 444 Thomas Boyland on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Telephone number (718) 498-4513

To enroll in the Campus Afterschool Tech & Arts Program for Middle School Students at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street, call (718) 090-5224.

The Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc. is awarding \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will be attending a 4-year accredited university or college. Please go to: [www.nehemiah.org](http://www.nehemiah.org), for more information and to apply.

There will be a District 23 Town Hall Forum with Chancellor Carmen Farina on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The next Youth Services and Planning Committee meeting will be held on Friday, November 18, 2016, 5:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office. If you are interested in discussing your concerns regarding schools, children and or, youth issues, or simply would like to join the Committee, please contact Ms. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323, to inform her of your interest.

A motion was made by Dr. Cleopatra Brown, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

In a roll call vote, members voted to accept the recommendation of the Budget, Personnel and Finance Committee regarding the capital and expense budget needs and priorities for the District, by a vote of 20 in favor, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Shelton Jones of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and asked for a moment of silence in memory of the late Kenneth Thompson.

In behalf of the family and the staff of the Office of the Brooklyn District Attorney, Mr. Jones thanked the members of the community for all of the prayers and well wishes extended to them during these difficult times following the unexpected death of District Attorney Ken Thompson. During his 3-year tenure, he did many great things for the residents of Brooklyn and had a vision to do even more.

When he announced that he would be stepping down for a period of time to address his illness, District Attorney Thompson named Eric Gonzalez to stand in for him and Mr. Gonzalez was recently sworn in as the Acting District Attorney. Governor Andrew Cuomo has chosen to not hold a special election and allow Mr. Gonzalez to complete the remainder of Mr. Thompson's term of office.

The Office has remained functional and just last week they removed another 50 guns from the streets. With the help of the Police Department, five individuals were arrested for illegally transporting the guns from South Carolina and attempting to sell them to undercover officers.

The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office is offering mid-winter and spring internship programs for current high school juniors and seniors who live and attend school in Brooklyn. Students with a strong interest in criminal justice are encouraged to apply and participate in one of two intensive one-week programs. The internships will be held in two cycles: Cycle 1 will run from February 21, 2017 to February 24, 2017; Cycle 2 will run from April 10, 2017 to April 14, 2017. These are *unpaid* internships, but they will provide Metrocards for the participants. Participants will work side by side with Assistant District Attorneys and will attend trials and perform other duties that will truly immerse them in the field of law.

Ms. Carolyn Benjamin-Smith asked if there was any way that a small stipend might be offered to the participants?

Mr. Jones stated during their summer internships they do offer a stipend. Last summer, it was \$300 per week. However, for these short one week internships, they believe that the experience and the Metrocards are enough compensation.

Mr. Jones stated that he is the Deputy Director of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office Public Engagement. He can be reached by calling (718) 250-3146. He is often in the field but promises to return any calls received within 24 hours.

Ms. Marie Boone, representing Senator Roxanne Persaud, reported that Senator Persaud held a workshop on the topic of domestic violence last week. During the workshop, they got to see another side of domestic violence, wherein men are the victims. Seldom will men who are abused come forward and report it.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Senator Persaud will host a Halloween event at P.S. 276 where they will screen a movie and have treats for the youth.

Senator Persaud's office is available to provide constituent support by calling (718) 649-7653.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., reported that Councilmember Espinal is collaborating with the Red Cross to have smoke detectors installed in homes that need them. If you need a smoke detector installed in your home, please call the Red Cross at (877) 733-2767, to have one installed free of cost.

Councilmember Espinal, along with other community leaders, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the reconstruction of the Powell Street Playground.

Councilmember Espinal, himself a product of our public school system, has allocated \$1.3 million to public schools serving Community District #16. Principals of schools in his District made specific requests for items such as media technology rooms. Most of the requests have been met.

He has collaborated with Senator Jessie Hamilton in securing \$2,000,000 for the Campus Program which will bring additional technologies such as smart boards, and other upgrades to Brownsville schools.

He also provided funding for the resident associations in New York City Housing Authority developments that will assist tenants in properly organizing.

Councilmember Espinal's office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664. Please call them for additional information regarding these allocations.

Mr. Keith Tubbs, representing Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, announced that she has arranged to provide turkeys for a limited number of families in need. If you are in need or know of a family in need of a turkey for Thanksgiving, please contact Rev. Eddie Karim at Assemblywoman Walker's office by calling (718) 342-1256 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Assemblywoman Walker hosts her Advisory Board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This month's agenda will include education and she encourages everyone to attend.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblyman Charles Barron, reported that communities of color are under siege by HUD (the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development). HUD is selling the mortgages that are under stress of foreclosure (predominately in communities of color) to hedge funds. Hedge funds are in the business of making money and rarely try to help homeowners in keeping their homes which in many cases they have lived for decades.

In a case that is being fought in the courts, a property located on Strauss Street was sold through a quit claim deed (generally used to transfer real property for an insignificant amount of money) that is normally processed at the state or federal court level, but somehow ended up in civil court.

He wants the community to know that this is taking place in our communities and to be wary.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, reported that Congresswoman Clarke will host a post Hurricane Matthew Telephone Town Hall on Haiti, on November 2, 2016. Representative from USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, USAID (United States Agency for International Development, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention will be among those participating in the call to help the Haitian diaspora.

Nomination applications for entry to any of the 5 United States Service Academies are due by November 15, 2016. The academies provide a free, four-year undergraduate degree and prepare applicants to be officers of the uniformed services.

As Vice Chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman Clarke seeks diversity among the paid internships that are available on Capitol Hill and encourages college students from our communities to apply for them.

Congresswoman Clarke also assists homeowners who are seeking relief from foreclosure proceedings as well as many other issues pertaining to the federal government. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142 or by visiting 222 Lenox Road (between Rogers and Nostrand Avenues).

Mr. Menelik O'Neal, representing Senator Jesse Hamilton III, encouraged the audience to have teenaged students who need after-school help or tutoring apply to participate in the Campus program. The Campus will serve as a pathway to success for our youth in Brownsville, where our children can be successful academically. The goal is to provide a haven for kids where they can thrive - learning about technology, career development, entrepreneurship, wellness, and culture. It is the first of its kind in the nation. It currently operates at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, P.S. 298, the Howard Houses Community Center, and a few other locations. As more funding becomes available, it will be spread into additional locations throughout Brownsville.

Someone asked what age groups will the program serve?

Mr. O'Neal stated that he knows that it serves junior high schools and middle schools, but he is uncertain about the ages. He will find out and report back to the Board.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Musiki Glover and Ms. Ashley McLain of Dr. Lenora Fulani's Committee for Independent Community Action project.

Ms. McLain stated that they are here this evening to inform the community that the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is seeking to build private housing developments on NYCHA vacant land. Current NYCHA residents will not be eligible for the housing. The poor will be abandoned and displaced as NYCHA's portfolio is privatized. Vacant space on the complex of Van Dyke Houses, along with two other NYCHA developments, is scheduled to be privatized in January of 2017.

Ms. Glover stated that some people think the fight is lost. They do not. The Committee for Independent Community Action will next meet on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan (fliers are available on tonight's distribution table). If you believe that the poor deserve decent housing, they ask that you attend this meeting and sign their petition to have NYCHA re-examine this move toward privatization.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Layman Lee of the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Lee stated that there will be a scoping session for the rehabilitation of Betsy Head Park on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. To the best of her knowledge, this will be the only session held to discuss how the \$30,000,000 that has been allocated to this project which was selected as one of five Anchor Park Projects throughout the city.

This may be the only chance that Brownsville residents will have to let the Department of Parks and Recreation know how they want the money spent. Please call the Partnership for Parks at (718) 965-6907, for additional information

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