

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – December 20, 2016

Attendance

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

Albion Liburd (E)
Deborah Mack (E)
Yolanda Matthews
John McCadney, Jr.
Virginia McClam (E)
Andrea McCullough (E)
Ronella Medica (A)
Shemene Minter (E)
Genese Morgan
Anita Pierce
Marie Pierre
Linda Rivera
Wendy Rutherford (A)
Evelyn Sanchez (E)
Delores Slaughter (A)
Celina Trowell (A)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Patricia Williamson (A)
Pat Winston
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Rev. Eddie Karim for Hon. Latrice Walker
Shawn Harris for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Ian Henry for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
H. L. Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry
Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clarke

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 6:35 p.m. and an invocation was said by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

Chairperson Morgan next recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that he was assigned to be the Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct about a month ago. Tonight, he is introducing his new Executive Officer, Captain Terrell Anderson.

Captain Anderson stated that he was born in Brownsville and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Previous to coming to the 73rd Precinct, he was at the 79th Precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant. He is honored to be Deputy Inspector Mascol's second in command and looks forward to working with the community.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that Inspector Iglesias (his predecessor) implemented many initiatives and tactics which reduced crimes in the Precinct. It looks like crimes will be reduced by 8% for the year. A debt of gratitude is owed to Inspector Iglesias and the men and women of the 73rd Precinct for the hard work they performed throughout the year. He is anticipating that shootings will be reduced by 25% for the year with 29% fewer victims. Crimes overall are down for the year with the exception of burglaries in which they experienced a slight uptick. The reason for the uptick in burglaries is attributed to a rash of burglaries carried out by a crew in and around where they lived during August and September. They were able to apprehend the suspects with one group being caught during a live burglary. They hope to improve in homicides and rapes, but they remain flat for the year.

In 2017, they are looking to do better, using a tactic called "precision policing" wherein they will utilize all the resources available to them to specifically target individuals who are creating the most amounts of violence and destructing the quality of life in specific areas. It makes use of federal and local cases to weed out those individuals and remove them from our community.

One representation of this tactic is the recent takedown of 35 members of the Hoodstarz Crew which was highlighted at a news conference held by Police Commissioner James O’Neill and Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. The crew, which operates in the vicinity of Grafton Street going west to East 98th Street from Blake Avenue going south, is known to be responsible for several shootings, homicides, drug sales, and most recently they have become involved with credit card fraud.

Deputy Inspector Mascol encouraged the audience to reach out to his office if they would like additional information regarding the crime statistics in the Precinct or any other police related issues.

Chairperson Morgan requested that representatives from CAMBA come forward and give a brief presentation regarding the following public hearing items:

- I. IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)
 - 1) Pursuant to Article 160 of the General Municipal of New York for:
 - a) the designation of properties located at 210-214 Hegeman Avenue (Block 3639, Lots 35 and 37) as an Urban Development Action Area; and
 - b) Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
 - 2) Pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to be selected by HPD; to facilitate the construction of approximately 70 units of affordable and supportive housing, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16.
- II. IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit pursuant to Section 74-903 of the Zoning Resolution to modify the requirements of Section 24-11 (Maximum floor area ratio for certain community facility uses) to permit the allowable community facility floor area and ration of Section 24-11 (Maximum Floor Area and Percentage of Lot Coverage) to apply to a non-profit institution with sleeping accommodations in connection with a proposed eight-story building on property located at 210-214 Hegeman Avenue (Block 3639, Lots 35 and 37), in an R6 District, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16.

Plans for this proposal are on file with the City Planning Commission and may be seen at 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, N.Y. 10271.

Ms. Jocelyn Torio of HPD stated that the action will develop two City-owned lots with a new 8-story residential building containing 71 dwellings units, of which 70 would be characterized as affordable and supportive housing, plus one unit reserved for a building superintendent. The action includes a UDAAP (Urban Development Action Area Program) designation and the disposition of City-owned land. It also provides for the granting of a special permit to allow the developer to modify the floor area ratio from 2.43 for non-profit institutional sleeping accommodations to 4.8 for community facility uses.

HPD is in support of this project as it will develop two vacant lots and provide affordable and supportive housing. Additionally, CAMBA has a record of successful development within the community. CAMBA’s development arm, CAMBA Housing Ventures (CHV), has developed approximately 1,600 affordable units in coordination with HPD.

Ms. Joanne Opustil stated that she is the President and CEO of CAMBA Housing Ventures. CAMBA has been in existence since the late 1970s and she has been with them since 1982. Today, they have approximately 1,500 employees. Their website (camba.org) list many positions that they seek to fill and she invites the audience to visit the website for information about the jobs.

Throughout New York City, they have over 160 programs covering issues such as education, economic development, family support, housing, housing development, youth, and legal services. Within the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community, they operate at 14 different sites,

providing services including after-school programs, homeless shelters, and permanent housing developments.

CAMBA entered into the world of homelessness by opening a shelter over twenty years ago. She honestly did not ever think that they would go in that direction and after they were asked to open a third shelter, she said they should not continue to operate shelters. They must look at ways to create permanent housing. They must become a part of the solution to ending homelessness. So they formed CAMBA Housing Ventures and have become successful at developing affordable and supportive housing. She has a couple of rules regarding the housing that they develop. First, the units should be acceptable for her to live in, or no one should live in them. Secondly, the development is to be well maintained as if each day is day one.

Mr. David Rowe presented a PowerPoint and stated that CHV pairs excellent design and sustainable, energy-efficient buildings with CAMBA's life-changing case management services to provide safe, healthy homes for low-income and formerly homeless individuals.

Today, CHV has 2,062 units completed or in development, including 1,532 units in Brooklyn, representing over \$516 million in investment. They are also a jobs creator.

CAMBA places a focus on the security of their tenants and employs their own security guards who they have trained. All of the units in the proposed project at 210-214 Hegeman Avenue are targeted to individuals earning 60% of AMI (Area Median Income). Forty-two (42) affordable units are available for those ready for permanent housing, exiting a New York City shelter with a special need referred by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). Twenty-eight (28) affordable units will be marketed to people coming from the DHS facilities and the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) Marketing Guidelines. HPD/HDC lotteries include a 50% preference for Community District #16 residents.

They want the building to be aesthetically pleasing. The façade of the building has clean lines which try to achieve that goal. There is a community room which can serve as a meeting place for community board meetings or as a meeting place for elected officials. They want it to be a community asset.

They provide social services at each of their sites. At this location, they will have two Case Managers and Site Director who work with the residents of the building to engage them and provide for them. Services will include: financial literacy, access to preventative healthcare and improving health outcomes, access to employment and benefits, education/job training, and healthy living activities.

Ms. Katherine Salva of CHV stated that a model of the project is on display near tonight's distribution table. The site of the project is opposite Noble Drew Ali Plaza which is 6-stories and is about the same as the streetwall of the CAMBA project. Some key features of the project are a 6-story base with the 7th and 8th stories having a setback and sheathed in a different material in order to have them virtually disappear from view at street level. There will be a planting strip in the front of the building which itself set back about 5-feet to accommodate the nearby bus shelter. As you enter the building, you will find a spacious lobby with a mailbox area and direct access to the garden and seating area at the back of the building. There is an open staircase leading to the lower level which houses the community space mentioned earlier, a laundry room, computer center which is accessible to residents, and the social services offices. There are 70 studio units and a one-bedroom unit for the super. The layout of the studios is efficient, allowing for a full-size bed, a dining area, a full kitchenette, private bathroom, and storage.

They are anticipating construction to begin summer 2017 with occupancy to begin in summer 2019.

Someone stated that on-street parking is an issue in the area. How will CHV deal with parking?

Mr. Rowe stated that they will not be providing parking. They promote the usage of public transportation and find that most of their residents have no need for off-street parking. At their CAMBA Gardens site, there are 20 available parking spaces for 290 housing units, less than half of which are being used.

Ms. Mabel Davis commented that CAMBA should educate the formerly homeless individuals on how to budget and maintain their apartments.

Someone asked how the apartments will be awarded?

Mr. Crowe stated that rents are based on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) guidelines. Currently, it is approximately \$816 for an individual earning 60% of the area median income. This figure is subject to change every year.

There being no further discussion, the Hearing was adjourned.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu read the District Manager's Report on behalf of District Manager Greene-Walker. The following are the highlights:

- The Department of Sanitation has announced that in advance of the Christmas holiday, there would be no garbage, nor recycling collection, nor street cleaning on Monday, December 26th.
- Per the NYC Administrative Code, every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any lot or building must clean snow and ice from the sidewalks adjacent (i.e., in front of, on the side of, in the back of) to their properties.

The report also provides information on how and when they should clear snow from their property along with frequently asked questions and answers concerning snow removal.

District Manager Greene-Walker continued the reading of her report.

- The New York City Department of Sanitation and the Department of Transportation are hiring emergency snow laborers.

Individuals who are interested in working as an emergency snow laborer may register at the Sanitation garage, located at 922 Georgia Avenue, weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or at the Department of Transportation Flatbush yard at 2900 Flatbush Avenue, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

- Brooklyn Networks is currently accepting applications for their FREE 6 week Cable Installation Training and Job Placement Assistance.

To learn more and apply, attend an information session on December 27th at 10:00 a.m., December 21st at 3:00 p.m. or January 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at 621 DeGraw Street (between 3rd and 4th Avenues) in Brooklyn. For additional information, call (718) 237-2017, Ext. 149 or email: awiggings@bwiny.org.

- Learn how to successfully apply for employment with the United States Postal Service on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the Economic Solutions Center at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. For additional information, call William Sanchez at (718) 630-6994.
- St. Nicks Alliance invites you to prepare for a career in the environmental industry. They offer a FREE 6 weeks classroom and hands-on environmental job training and ongoing career coaching.

Free information sessions are held every Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. at St. Nicks Alliance Workforce, 790 Broadway, 2nd Floor in Brooklyn. For additional information, call (718) 302-2057 Ext. 231 or email: www.stnickalliance.org.

Also contained within her report is information on how and when to file heat and hot water complaints as well as where Christmas trees may be brought for mulching after the holiday.

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

The roll was next called and a quorum was not present.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Giovania Tiarachristie and Mr. Michael Sandler of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD).

Mr. Sandler stated that this is the third time that they are presenting to the full Board, the first having been in July. They greatly appreciate the participation of the Board in this process. Tonight, they will give an overview on HPD and affordable housing which is a topic they have been asked about several times during this process. They want to make very clear how the development process works and what it means to develop affordable housing. They will then speak about their timeline and what has been done thus far.

In 2014, Mayor de Blasio put forth a housing plan to preserve and build 200,000 units of affordable housing throughout New York City. Ms. Tiarachristie that the plan created the unit of HPD that she and Mr. Sandler work with – the Office of Neighborhood Strategies. They not only work on preserving and building affordable housing, they also look at other needs of the community such as transportation, health, and economic development.

HPD was established in 1978 and is tasked with preserving affordable housing. They do not actually build housing, they use financial and tax incentives to encourage developers to build affordable housing. They also provide code enforcement, other tenant protection, and homeowner education. They partner with communities in conducting neighborhood planning.

They help in building M/WBE (minority and/or women-owned business enterprise) capacity by offering courses in building capacity, and professional development, networking, and mentoring programs. They help create RFPs (Request for Proposals) targeting M/WBE builders. One such opportunity which will soon be announced is in Brownsville. Starting in 2017, developers must commit at least a quarter of all HPD supported costs to M/WBEs.

“What is affordable housing?” is the first question they usually hear when discussing the issue. They use the federal definition which is that housing is considered “affordable” when a household spends no more than 1/3 of its income on rent and utilities. As an example, for a family of three earning \$50,000 per year, rent of \$1,500 would be considered affordable. If they are paying more, they are considered rent burdened.

Affordability is further defined by the Area Median Income (AMI), determined each year by the federal government for different regions for different household sizes. The median is the midpoint between the earnings of the highest income earner and the lowest income earner. For the New York Metro Area, the AMI for a family of 3 is currently \$81,600. This number is significantly higher than what is earned by the average Brooklyn or Brownsville family of three. The AMI is only used as a point of reference called 100% of AMI. A family of three earning approximately \$40,000 would be earning 50% of AMI. She gave several examples of showing typical wages of certain professions and how they relate to AMI. For example, a family headed by a retail salesperson earning \$24,500 is at 30% of AMI, while a family with a construction worker and a registered nurse earning \$134,640 combine is at 165% of AMI. Under the mayor’s housing plan, the units built are targeted towards those earning between 30% of AMI to 80% of AMI.

A chart displaying average incomes in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and New York City, indicated that 45% of Brownsville residents earn 30% or less of AMI, 18% earn 31-50% of AMI, 16% earn 51-80% of AMI, and 21% earn 81% or greater of AMI. A sample market survey showed typical Brownsville rents of \$1,400 for a studio/ 1-bedroom, \$1,700 for a two-bedroom, and \$2,000 for a three-bedroom apartment. These rents are considered to be affordable to those earning 81% of AMI. This means that the typical Brownsville resident would be either rent burdened or severely rent burdened (spend 50% of earnings or more on housing cost).

Mr. Sandler stated that HPD was selected to lead the Brownsville Planning Process. The Process has the potential for developing up to 2,000 new units of affordable housing on public land and in-development private projects such as the one proposed by CAMBA earlier this evening.

The city owns lots of vacant land in the neighborhood (four clusters were highlighted on a map which was displayed). They wanted to hold a process to gather a collective vision for what people in the community hope to see on those sites, and additional community goals the sites could help achieve.

In addition, there are currently several initiatives by other city agencies in health and safety happening in Brownsville, and they are working together to stay coordinated. City government is comprised of over 300,000 employees and it is very easy for agencies to get siloed into doing their own thing. They believe that the Brownsville Planning Process offers a great opportunity

for the agencies to work cooperatively with each other and the community to come up with plans that have synergy.

Amongst the things already taking place in the community are the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety which is working in two NYCHA developments in Brownsville coordinating with capital agencies for neighborhood improvements targeting public safety. Building Healthy Communities is working on an urban farm at Howard Houses with NYCHA and Green City Force which has a network of nine farmers' markets, food boxes and youth markets. The Department of Health and Mental Health has their Neighborhood Health Action Center (Bristol Street) and amongst many projects in the community, the Department of Parks and Recreation is making an \$18 million investment into the rehab of the Brownsville Recreation Center.

The preliminary goals of the process include building new affordable housing and neighborhood amenities, creating a retail corridor along Livonia Avenue, promoting public safety by decreasing vacant space, activating key corridors, create jobs and job training opportunities for neighborhood residents (all of these investments include jobs and they want to ensure that they are targeted toward Brownsville residents), support for small businesses and local economic development, improving health through investments in parks, streets, housing, and community facilities, and support for local arts and incorporating local artists throughout the process.

This is a multi-step yearlong process. They began talking with various stakeholders in late spring/early summer. They had various workshops, events to be sure that what they were thinking at their offices fit in with the priorities and needs of the community. They are now in what they call the Create Phase where they collaborate with their sister agencies to come up with strategies and plans on how to accomplish the goals. They will return in February with a workshop to present that work to the community and get feedback. This will culminate in the spring with a neighborhood plan.

The neighborhood plan will be a set of strategies that they think the city should, going forward, use to focus on Brownsville. Some of this will come along with immediate commitments for projects, especially those that involve new housing, retail, and community facilities. It will serve as a long-term guide for development of the community. There will be items that will be funded and ready to go and there will be items that the Community Board will need to work with their elected officials to have them pushed forward.

They are working together with a wide variety of organizations that work in the neighborhood to help advise them on the process. If there is an agency that is not working with them on the process and would like to contribute, he asks that they reach out to them.

The usual process for the development follows a path where the city engages in community workshop to inform a Request for Proposals, which defines the parameters for submissions. They attach the summary of community visions to the RFP in the appendix. This is all available online for the public. Developers will then present their vision on how to fulfill the goals. The proposals are then reviewed based on the response to the community vision, and a wide range of factors including affordability, how well it meets the goals of Brownsville and the city, and financial feasibility. They want the development to be sustainable in the long-term. The quality and creativity of the design is also considered. They look at the development team's experience. They want to be good stewards of the public's land by ensuring the development team has the experience to make the project happen. After the developer is selected, there is a ULURP process which will go through the Community Board where the project is again presented to the Board for feedback.

Ms. Tiarachristie summarized their progress thus far. They started off the process with an open house back in July where there were about 70 community residents that attended.

In September, they held another workshop where they discussed the Belmont Avenue, Pitkin Avenue, and Livonia Avenue corridor and what improvements could be made along these corridors. The Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Probation and Small Business Services participated.

At their most recent workshop in November, they focused on the four clusters of vacant city-owned land in the community. They asked attendees what affordability levels they wanted to see. They broke the attendees into groups who played the part of developers and planners and presented their visions.

They have also had an online presence (courbanize.com/Brownsville/survey) where they put up signs around the neighborhood asking folks to text in their response, which would connect to the website where there is an interactive map. This is an attempt to reach out to those who have not been able to participate at the workshops. You have until December 31, 2016 to take the survey and have a chance to win a \$20 gift card to 3 Black Cats Café on Belmont Avenue.

They were at the Brownsville Public Library earlier today, assisting those who may not have internet access at home. They have participated at various community events such as the BMS Summerfest where they spoke to over 100 individuals and asked them why they are proud to be from Brownsville, what makes Brownsville home, and what do they want to see in Brownsville? They were at National Night Out where they asked similar questions to about 150 residents. They asked how they bring people in the community together? How can job opportunities be expanded? They participated in the Live on Livonia event in September where youth worked on a mural in front of a vacant lot imagining how it might be used.

Regarding housing and development, they heard that more affordable housing for a range of incomes and homeownership opportunities are needed. Housing for single young people, formerly homeless, large families, seniors, and youth aging out of foster care. The need for sit-down restaurants, entertainment venues, space for small, neighborhood businesses, and other entities that will prioritize local hiring. They also heard the need for recreational and cultural spaces. In terms of new structures, the community wants them to complement existing structures. Work force development is important to the community, as are opportunities for youth employment. Everyone wants to see more entrepreneurship and businesses that hire locally. Better marketing for existing programs was mentioned.

Regarding health and public safety, they heard that residents are proud of Brownsville parks and gardens, events and programs. The Brownsville Recreation Center and Betsy Head Park are both great assets/resources for the community, but they need renovation. The neighborhood needs more active spaces to improve safety, especially along Livonia Avenue. This could be achieved through increased retail, better programming, more lighting, etc. More fresh food options are needed in the neighborhood, education around the importance of these types of foods, and more police and improved community relations to prevent crime and violence to help residents feel safer.

About the overall process, they heard that they should celebrate and build on Brownsville's assets, leverage city investments to accomplish multiple goals, especially related to health, safety, and economic empowerment. The city should integrate community power, education, and ownership into the process and outcomes, as well as improve transparency, accountability, and relationship between government and community. Lastly, there should be measurable outcomes and manage expectations, identify gaps, priorities, and need to most efficiently use limited resources.

Ms. Paula Siegel, Director of 596 Acres, stated that community gardens were mentioned as assets of the community that should be celebrated. However, one of those gardens, the Green Valley Community Farm, is featured on maps that are being circulated by HPD as a vacant lot. She does not think it should be represented as such. What are HPD's plans for this site?

Mr. Sandler stated that the issue has been discussed and it is a complicated one, on which he does not have much to say. The process is a holistic one, but there are other issues regarding citywide concerns that inform the use of the lot.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that she did not hear anything in tonight's discussion about employment opportunities during the construction phases of development.

Mr. Sandler stated that this is important to them. At the next workshop, they will speak about how to make this happen.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated that their RFPs now strongly encourage applicants to provide local workforce hiring and workforce development. The applicants will be evaluated with this in mind.

Mr. Sandler stated that beginning in 2017, any project taking advantage of city investments, must use at least 25% of the investment for M/WBE contracts.

Someone asked how would the maintenance of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) campuses be helped by this process?

Mr. Sandler stated that NYCHA is one of their partners in the process. They have met with them and will continue to meet with them because many of the ideas they heard were about urban design. How those campuses affect public safety? Much of what they heard pertains to NYCHA. They will work with NYCHA. However, this does not mean that every NYCHA development will be fixed by this process.

Mr. Mawuli Hormeku stated that better outreach needs to be done to get participation.

Ms. Carolyn Lee asked which income group will they be targeting with the housing?

Mr. Sandler stated that in the workshops they heard a need for a variety of different groups. Since there are several sites, he thinks they will be marketed towards various groups as well.

Someone asked how do they plan to increase participation at their workshop?

Mr. Sandler stated that they had 80 people at the last workshop and would love to have more. They would love to hear ideas on how to get better participation. You know your neighbors much better than they do.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated that one of the reasons for their online survey is that they recognize that not everyone will be able to participate at a workshop for various reasons. It is another tool that they can use to make themselves heard.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Mr. Sandler and Ms. Tiarachristie for the presentation.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 13, 2016 with the developers of Ebenezer Plaza regarding the Committee's request to reduce the number of studio apartments and increase the number of one- and two-bedroom units. They informed us that in order to maintain the affordability of the units they would have to go with the original proposal.

The Committee feels strongly that more effort should be made by the developers to revise their proposal to create more family units and reduce the number of studios while keeping the units affordable. It has happened in other projects and it can happen in this project without jeopardizing its affordability, given the great need in our community for family units.

The Committee recommends that the Board not rescind its letter of conditional support given to the developers of Ebenezer Plaza,

The Committee also met with representatives of Atlantic East Affiliates, which is proposing to rezone properties on the southeastern and southwestern corners of the intersection of Eastern Parkway and Atlantic Avenue (Block 1435, p/o Lots 40,42,43; Block 1436, p/o Lot 11) to construct 67 units of affordable housing and community facility.

A ULURP application is under review at the Department of City Planning. Once it is certified, it will be presented at a public hearing at Community Board #16.

At last month's meeting, the Committee met with representatives from D.U.E.C.E.S. which is seeking a letter of support from the Community Board to develop a green thumb garden on a vacant lot at Somers Street and Rockaway Avenue (Block 1538, Lots 43 and 45).

She next asked Mr. C. Aaron Hinton to come forward and make his presentation.

Mr. Hinton stated that the lot in question is known as 45 Somers Street and is between Rockaway Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street. He displayed photographs of the lot from October 2007, October 2012, and October 2016. D.U.E.C.E.S. (Do yoU's Enlightenment and Cultural Empowerment Services) is seeking the Board's support for the transfer of this city-owned lot to the Department Parks and Recreation for stewardship by residents as a community garden.

The lot, which is in the inventory of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, has been vacant several years and was adopted into the Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Program as

open space in 1992, meaning that it can be used as a community garden. It continues to maintain that status today. It was formerly used as a Lots for Tots site by the adjacent daycare center under the aegis of the Council on the Environment of New York City (now known as GrowNYC). However, the lot has been under some stage of abandonment for several years.

He next read a letter of support from GrowNYC stating that GrowNYC's 40-year history of transforming vacant lots into vibrant spaces has shown to have positive effects on communities.

They have also received verbal support from the current occupant of the adjacent building, Shirley Chisholm Day Care Center #4, which had unsuccessfully tried to obtain the lot. The Center has agreed to offer any assistance they can in support of the project and with the design of a new mural.

As D.U.E.C.E.S. is a program for and by young people, they want the garden to be an educational site. He displayed photographs of other locations that they used for some inspiration for their project. At the same time, they want the space to be accessible to everyone in the community regardless of age. Their original intent was to grow herbs and spices. However, their research has concluded that the agricultural climate zone for New York precludes them from growing spices, so they will focus on growing herbs which have culinary and medicinal uses. He wants the lot to also include some play equipment and outdoor musical art pieces to encourage culture in the youth.

The mission and goals of the organization are the same: To Save Our Youth; Save Our Streets; Squash the Beef and to Increase the Peace; throughout Brownsville and the surrounding communities. Obtaining the control of the lot will go a long way towards reaching their goals of improving the community.

Ms. Coleman stated that the Committee also met with representatives from Green Valley Community Farm which is a greenthumb garden at 93 New Lots Avenue. The group is requesting a letter of support to maintain the garden at the site.

Pending further review of additional information about the site, the matter was laid over.

Earlier tonight you heard a presentation from representatives of CAMBA who are proposing to develop a City-owned lot at 210-214 Hegeman Avenue to create 70 studios and a one-bedroom apartment for an on-site superintendent.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports this project which will erase a blighting condition and create 71 units of affordable housing.

A motion was made by David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, and carried to accept the report the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee with the recommendations.

In a roll call vote, , members of the Board voted to support the applications made by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to a) facilitate the construction of approximately 70 units of affordable housing and supportive housing and b) grant a special permit to modify the requirements of Section 24-11 (Maximum floor area ratio for certain community facility uses) to permit the allowable community facility floor area and ration of Section 24-11 (Maximum Floor Area and Percentage of Lot Coverage) to apply to a non-profit institution with sleeping accommodations in connection with a proposed eight-story building on property located at 210-214 Hegeman Avenue (Block 3639, Lots 35 and 37), in an R6 District, as noted in tonight's public hearing with 25-in favor, 1-against, and no abstentions (total membership of 47).

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support the applications made by D.U.E.C.E.S. to develop a green thumb garden on a vacant lot at Somers Street and Rockaway Avenue (Block 1538, Lots 43 and 45) with 26-in favor, 1-against, and no abstentions.

A motion was made by David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the Reports of the District Manager for the months of November and December 2016.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2016 and November 22, 2016 Community Board meetings.

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

Committee held a meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016, to continue discussions on important issues and barriers to economic development affecting our community. The Committee is planning a Minority and Women-Owned Business Forum during the week of “National Small Business Week” which will take place during the week of May 1-7, 2017.

Additionally, with the implementation of the Workforce1 Center, which is officially open and located at 2619 Atlantic Avenue between Sheffield and Pennsylvania Avenues, the Committee will be discussing the continued need for local employment opportunities to achieve a set of recommendations for employing residents of our community.

The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District has been awarded the New York State Main Street grant to implement a façade improvement program. The Committee will be working closely with the Pitkin Avenue BID to review applications by property owners for matching grants for storefronts along Pitkin Avenue. For more information, please contact Daniel Murphy at the Pitkin Avenue BID at (718) 922-9600.

At the Board’s November meeting, two (2) applications for liquor licenses were reviewed for business establishments seeking liquor licenses within the District and due to the absence of a quorum, a vote is still required by the Board. The applicants were as follows:

An application for a beer and wine license was submitted for a restaurant located at 109 Belmont Avenue which will open in the next 30 days. The application was made by Rosa Espinal, owner & Business Manager. The purpose of the license is to allow beverages containing alcohol on premises during dine-in food services.

An application for a beer and wine license was submitted for a restaurant located at 2017 Fulton Street by Mosun Balogun, Business Manager and owner. The purpose of the license is to allow beverages containing alcohol on premises during dine-in food services.

The Committee recommends that the Board support both applications.

The goal of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the District and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same. Members of the community with interests in economic development are invited to attend the next Committee meeting which will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. and the Committee will meet with the New York State Department of Banking to discuss necessary improvements to banking services in our community.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Economic Development Committee with their recommendations.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support application for a beer and wine license for a restaurant located at 109 Belmont Avenue made by Rosa Espinal, owner and Business Manager by a vote of 21-in favor, 2-against, and 2-abstentions.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support application for a beer and wine license for a restaurant located at 2017 Fulton Street made by Mosun Balogun, Business Manager and owner by a vote of 19-in favor, 3-against, and 2-abstentions.

In the absence of Mr. Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, District Manager Greene-Walker reported that at last month’s meeting, a presentation was heard from Mr. Marty Maher and colleagues from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation regarding a proposal to renovate the Brownsville Recreation Center. Diagrams were displayed showing the pre- and post-construction of the Center. \$18 million have been allocated for the project and construction is scheduled to start in 2019.

Having reviewed the proposal at their November 7th meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee recommends that the Board vote to approve the project.

The matter turned over to the Chair for a vote.

In a roll call vote, the Board voted to accepted the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Parks and Recreation Committee and its recommendation to support the proposal of the

Department of Parks and Recreation to renovate the Brownsville Recreation Center by a vote 24-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions.

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee, introduced Ms. Sarah Hall, R.N.

Ms. Hall stated that she agreed to make tonight's presentation as a way of honoring the late District Attorney Kenneth Thompson who recently succumbed to colon cancer.

She is a retired Registered Nurse and a Licensed Gastroenterologist Assistant who worked at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center's Endoscopy Department for 25 years where many lives were saved.

She is often told by people that they are going to have an endoscopy performed. When she asks them what kind, the answer is often "an endoscopy". Endoscopy is simply a term that means that a doctor will examine an internal organ. There are many different methods of doing this. They can examine the stomach (gastroscopy), bladder (cystoscopy) or the lower respiratory tract (bronchoscopy), to name a few. Tonight, she will be speaking about colonoscopy.

Cancer of the colon is very common in the United States. The good news is that if caught early, it is very treatable. Cancer can be simply defined as a wild disorderly growth of a cell. Anyone who is 50 years old or older, has a family history of colon cancer, severe diarrhea, chronic constipation, or has a change in bowel habits should see a doctor immediately. It is likely that the doctor will recommend a colonoscopy.

A colonoscopy is a simple procedure. A tube is inserted into the rectum and guided through the descending colon, the transverse colon, and the ascending colon up to the appendix. As the doctor retracts the colonoscope, he or she will use the small camera attached to the instrument to search for abnormalities along the lining of the intestine. If need be, a small sample can be exacted for biopsy. If the biopsy is positive for cancer, the patient is asked to undergo surgery. It is considered major surgery. However, it is a straight forward operation. During the operation, the segment with the cancerous polyp is surgically removed with the two remaining sections stitched together. The patient is asked to return for a follow-up visit about a year later and if all is well, two years beyond that time. She knows patients who are 20 plus years cancer free because of detection and treatment.

She went on to describe the outlook for a patient who fails to heed the doctor's suggestion of surgery upon the initial detection of the cancerous polyp. The patient may end up with cancer spreading to their liver and lungs. At this stage, a gastroenterologist will not be able to help the patient except to refer them to an oncologist. The oncologist will most likely prescribe chemotherapy which often ends up being a contributor to the patient's death along with cancer.

In closing, she encouraged anyone in the audience who may be experiencing some of the symptoms she described or know of someone who is to seek medical assistance as early as possible.

Ms. Marie Pierre asked if one's diet is a contributor to contracting the disease?

Ms. Hall stated that they are unsure of the causes of cancer but a good diet with fiber will not hurt.

Someone asked if ten-year intervals between colonoscopy are acceptable?

Ms. Hall stated that if the initial procedure was without issue then 5-year intervals is often suggested.

Ms. Winston stated that the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee will meet tomorrow, December 21, 2016 to discuss Medicaid. They selected this topic because they have heard that Medicaid is not paying for certain medical issues affecting senior citizens.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 14, 2016, with Mr. Marc Damasky, Senior Vice President for Treatment and Recovery at the Institute for Community Living which sponsors several programs here in our community. Mr. Damasky will give a detail presentation at the January 24, 2017 Community Board meeting about the services they provide at 484 Rockaway Avenue and 2384 Atlantic Avenue.

There will be an emergency meeting at Brookdale Hospital about the release of the Northwell Study and what it means for healthcare and Brookdale going forward on January 10, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Brookdale Hospital Auditorium, located at 555 Rockaway Parkway. Please confirm your attendance by emailing bkvoiceyourvision@gmail.com.

She stressed the importance of attending this meeting as it will play an import part in the future of Brookdale and healthcare in our community.

The Health and Human Services Committee will hold a teleconference in January 2017. The date and time will be announced. Persons with interest in the Committee or questions concerning the Brookdale meeting should call her or the District Manager at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Health and Human Services Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in the absence of Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, December 12, 2016.

The Committee was informed that the Department of Technology and Telecommunications is continuing to work with their franchisee, CityBridge, on replacing the City's public pay telephone infrastructure with LinkNYC kiosks, which provide free high speed Wi-Fi, free nationwide calling, a dedicated 911 button, free access to maps and 311, and free charging ports for mobile devices.

170 Thomas S. Boyland Street, 2021 Fulton Street, and 2214 Fulton Street have been identified as new sites in Community District #16.

The Department of Transportation informed the Committee that they recently completed their study regarding the need for additional traffic controls at the intersection of Rockaway Avenue and Hull Street. A traffic signal has been approved at this location and installation will be performed by contract and the work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by February 28, 2017.

The Committee met with Keturah Suggs who is conducting a survey to determine the need for a shared ride service for seniors called Brownsville Connect. Copies of the survey are on the information table. Please take one, fill it out, and return it to Community Board's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 8th, 2016 and immediately began to discuss a piece of legislation that Committee member Dr. Cleopatra Brown brought to their attention. The legislation, which was passed in California, deals with the burden that the parents of students in the public schools were facing where the onus was placed on the parents to buy many school supplies, such as toilet tissue and paper towel, and in some cases, they had to pay for class trips which were part of reinforcement of the curriculum. Mr. David Alexander, Chair of the Youth Services Planning Committee, who was invited to take part in the discussion, was given the responsibility of finding out if the same thing applies to the public school parents in our District. Mr. Alexander also promised to find out what supplies are covered by Title I funds. Another Committee member, Mrs. Pat Winston, promised to check with some parents in our District to see whether they are faced with a similar burden. The Committee will access their findings and accordingly discuss what actions need to be taken if necessary.

They next discussed proposed United States Senate bill 3384 which is a bill seeking to give tax credit as an incentive to build affordable units for middle-income brackets. The NLIH (National Low Income Housing Coalition) asked the Committee to oppose this bill on the premise that they felt that there was a greater need for low-income housing. After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was that the bill should not be opposed as in all the cases where supposedly affordable housing is planned many middle-income earners, especially single income earners in the bracket, are left out. They are either in the bracket where their income is either too high or too low and that there is a need for housing in that group. The Committee reached out to our representatives in the House and Senate regarding legislation concerning the disparity in the federal guidelines determining the AMI for our neighborhoods, and have not received any official response.

The Committee reminds the audience that the new legislative session will soon begin and in light of a new Administration, urge you to get involved. The next Legislative Committee will be in the form of a teleconference on January 12th.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the November 2016 and December 2016 reports of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 8th and discussed the outcome of the teleconference with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), pertaining to the children living in transitional housing, and the service linkage with Department of Education (DOE). Although the conference went well, there were still unanswered questions: How does DHS deal with the emotional needs of the students? Absenteeism caused by DHS and how it links to the Administration for Children Services (ACS) opening cases based on these grounds? How many children are being serviced by DHS?

He was invited and attended the Legislative Committee meeting on December 8th to discuss the framing of a bill to submit to Congress that would address concerns pertaining to school teachers and parents in School District 23, who must pay out of their own pocket for supplies that should be provided by DOE, such as toilet paper and paper towels, reams of copy paper, crayons, hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, school trips and the like. In most cases, the cost of purchasing supplies is passed onto the parent earning low-incomes if the teachers are unable to provide the supplies. All schools in Ocean Hill-Brownsville are Title I schools. Many of the parents cannot afford to purchase or pay for extra materials due to their income. After which, the burden then falls onto a pro-active teacher, who receives a stipend of only \$150 per academic term (September to June of any given year).

A document presented to the Committees by Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that in 2012 the People of the State of California fought to introduce to Congress and the Assembly a bill called - Bill Number AB 1575, Lara - Pupil Fees which was successfully passed by the California Senate, and the Assembly which addressed the above matters. The Youth Committee will work with the Legislative Committee to ascertain whether such a bill can be achieved in New York. A follow-up meeting will be held on January 12th with Ms. Mendonca, President of the Community Education Council (CEC). Subsequently, he attended a District Team Leadership meeting held by the CEC where he made inquiries as to the accuracy of the claims from teachers who attended the meeting. They agreed that there were insufficient supplies for the students and that the burden of the purchasing supplies was at their discretion. However, they do not have enough resources. They, therefore, recommend that parents supply the materials. However, for children living in transitional housing, there are funds that are set aside under Title I for supplies, uniforms, books, and a host of other items including passes for transportation from the shelter to school and back, as per the McKinney-Vento Law concerning students residing in the shelter system.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in which the highest courts ruled that the State was not providing a "sound, basic" education for every child. As a result, New York State promised an additional \$7 billion dollars in funds for school districts across the State. Ten years later, the state still owes public schools in New York City school districts \$1.6 billion. As part of the 10th anniversary, the Committee is requesting you to join them on January 10th for a rally in Albany to lobby our elected officials.

Three schools are slated to receive capital funds from Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's Office for improvement: P.S. 178 received \$250,000 for technology, P.S./I.S. 155 received \$250,000 for library, and P.S. 137/284 received \$500,000 for gymnasium

Brooklyn Landmark Elementary School (P.S. 599 Spotlight) was highlighted in a showcase school model on Channel 5. P.S. 599 is also a Gifted and Talented School, which gives District 23 two Gifted and Talented schools in Brownsville. The other school is I.S. 392 (grades 6-8).

In 2014, President Obama established the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Task Force at the federal level. The Task Force was an interagency effort focused on closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps faced by, but not limited to, boys and young men of color so that all young people have the chance to reach their full potential. New York State became the first state to implement the MBK program. Assemblywoman Walker gave District 23 \$300,000 towards the MBK Program. The DLT discussed how to spend the money to benefit the participants of the program, which begins in October 2017.

He next announced that Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation located at 444 Thomas Boyland has a GED program for residents 17 years old and up and a SONYC BIZ Program (in the same location as the GED program on the 3rd floor). For information about the programs, call (718) 498-4513.

The CAMPUS Afterschool Tech & Arts Program for Middle School Students – at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street is enrolling youth for the program. For more information or to enroll call (718) 495-7793.

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 12, 2017, at 444 Thomas Boyland in the Community Board office. Anyone interested in joining the Youth Services Planning Committee may contact Ms. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or e-mail her at bk16@nyc.gov.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that in September, PROP and the Brooklyn Defenders presented the Committee with a "Safety Beyond Policing Resolution" and asked that the Board support the following:

A recommendation that the City Council, Mayor's Office, District Attorney's Office and NYPD move away from "Broken Windows" policing, and further recommend that \$1 million of taxpayer funds be redirected from policing programs and towards housing, education, resources for the homeless and community empowering solutions.

The Committee's position is that "Quality of Life" issues addressed in the "Broken Windows" tactic, directly addresses the complaints of the community. The issues that make people feel unsafe and fearful in traveling have been largely eradicated.

The ticketing issue was also reviewed for the effect on our District. The findings were inconsistent. According to the Traffic Supervisor, there are no significant numbers to support a ticketing pattern. However, there are areas of heavy enforcement due to the high incidence of infractions and safety concerns at key locations.

After careful review of the proposed resolution, the Committee recommends that the Board not support this measure as it does not reflect the position of our community.

The planning for the Public Safety Town Hall Meeting will resume in January 2017. She asks that discussion topics be submitted to the District Manager's office.

The Committee is currently recruiting for the following: CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), CPR and First Aid to be held in February 2017, Emergency Response Training to be held in March 2017, and the next NYPD Civilians Police Academy to begin in March 2017.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be on January 4, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board office.

It was noted that a quorum was not present to vote on the Public Safety Committee's report.

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women’s Committee, reported that the Committee met on Friday, December 16, 2016, with Mrs. Suzette Jules-Jack of the Hope and Healing Family Center Community Birthing Services Program. Mrs. Jules-Jack discussed the support services provided by the agency to pregnant mothers starting at four months of pregnancy. Some of the services provided include: offering physical and emotional support during the pregnancy, serving as a “Doula” giving support during labor and delivery at the hospital, and postpartum services. She also manages the Brownsville Breast Milk Depot, located at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, Suite 303. Anyone interested in these services may reach Mrs. Jules-Jack at (347) 384-1494.

On the horizon of 2017, the Women’s Committee will be working with a group called Edge and Effort to sponsor a financial workshop at the MacDonough Cafe in early February. They are also looking to co-sponsor events with the Economic Development Committee and the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee. In March, they will work with the Public Safety Committee on Domestic violence awareness. For the months of April, May, and June, they will collaborate on other community events that pertain to women’s issues taking place in our neighborhoods.

In addition, the Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc. has launched the “Interview Clothing Initiative” in which they will be providing business interview attire free of charge. The program is available to women living in shelters or low-income residents of Brownsville and East New York preparing for an upcoming interview. Individuals must provide a letter of recommendation from a social services advisor and have an interview date confirmed. For more information, visit their website at www.nehemiahed.org or by call (718) 346-0027.

The Committee took some time to recap and would like to remind others that donations can still be made up until Saturday, December 31st by going to the Breast Cancer Making Strides of Brooklyn team page at www.makingstrideswalk.org and entering “Brooklyn Community Board 16” in the search for a team field.

The Women’s Committee will hold their meetings every 3rd Friday of the month going forward. The next meeting will be on January 20th at 6:00 pm via conference call. If there are any topics that you would like the Women’s Committee to address, please contact Ms. Rivera at bk16@cb.nyc.gov or District Manager Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385- 0323.

It was noted that a quorum was not present to vote on the Women’s Committee’s report.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Mr. Belon stated that Congresswoman Clarke issued a statement regarding news reports concerning service at the Brownsville Postal Station. Congresswoman Clarke contacted the Postmaster and was informed that hours for the station have been extended for the holidays through December 18th. She requested that they be extended even further as packages for the holidays will still be in transit. She also requested that the station be sufficiently staffed to serve their customers.

On tonight’s distribution table are customer concern forms that may be used to file complaints concerning the postal service.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman Clarke reminds the community of the availability of scholarships for students and of the upcoming deadlines to apply.

Rev. Eddie Karim, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, urged the audience to attend the emergency meeting at Brookdale Hospital on January 10, 2017 and share this information with family, friends, and neighbors. The future of healthcare in the community is dependent on this meeting.

Assemblywoman Walker has allocated funds for the My Brother’s Keeper Challenge. These funds will be targeted towards School Districts 19 and 23 to support programs that assist all youth, especially boys and young men of color, have opportunities to improve their life outcomes and overcome barriers to success. As the funding becomes available, she wants to ensure that community-based organizations have an opportunity to take part.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated the term “affordable housing” is a misnomer in regards to the Brownsville and East New York

communities. The federal government's statement that the area median income is \$81,000 is simply untrue in our community. We must remain diligent in our efforts to bring about truly affordable housing for the residents of our communities and fight the gentrification movement.

He warns homeowners to be wary when it comes to the deeds to their property. If you are in arrears in payments to a city agency, you are subject to having a tax lien placed on your property. This can lead to you losing the property in forfeiture. He encourages persons who are in arrears to reach out to the agency and work out a payment agreement before this happens.

Mr. Melenick O'Neal, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, concurred with Mr. Faulkner with regard to not letting your real property be placed on tax lien lists. He related the story of a homeowner on Strauss Street who lost her home due to being in arrears for a few dollars worth of water bills.

The CAMPUS Program is in operation at the Howard Houses and P.S. 298. He encourages parents and guardians of youth who are need of tutoring or have an interest in coding to take advantage of the program.

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