

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – January 24, 2017**

Attendance

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

Deborah Mack  
Yolanda Matthews (E)  
John McCadney, Jr.  
Virginia McClam (E)  
Andrea McCullough (E)  
Ronella Medica (A)  
Shemene Minter  
Genese Morgan  
Anita Pierce  
Marie Pierre  
Linda Rivera  
Wendy Rutherford (A)  
Evelyn Sanchez  
Delores Slaughter  
Carolyn Smith  
Celina Trowell (A)  
Ernestine Turner  
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu  
Patricia Williamson (E)  
Pat Winston  
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager  
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant  
Hon. Eric L. Adams  
Hon. Scott Stringer  
S. Phillips-Singleton for Hon. Darlene Mealy  
Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron  
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron  
Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III

**MEETING HELD AT BROOKLYN 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 requested that representatives of Atlantic East Affiliates, LLC. come forward and give a brief presentation regarding the following public hearing items:

I. IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by Atlantic East Affiliates LLC pursuant to Section 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17c:

1. eliminating from within an existing R6 district a C2-3 District bounded by the southerly boundary line of the Long Island Rail Road right-of-way (Atlantic Division), Eastern Parkway, a line midway between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, and a line 100 feet westerly of Eastern Parkway.
2. changing from an R6 District to an R8A District property bounded by the southerly boundary line of the Long Island Rail Road right-of-way (Atlantic Division) and its easterly prolongation, a line 100 feet easterly of Eastern Parkway, a line midway between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, and a line 100 feet westerly of Eastern Parkway; and
3. establishing within the proposed R8A District a C2-4 District bounded by the southerly boundary line of the Long Island Rail Road right-of-way (Atlantic Division) and its easterly prolongation, a line 100 feet easterly of Eastern Parkway, a line midway between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, and a line 100 feet westerly of Eastern Parkway;

Borough of Brooklyn Community District 16, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated November 28, 2016, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-400.

Mr. Richard Lobel of the firm of Sheldon Lobel, P.C. stated that he is present with Ms. Francine John also of Sheldon Lobel, P.C., Ms. Summer Alhamash, AIA of Heritage Architecture, Rev. Vivian Grubb of True Holy Church, and Emily Kurtz of the Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Citizens Center.

As stated by Chairperson Morgan, they are seeking a rezoning. As part of the land use review process they come before the Community Board to present their proposal for the property. The Property is the current site of the True Holy Church, located at the south east corner of Eastern Parkway and currently zoned as an R6 District. This means that it can be developed as-of-right with residential and community facilities, but it is limited to a floor area of 4.8. Their goal is to develop a 10-story, mixed-use building which is 100% affordable. The ground floor and cellar will be occupied by True Holy Church. There will be community space on the ground and second floors, and a total of 67 units of housing consisting of studios, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedrooms on floors 2 through 10. All of the housing units will be at affordable levels of 60% or lower of AMI (Area Median Income). By making use of HPD's Extremely Low and Low-Income Affordability (ELLA) Program funds, the units will be affordable to households earning a range of incomes from 30% to 60% of AMI. In a PowerPoint presentation he displayed the location of the site.

Under the city's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing plan, developers are required to build a portion of the units to be permanently affordable. The requirement calls for between 25% and 30%, however, the project they are proposing will be 100% affordable.

Schematics of the proposed building were displayed and Ms. Alhamash stated that their design attempts to maximize the usable space in a small footprint. The entry to the church will be on the Eastern Parkway side of the building and the residential entry along Atlantic Avenue. The building will have approximately 900 square feet of community space which will include some outdoor space. It is designed to be an efficient building which will use considerably less energy than most.

The design is contextual to neighboring buildings by making use of differing textures and setbacks. Although most of the nearby buildings are between 3- and 6-stories high, Atlantic Towers which is about a block away rises to a height of 23-stories.

Rev. Grubb stated that True Holy Church has been in the community since 1952. (Initially at 1958 Fulton Street). They purchased the subject property in 1993 and developed it over the years and it has served as their sanctuary since 2004. On Saturdays, they provide food to the community. They have formed liaisons with CAMBA as well as P.S. 155 for which they host graduation ceremonies each and may serve as a temporary home for the church during construction.

Many of their congregants are from the nearby shelters and it gives him pain when after they have become comfortable in the church and receive vouchers allowing them to move into permanent homes, they have to go to other communities. The church wants to stay in this community. It also sees the need for housing and wants to be a part of the solution.

Someone asked if there will be off-street parking?

Mr. Lobel stated because of the proximity to public transportation, off-street is not required. Beyond that, the off-street parking would need to be subterranean, in order to have the number of units they need to build and thusly, cost prohibitive.

The questioner next stated that the location is at a busy intersection. Are there any safety measures being taken to protect pedestrian and residents?

Ms. Alhamash stated that the building is setback 10 feet from the roadway. There will be trees planted that will provide a bit of buffering. Basically, the sidewalks are designed to conform with the city's requirements.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace requested that the presenters expound on the outdoor space mentioned.

Ms. Alhamash stated that it will be a fenced area that will have benches and planters that is restricted to residents and will be monitored via video cameras.

Mr. Albion Liburd asked what kind of services will be offered to the residents?

Ms. Kurtz stated that 15% of the units will be set aside for veterans and their families. They will be referred through HELP USA which will also be providing social services.

Mr. Liburd asked if they are taking into account the location's street activity with its proximity to the homeless shelters.

Ms. Kurtz stated that her organization has been in existence for over 40 years. They are based in Bushwick and southern Queens and recently branched out to serve other neighborhoods including Brownsville. They have a HomeBase program which is a homelessness prevention program that services Brownsville. Their development processes work on a community-based philosophy to support the community. One of the ways they do this is through the development of permanent housing. When they develop housing, they bring along all the other services that the organization provides to help stabilize the community.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to close the public hearing.

The roll was next called and a quorum was present.

Chairperson Morgan next recognized Mr. Michael Jones of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY).

Mr. Jones stated that there have been a number of recent fires in the community. Some have caused fatalities. On tonight's distribution table are fliers with information about several categories of fire safety, including one on knowing whether you live in a fireproof or a non-fireproof building, which is the focus of his presentation this evening.

There are two types of buildings in New York City, fireproof and non-fireproof. Buildings which are constructed of concrete and steel are considered fireproof. This does not mean that they cannot burn, but rather they have a 4- to 6-hour rating. These buildings are generally 6-stories or taller, although a tall building is not a guarantee of being fireproof. Non-fireproof homes are those that are constructed of easily combustible materials such as wood.

The Fire Department responds differently to these two types of constructions. In a fire at a non-fireproof building, occupants should evacuate the entire building. Whereas, in a fire at a fireproof building, they suggest that occupants remain in their apartments if the fire is not in the apartment.

Landlords of apartment buildings (with three or more units) are required to furnish all tenants with a fire safety plan. In fireproof residences, the plan will indicate that fact. It should be posted on the inside door of the apartment and a copy given to the tenant upon signing of a lease. This requirement was spawned from the aftermath of a hi-rise fire that took place in 1998 in the home of actor, Macaulay Culkin, which took the lives of 4 individuals who would likely not have perished, had they sheltered in place.

If you are in a fireproof building during a fire, you should stay where you are, unless the fire is in your unit. The buildings are constructed in such a manner as to not allow fires to spread from unit to unit. If the fire is on the same floor, but in a different unit, place wet towels and/or sheets along the bottom of the entry door to prevent smoke from entering your unit. If duct tape is available, it may be affixed along the sides and top of the door to further restrict smoke from entering your unit. You should also call 9-1-1 to report the fire and your location.

The Fire Department realizes that no matter what instructions are given to certain people; they will attempt to leave. Should you leave your apartment, realize that if the fire has extended into the hallway, your chance of survival will be reduced. One of the stairwells of a fireproof building will have the standpipe they use to help extinguish fires and will be compromised during a fire. In general, they knock on everyone's door and request that they stay within their apartments as they extinguish the fire. There have been times when these instructions were not followed and oxygen is introduced which causes flashovers that jeopardize the lives of even the firefighters. He urges the audience to adhere to the instructions given by firefighters, even when asked to stay in their apartments. Some may say "Smoke is entering the room I'm in". Should this happen, simply move to another room within the apartment; do not try to leave.

There are times when a fire will get to the windows of the apartment where it is originating from and lap up the wall. Should you see smoke billowing up from an apartment below, move all combustibles away from the windows, lock the windows, and if possible, make an “X” on the windows with duct tape to help keep the windows from shattering. Under normal circumstances, the content of an apartment will burn. However, the walls, floors, and ceiling will contain the fire for at least four hours. More than enough time for the Fire Department to extinguish the fire.

If you are exiting a building with a fire, do not use the elevators. Oftentimes, the elevators will lose power during a fire and you will be trapped within the elevator.

Most fires start in the kitchen of homes. The Fire Department urges everyone to make evacuation plans and practice those plans ahead of having a fire in their homes. You should think about where will you go? Ensure that everyone in the household know where to go. Some may ask “Does this really payoff?”. In public school, where it is required by law to have fire drills at least once a month, the Department has never lost a child to fire in over 125 years of operation. When the children hear the bells go off, they do not panic; they know where to go because they have practiced it over and over. There are schools with over 1,000 students that are able to evacuate their buildings in less than two minutes.

Many people place importance on their possessions – money, documents, jewelry, etc. These things can be replaced. Your life and those of your loved ones cannot. Do not go back into burning buildings for things. He related the story told by another firefighter of a father coming out of a burning building with a television and a satchel full of documents under his arms. As he exits the fire, he asked the firefighters to get his children out.

Your evacuation plan should take into consideration persons who may not be able to evacuate on their own. Such as young children and persons who are mobility impaired. The plan should also be practiced so as to become familiar to everyone in the household.

He advised the audience to assure that their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order. If your smoke detector is older than ten years, it should be replaced. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be replaced within ten years (some may only have a 3-year life expectancy). In the event of a fire, they are your first line of defense.

He encouraged the audience to pick up and read some of the informational fliers that are available on tonight’s distribution table. He is often told by persons to whom he offers information, that they are aware of the information. But what about their neighbor? Just because you live in a detached home does not mean that you will not be affected by a fire at the house next door.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked if someone lives on a floor near the roof, should they evacuate to the roof?

Mr. Jones stated that they do not generally recommend that people go up during fires, as heat and smoke rise.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation and next recognized Mr. Matt Linder from Project EATS.

Mr. Linder stated that Project EATS is a community farming initiative with sites in Brownsville. He presented to the Board last year and is thankful to the Board for allowing to present again. Present with him this evening are several colleagues who will speak of their efforts.

Ms. Bersabel (Bersi) Mesgna stated that she is an Education and Training Instructor for Project EATS. Along with her are several of the students who are participants at the Project Eats sites in Brownsville.

One of the students, Francisco, stated that he has been with Project EATS since his junior year of high school which was two years ago. The mission of Project Eats is to create self-sustaining and community-operated farms which provide high quality and affordable food in our community. Since 2009, Projects Eats has built 17 farms in all five boroughs of New York City. They provide food to the needy at local farm stands which accept a variety of payment methods such as EBT and WIC. They also provide community training.

In 2009, Project EATS created its first urban farm in Brownsville at the corner of Amboy Street and Blake Avenue. They now operate 4 farms in Brownsville, including one near the Marcus Garvey Village Apartments. In 2016, the farms employed 13 Brownsville community members in full- and part-time positions. Through a partnership with GrowNYC, Projects EATS allows local Food Fellows an opportunity to hone their farming skills and learn how to operate a farm stand. Their Brownsville farms produce thousands of pound of fresh foods each year which is mainly distributed in the community.

Services provided by Project EATS include a weekly farm stand at the corner of Dumont Avenue and Chester Street (July-November), “Farmacy”, community dinners, farm festivals, adult training in farming and healthy bodies, as well as support the delivery of nutrition education activities for customers, such as food preparation and cooking demonstrations

In 2016, they brought their first “Farmacy” to East New York where it works with local health care providers to prescribe fresh produce to patients with modifiable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension. They are excited to announce that the “Farmacy” program is also coming to Brownsville in 2017.

Their community dinners are a way for residents to socialize and come together to discuss ways to strengthen their community. This past fall, they held their first community dinner at their farm site at Marcus Garvey Apartments. They were over capacity and presented the residents with a three-course meal that they prepared onsite.

The mission of the Project EATS educational component is to develop and provide agricultural-based curriculum that engage students in hands-on training in and out of the classroom. This year, they worked with eight schools and over 2,000 students. In Brownsville, they worked with Teachers’ Prep and Fredrick Douglas Academy VII, and excited to be expanding into Mott Hall Academy.

The students spoke about some of the benefits that they have derived from working with the program, such as learning to work with others, learning the principles of gardening and farming, earning money to buy things they want, the calming found in working with the soil, and the ability to help others in their community.

Ms. Mesgna stated that in 2017 they are seeking to grow deeper in Brownsville and working with the Community Board to ensure that their programming impacts the community in a positive way.

Ms. Carolyn Lee asked what is the exact location of the farm in Brownsville?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they have four locations within Brownsville. Their primary location is at Chester Street and Dumont Avenue. They have a school site at Teachers’ Prep, located at Bristol Street and Blake Avenue, a site at Blake Avenue and Amboy Street, and a smaller site on Herzl Street between Dumont and Blake Avenues. All are within a block of each other.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if they post the hours of the farms?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they will be posting the hours of operation for the farm, going forward. Last year, they had some visitors to the farms; especially during the summer when the farms were in full operation.

Ms. Mack asked if there are any farms that can be visited currently?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they do not have any scheduled hours for the farms at the moment. The only garden that is partially active is the Marcus Garvey Apartments site which has very little production, during the winter months. They hope to become active again around April and will post the hours then.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked how do they control the rodent population within the farms?

Ms. Mesgna stated that the farmers implement different methods for pest control, ranging from having cats in the gardens to using raised beds that are two feet off the ground. They also process and package the produce in a fashion to deter vermin.

Someone asked if they take on volunteers?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they do; mainly on Saturdays during the peak season. They will post a schedule to encourage participants both weekdays and weekends.

Mr. Albion Liburd asked how is the food distributed?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they operate a farm stand at the corner of Dumont and Chester Street on Tuesdays and another stand operates at the Brooklyn Museum on Thursday. They will add another farm stand, along with a mobile market this year. Additionally, they donate food and use some for their educational programming.

Mr. Liburd asked if any of the produce is donated to food banks?

Ms. Mesgna stated that much of it is.

Mr. Linder stated that they received funding from the New York Health Foundation to establish additional farm stands in the Brownsville area. They will operate two stands, each operating two days a week. Additionally, they will operate a mobile unit which will go to senior centers throughout Brownsville.

Mr. Liburd asked if a food pantry can reach out to them for assistance?

Mr. Linder stated that they absolutely could. They always have excess produce and coordinate with several neighborhood churches to distribute the excess.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace stated that the group is doing an admirable job and she commends them, especially the youth.

Mr. William Boone, of the Medgar Evers Cornerstone Program, asked if they would be able to accommodate about 15 high school seniors who need to complete about 90 hours of community service.

Ms. Mesgna stated that they hired a select group of students for the summer and they also had days where they worked with volunteer girl scouts and individual student. She suggests that Mr. Boone reach out them to work out a schedule.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel stated that a community garden that is operated by one the members of Community Board #16 is in jeopardy of being closed. Are any of the plots being used by Project EATS under threat of being closed?

Mr. Linder stated that the land being used for farming by Project EATS is a combination of Department of Parks and Recreation and privately-owned land. He does not know the details of why they are seeking to close the garden operated by Ms. Duchene. He thinks that more green spaces need to be set aside, not closed.

Ms. Carolyn Smith asked which schools are they working with in Brownsville?

Ms. Mesgna stated that they are currently working with Teachers' Prep, Mott Hall, and Frederick Douglas Academy (FDA) VI. They are working on expanding into a few more.

She asked if Ms. Smith worked at a school?

Ms. Smith stated that she does and Ms. Mesgna stated that they can speak to each other after the meeting to see how they can involve Ms. Smith's school.

Mr. Norman Frazier stated that he is a resident of Marcus Garvey Apartments and he commends the work that is being done in the garden.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the presenters for the information provided and next recognized Mr. Michael Rieser also of GrowNYC.

Mr. Rieser stated that GrowNYC works throughout New York City and their goal is to improve the urban environment. Project EATS is an exciting program. So too is their Environmental Ambassadors at NYCHA program. Through their Environmental Ambassadors program, they will train volunteers to educate neighbors about recycling at their developments. After

completing two, 2-hour workshops, Environmental Ambassadors conduct 12 hours of local outreach to encourage participation in the NYCHA Recycles! Program. Volunteer benefits include field trips, gear, gift bags and a certificate of service signed by the DNSY commissioner and a NYCHA executive.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following from her report:

- Rent Freeze Programs - The New York City Department of Finance has announced that 2017 application forms for the Rent Freeze Program for seniors and people with disabilities (SCRIE and DRIE) are now available for downloads as fillable PDFs. Please visit <http://nyc.gov/rentfreeze> to download a copy.

If you need help or have questions, please contact “311,” or visit [nyc.gov/contactscrie](http://nyc.gov/contactscrie) or [nyc.gov/contactdrie](http://nyc.gov/contactdrie). You may also contact the Community Board Office for assistance.

- FY 2018 Capital Funding - The Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams is now accepting applications for discretionary capital funding for Fiscal Year 2018. All requests for capital funding must be submitted via the Brooklyn Borough President’s Online Capital funding application which you can access at <http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/capital-budget>.

The deadline to submit the Borough President’s online capital funding application is Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

If you have questions about the process, call (718) 802-3890 or email: [bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

- Affordable Housing - In an effort to improve access to affordable housing opportunities, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the Department of Consumer Affairs have prepared a guide to help people prepare and apply on Housing Connect called “Ready, Set, Apply!”

The guide is available in English and Spanish. You can access both at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/renters/ready-set-apply.page> and <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcaldownloads/pdf/consumers/hpddca-2016-esp.pdf>.

- Hope 2017 Volunteers - The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is seeking volunteers to help gather an accurate count of unsheltered New Yorkers.

Please visit [www.nyc.gov/hope](http://www.nyc.gov/hope) or CityShare to register. You can contact the HOPE team with any questions at [hope@dhs.nyc.gov](mailto:hope@dhs.nyc.gov).

Snow or Ice On Sidewalks - While snow is falling, complaints are not accepted at “311” for snowy or icy sidewalks. After the snow stops falling, if you are a property owner, you must clear snow and ice on your sidewalk to create a path for pedestrians. You must also remove snow and ice from sidewalks next to bus stops and hydrants. You may receive a summons for failing to clear the sidewalks within these timeframes.

- Community Land Trust - The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has announced the issuance of a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) to identify qualified groups to form a Community Land Trust (CLT). A CLT is a not-for-profit organization that maintains control and oversight of its affordable housing resources through ownership of land. For more information and to obtain a copy of the RFEI, please visit HPD’s Request for Proposals/Qualifications/Offers webpage.

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

For information and to register for the webinar or consultation, visit [www.partnershipsforparks.org](http://www.partnershipsforparks.org) or email the Grants Team at [Grants@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:Grants@cityparksfoundation.org)

- Free Tax Services - Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, located at 1368 Fulton Street, will offer FREE tax preparation services from Tuesday, January 24th to Tuesday, April 18th.

For additional information, contact Customer Service at (718) 636-6994 or [services@restorationplaza.org](mailto:services@restorationplaza.org).

- Resume and Career One-On-One Help - Are you struggling in your job search or looking to improve your current employment situation? FREE assistance is available at the Brownsville and Stone Avenue libraries.
- Direct Support Professional Training - The Borough of Manhattan Community College, Division of Adult and Continuing Education, offers NO COST training (if you qualify) for Direct Support Professional in the Human Services/Mental Health field providing care and assistance to children, adults and seniors with special needs.

To register for an Open House, go to [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/ce](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/ce) or call (212) 346-8444.

- New York Drives - offers a free six-week career training program that combines driving lessons with professional development workshops to help you qualify for Brooklyn Workforce Innovations' (BWI) training programs: Brooklyn Woods (skilled woodworking), Brooklyn Networks (telecommunications cable installation), and Made in NY (TV/film production assistant training). If you would like to learn more, please visit the website: [bwiny.org/new-york-drives/overview](http://bwiny.org/new-york-drives/overview).

Also contained within her report is information on a number of employment and apprenticeship opportunities as well as several complaints received by the Board's office which were forwarded to various agencies for resolution.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 10, 2017 with the developers of Ebenezer Plaza who provided the Committee with a revised plan which reduces the number of studios and increases the number of one- and two-bedroom units as requested by the Committee because we feel that the need is greatest for family units given the fact that our community has a large homeless population with children.

As a result of the revision to Ebenezer Plaza, the Committee is requesting that the Community Board rescind its conditional support and give full support to the current revised plan which will increase the number of affordable family units in our community.

At our November 22, 2016 Community Board meeting, we heard a presentation from Matthew Okibeyi of the African American Planning Commission, Inc. and David Beer of Breaking Ground who are proposing to construct 126 units of affordable housing and retail space on a City-owned lot at Livonia Avenue and Grafton Street (Block 3566, Lot 6).

Because a quorum was not present at our Board meeting on November 22, 2016, we were not able to vote on the proposal.

At this time, the Committee recommends that the Community Board vote in support of the proposal to construct 126 units of housing on what is now vacant land and a blight in our community.

At tonight's public hearing, you heard a proposal from Atlantic East Affiliates to rezone properties on the southeast and southwest corners of Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway (Block 1435, p/o 40,42,43; Block 1436, Lot 6 and p/o Lot 11). A zoning map amendment and a zoning text amendment will facilitate the development of a 10 story mixed residential and community facility building with 67 affordable housing units.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support this proposal.

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

Chairperson Morgan recognized Borough President Eric Adams.



Borough President Adams stated that he rarely attends community board meetings. He appointments members to the boards and trust them to do the job they have been appointed to do. He prefers instead to use his evenings to visit seniors and homebound constituents. It is important to him to reach out to those who have made it possible for him to serve.

Many in the audience are aware of his recent struggles with diabetes. His AC1 level was measured at 17 (a normal level is 5.0) and was told that he should be in a coma. He went to visit the Ohio-based doctor who treated President Bill Clinton. The doctor told him that if he changed his diet his status as a diabetic would change in three months. Three months-to-the-day later his AC1 was reduce to a level of 5.7.

Our food choices are killing us. His bad cholesterol levels were “through the roof”, His PSA level was up in the fours; it is now 1.1. He recently lost his father to prostate cancer. The number one killer of Black women is heart disease is reversible without the need of surgery. Each of these diseases are treatable with a proper diet.

He wants to bring health back to our borough. We lead in obesity, cancer, heart disease, breast cancer, and prostate cancer rates. He is cognizant of the fact that there are some people who will never embrace a change to their diet. However, for those who want to avoid having to go through dialysis, losing a limb, their eyesight, or tingling sensations in their fingers and toes, a serious look at the food they eat should be considered. After three months of going on a mostly plant-based diet, he is no longer suffering the symptoms of diabetes.

What many call soul food, he calls slave food. Slaves were only allowed to eat that their masters did not want. He invites the audience to start the process of beginning to eat healthily.

His mother has been insulin dependent for 13 years. She is now on his diet plan with a goal of losing that dependency. He has gotten his entire family focusing on how they are eating. He encourages everyone to help their parents strive towards a better diet. They do not need to be enslaved by medications. The only true beneficiaries of dependencies on medications are the pharmaceutical companies. Our elders are sitting down around their holiday tables making comparisons of the drugs that they are taking for different ailments. He is a living testament that we do not have to live this way. In three months he went from an AC1 of 17 to 5.7, this speaks volumes on how food affect our health.

He is feeling the healthiest he has felt in his life. He is no longer looking 5-hour energy drinks to keep him alert. His body is not being torn down by processed sugar.

He implores the audience to use 2017 as the year where their internal selfies replace the external selfies. Look at the numbers, what does your inner body look like? When he told his son that he is diabetic, his son said to him: dad, you only put the best fuel in your car. Why don't you the same for your body? We need to stop being academically smart and nutritionally ignorant.

If your doctor is telling you that you cannot reverse these diseases, find another doctor. Many doctors have been trained to treat everything with drugs. Those days are over; we have to eat our way to health.

As Borough President, he wants to show everyone that they can lead healthier lives. It is not impossible.

He presented certificate to the members of the Board, thanking them for their service to the community. He reminded them that it is okay to disagree from time-to-time. In fact, if they did not have honest debate on issues once in a while, there would be no need for the boards. It is also important that once consensus is reached, the Board moves forward united and not divided.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Borough President Adams for his words of encouragement. She next recognized Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Mr. Stringer stated that he wants to inform the Board on some of the challenges facing the city in 2017. Tonight, 60,000 New Yorkers will sleep in shelters; 24,000 of them are children. He just completed a report where they found that the city is doubling up families in commercial hotel and pay as much \$600 per night. One can rent a room at the Waldorf for less money. The city is spending \$400,000 a day to place families with infants in commercial hotels. If we want healthy

children, we should not be placing them in places where there are no services, no doctors, and no hope.

When he became Comptroller, he looked at the numbers and saw that we lost 400,000 affordable housing units in the last 12 years. People who built up communities are being force out of their apartments by speculators.

The reason he is troubled by today's housing plan is that what is being built is not affordable to people in the communities where they are being built. In East New York where the AMI is 36%, if you build units to 42% of AMI 80 % of the community will not be able to afford the units. What we end up doing is giving Manhattan developers the opportunity to come to these communities and build 30-story buildings that end up gentrifying neighborhoods where there are no regulations. He appreciates the city saying that they will provide lawyers to assist people in keeping their apartments. However, having come from a housing advocacy background, he knows that lawyers cannot help if there are no regulations to uphold. Unless you are being unduly forced out of a rent stabilized apartment, there is not much a lawyer can do.

We have to do better for our communities. In one audit his office has recently completed, they identified over 1,150 vacant parcels of land. This city-owned land that has been vacant for 30 to 50 years. Some of this land should be given to nonprofits and community-based organization with subsidies which would allow them to build truly affordable housing for the community. When Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia built public housing in the 1930s it was an entrance fee into the middle class. When Mitchell Lama was built in the 1950s and 60s it was done in a big way to meet the needs of the working class. We need these type of programs again in the city. We have the land but if we do not use it, we could be losing the last opportunity we have to bring truly affordable housing to the city.

If 30% of the people living in shelters are working, why are they in shelter? Yes, some have some serious issues and we need to get them assistance. However, the fact that there are so many working people living in shelters should outrage in us. Especially when developers are building 30-story buildings adjacent to NYCHA developments that are not affordable to those residents. We are not thinking about how to build communities; we are only thinking about how to build buildings.

His office will continue to do the audits and provide the data to the community boards so that the boards can be armed with the information when \$800 an hour lawyers to tell them about a development they want to build which will be unaffordable to the community. The boards can ask for the land so that truly affordable housing can built. He grew up in Washington Heights at a time when there were no speculators or banks. The community had to do it on their own. It was an integrated community where everyone had a chance. If we continue to build segregated communities, one for well-to-do people and one for very poor people, the city and our children cannot thrive. The city's skyline is changing and he is not opposed to this. However, we have to have a housing plan that allows people to stay in their neighborhoods.

As Comptroller, he has to think about the city's economy. The economy has to work for everybody. Wealth creation is not just about creating minimum wage jobs. It is about keeping people in their communities and raising an economy in that community. The best way to grow the New York City economy is delivering high-tech opportunities for our children so they can compete in the market place.

They are working on these issues in the Comptroller's office and he hope the Board will allow him to return from time-to-time to give updates and join the fight to keep our neighborhoods intact for everyone. We do not want to create a city where people do not think they can invest in neighborhoods.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support the proposal presented by the African American Planning Commission, Inc. and David Beer of Breaking Ground at the December 20, 2016 Board meeting to construct 126 units of affordable housing and retail space on a City-owned lot at Livonia Avenue and Grafton Street (Block 3566, Lot 6) with 25-in favor, 1-against, and 1 abstention (total membership of 47).

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support the proposals made by the Atlantic East Affiliates to rezone properties on the southeast and southwest corners of Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway (Block 1435, p/o 40,42,43; Block 1436, Lot 6 and p/o Lot 11). A zoning map amendment and a zoning text amendment will facilitate the development of a 10 story

mixed residential and community facility building with 67 affordable housing units with 26-in favor, 0-against, and 1abstention.

Chairperson Genese Morgan welcomed everyone to the first Community Board meeting of 2017 and thank them for being here tonight and for participating in this and other meetings.

She reminded members to look out for information and meeting notices for some very important projects that are taking place in the community:

1. Brookdale Hospital
2. Betsy Head Park Renovation
3. HPD Brownsville Planning Process
4. Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center
5. Brooklyn Queens Demand Management Project

Additionally, please take advantage of community programs and resources offered by city agencies and local non-profits. Remember if we don't use it, we will lose it.

Yesterday evening, members of the Board met with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Brownsville Planning Process team to discuss concerns about the Brownsville Planning Process and to ensure that the process wraps up with clear paths to opportunity for local residents.

Lastly, applications for appointment/re-appointment to the Community Board are available online at [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org) and the due by February 15, 2017.

A motion was made by David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the Report of the Chairperson.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 and met with Yulitza Franklin of the New York State Banking Department and Lisa Steglich of Amalgamated Bank.

This discussion is a continuation of the Committee's efforts to understand the ways in which the banking experience in the community can be improved and explore other options for banking and capital funding for personal and business needs of local residents. Although the discussion with the New York State Banking Department will be ongoing, Ms. Franklin shared with the Committee that the NYS Banking Department only regulates banks chartered in New York State and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Examinations are completed approximately every four (4) years. But the local branches are required to maintain a public CRA file which can be requested for review by the public at any time.

Also, the Banking Development District (BDD) program which allows deposits to banks in underserved communities to support lending and financial education in low-income communities is in need of more communities to participate. The nearest bank to our community that participated in the Banking Development District program is City National Bank in East New York; however, this branch is no longer participating in the program.

Presently, credit unions are not allowed to participate in the BDD program; however, there is legislation pending in New York State which could allow this designation to credit unions.

The Committee will follow-up with Ms. Franklin to receive information on the requirements to start a micro loan fund, the upcoming CRA exam schedule, and complete information on the pending legislation regarding credit unions.

The New York City Department of Small Business Services issued a press release on January 5, 2014 announcing mentorship and workshops to help M/WBEs grow and compete for government contracts.

The deadline to apply is January 27, 2017. For additional information and to apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/corporateallianceprogram](http://www.nyc.gov/corporateallianceprogram).

Several dates and courses are available during February and March 2017. For additional information and to register for these courses, please email [mwbe@bsbs.nyc.gov](mailto:mwbe@bsbs.nyc.gov) or visit [www.nyc.gov/sbs](http://www.nyc.gov/sbs).

Members of the community with interests in economic development are invited to attend the next Committee meeting which will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. The Committee will be meeting with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce to discuss small business and job services available through the organization.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 to review the outcome of the meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services regarding the concern of the large amount of homeless shelters including hotels in our community and the inherent problems associated with them.

At this meeting, after a yearlong dialogue with DHS personnel about their programs and our values and quality of life, is very important as we seek equality/equity in appropriation of programs and services in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community.

Here are some of the updates.

- The constant problem of access control, crisis management, security and safety of the residents at Renaissance Shelter was resolved.
- Strengthening the responsibilities and disciplines of the Shelter Peace Officers in order to reduce the use of our local Police Department resources was reviewed.
- NYPD is now in charge of security at city's homeless shelter with Steven Banks as the city's homeless czar. "A small management team of three cops deployed last spring to temporarily oversee security operations in the shelters and retrain DHS peace officers was successful that the team would be made permanent and expanded to 22. The NYPD management Team will now oversee 123 DHS security supervisors who manage the peace officers, continue to boost peace officer training and analyze incident data to decide how best to deploy security staffing. Training focuses on access control, crisis management, better understanding of mental health and child endangerment issues, proper searching strategies, and how best to use Tasers and other nonlethal weapons provided to DHS officers".

It is important to note that these outcomes were possible because of the relentless combined effort of Health and Human Services Committees of Community Boards #3, #5, #8, and #16, and Community Board #16's Public Safety Committee.

The Committee also discussed the Emergency Meeting at Brookdale Hospital about the release of the Northwell Feasibility Study, what it means for healthcare and Brookdale going forward. Understanding of the "system" by the community remains unclear. The logistics, dynamics and implementation of the resolutions provided by the Study are still unclear. The Committee recommends that all residents attend the next two scheduled meetings at Kingsbrook Hospital and Interfaith Medical Center to voice their vision. You may email your suggestions to [bkvoiceyourvision@gmail.com](mailto:bkvoiceyourvision@gmail.com).

The Committee is seeking 25 volunteers to be trained as Mental Health First Aide in Brownville in March 2017. Please call the office at (718) 385-0323 to register.

The Committee also met with Mr. Marc Damasky, Senior Vice President for Treatment and Recovery at the Institute for Community Living which sponsors several beneficial programs in our community.

Mr. Damasky was invited to give a detail presentation about the services they provide at 484 Rockaway Avenue and 2384 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. However, he is not present this evening and will be invited to present at a later date.

The Health and Human Services Committee's goal is protecting the health of our residents and providing essential human services by improving the health, safety and well-being of all residents.

Please sign up for the NYS Health Care (the Affordable Health Care Act) now if you have not. The deadline is January 31, 2017.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Joy Simmons, representing the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron.

Ms. Simmons stated that Councilmember Barron is supportive of saving the Green Valley Farm, located at New Lots Avenue and Powell Street, as a community garden. There are numerous housing units being developed in the area including several hundred units in Van Sinderen Plaza, located in Community District #5 and Livonia Commons will add hundreds more. In Community District #16 Ebenezer Plaza will have about 500 units bringing approximately 1,500 new residents to the community. CAMBA is proposing a 7-story building across from the street from Nobel Drew Ali Plaza. The density arising from the new residents makes it imperative that lot being used for gardening be preserved. As it provides access to organic food, a place for children to come and learn about how food is grown, and provides needed green open space for the community.

Councilmember Barron is seeking the support of the Board in keeping the lot as a garden space for the community. She also wants the Board to know that she continues to fight for truly affordable housing in our communities.

In the absence of Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, District Manager Greene-Walker reported that as reported, 2016 was a great year for us in public safety with record lows in all areas.

On January 31, 2017, the Committee will host the District's Public Safety Town Hall meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street where you will be able to voice your concerns and the get answers you deserve.

For the month of February, in conjunction with our community partners, the Public Safety Committee will be working on creating effective ways to address and reduce the acts of domestic violence.

Last month, there was a vote that couldn't take place on a request by PROP and The Brooklyn Defenders to adopt a "Safety Beyond Policing Resolution". The Committee recommends that the Board not support this measure as it does not reflect the position of our community.

The next Public Safety meeting will be on February 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. where the Committee will review the results of the Town Hall meeting.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to accept the reports of the Public Safety Committee and its recommendation to not support the request to adopt the "Safety Beyond Policing Resolution" as presented by PROP and The Brooklyn Defenders with 22-in favor, 1-against, and 2 abstentions.

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affair Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

The Committee met with Tenisha Mitchell, Health Insurance Benefits Manager, who explain to the Committee that Medicare is a health insurance program for people 65 or older. For persons under 65 with certain disabilities are also eligible. Medicare covers services (like lab tests, surgeries, and doctor visits) and supplies considered medically necessary to treat a disease or condition.

In general, Part A helps pay the costs of a stay in a hospital or skilled nursing facility, home health care, hospice care, and medicines administered to inpatients.

Part B helps pay bills for physicians and outpatient services such as rehab therapy, lab tests and medical equipment. It also covers doctors' services in the hospital and most medicines administered in a doctor's office.

Part D helps pay the cost of prescription drugs that you use at home, plus insulin supplies and some vaccines. To get this coverage, you must enroll in a private Part D drug plan run by private insurers.

As always, if you have limited income and resources you may apply for Medicaid to help pay your medical cost. For more information, please call (877) 872-1213.

The next meeting of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a teleconference on January 12, 2017 and began to review Intro 1132-A which was originally introduced by Public Advocate Letitia James and passed by the City Council. If the Mayor signs this bill, the law will require the Mayor's Office to establish a publicly accessible online list of commitments made in connection with the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure). An example of this is the East New York Rezoning Plan where there is a commitment to renovate the Callahan Kelly Park on Fulton Street. In addition, a new school and park will be built in East New York.

Upon request by the Legislative Committee, Mr. David Alexander of the Youth Services Planning Committee invited Melanie Mendonca, President of the CEC (Community Education Council) for District 23, to update us on whether the parents in the public schools are required to purchase school supplies. She noted that public school parents are given a list at the beginning of the school year whereby they have to purchase many school supplies. She noted however that although parents are not reprimanded if they cannot purchase these items, in some cases, the teachers who get a small stipend contribute and in some cases even spend their personal funds. She also noted that the children in the homeless shelters get some funds to purchase supplies and this can cause a burden for some parents. As previously mentioned, we were already looking at a proposal to present to our legislators similar to the one passed in California and will be continuing this discussion at our next meeting. I want to thank Mr. David Alexander for his quick response to our request and to encourage other committees to network with us on issues that overlap.

As a follow up to our concerns regarding the AMI used to determine affordability in our district where we reached out to Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Mr. Reginald Belon of Congresswoman Clarke's Office is following up on a response from both offices. We also ask our community residents to bring this issue to their congressional representative when they get a chance.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on February 9, 2017 in the Community Board office.

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

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Services Planning Committee met to review the outcome to the questions asked of the Department of Homeless Services concerning children attending schools in District #23, and their interaction with the Department of Education. Although the questions were answered based on DHS policy and procedure, the feedback was insufficient regarding the services they provide to our community schools in Ocean Hill- Brownsville. The Committee decided to re-send the questions for more clarification, and most importantly, how does DHS's policy work in our schools, apart from just a policy initiative. The Superintendent and the Community Education Council will also receive the information for their review response.

Also at the meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> was Mr. William Boone, and his associate along with 10 students from the Medgar Evers Beacon program to discuss the upcoming youth workshops. The young group of participants (mostly in Middle School, for whom the workshop is focused upon) reviewed the topics and made their own decision which topics were appropriate to keep and which topics they would like to add or remove from the workshop. They were very instrumental in the decision-making process, and I would like to commend them on their participation. The revisions of the workshops will be sent to the attendees for review and finalization. The date for the workshops is still being considered. The Department of Education will sponsor the event at one of their schools in District #23

A telephone conference was conducted by the Legislative Committee where he, and Ms. Mendonca, President of the Community Education Council were asked to give details to adopt a proposal which was made by California's Department of Education, Bill Number AB 1575, Lara -Pupil Fees – 8/23/ 2012 - regarding Pupils fees for supplies, which they won. According to teachers in our district schools, pupils are required to pay for supplies other than the normal notebooks, pens and pencils. Ms. Mendonca will provide documentation to support a course of action to take regarding the above matter. Ms. Mendonca will also reach-out to the schools in all five (5) boroughs for their input in this process. After all the documents have been obtained, we will decide if we can submit a proposal addressing the same issues that the California DOE revealed, campaign, and ultimately won this entitlement. The Title I Program provides specific supplies exclusively for children living in transitional housing, but does not provide this service to low income students. All of our schools in District #23 are Title I schools due to the income of the families residing in Ocean Hill Brownsville. If community efforts are required, he will bring it to your attention as the proposal is being structured for your input.

He listed some youth programs and other services available in the community.

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

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee held a conference call on Friday, January 20, 2017 to discuss upcoming opportunities to work with various vendors for the year. Some the topics we will try to include are finance, health issues and small business opportunities for women.

Currently, the Committee is working with Nadia Busseuil, one of the founders of "Edge and Effort" to conduct a workshop on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the MacDonough Café on financial awareness. Edge and Effort's mission is to assist individuals to understand the significant role money plays in our lives and will give practical advice about how to manage your money through savings and self-restraint. They will help us learn how to save money and lower our bills through key steps called Stop, Drop, Save and Discipline. We are hoping that community residents attend this event once we've created the flyer.

In addition to discussing finances, the Committee will be looking to collaborate on issues during March for Women's History month and in May during Small Business Week.

The next Women's Committee meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. via conference call. If there are any topics that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact me or the District Manager at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) or (718) 385- 0323.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr., Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 18, 2017 at 6:00 pm and reviewed the district's scorecard ratings for our streets and sidewalks. The most recent report is for November 2016. At that time, we had an overall rating of 87.7% versus 76.9% for the month of October 2016 for our sidewalks and 89.9% versus 91.5% for our streets. The area bounded by Pitkin Avenue, Van Sinderen Avenue, Livonia Avenue and East 98th Street had the lowest rating. It should be noted that much of this area is where NYCHA developments are located. We need to interface with the management of these developments and their tenant association presidents to urge them to have a concerted effort towards keeping their developments and surrounding property cleaner. We also discussed the need to better educate the NYCHA residents on proper recycling and disposal of their household refuse.

In addition, the Committee discussed the ongoing city problem of the disposal of cooking oil and grease. These items are to be placed in a non-recyclable container and disposed with the regular garbage. The problem that's being experienced citywide is the clogging of household plumbing and city sewer lines and catch basins. For the home mechanics, motor oil and transmission fluid are to be taken to any New York State registered garage or Transit Bus facility to be disposed of properly and at no cost to the resident. Do not pour these oils and paint solvents down the corner catch basins.

The rain gardens (formerly called bioswales) often accumulate litter. It is the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to keep the rain gardens clean. The DEP has stated that they don't have enough staff to clean them regularly. However, if you see any of these

rain gardens clogged with litter, please call District Manager Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

Our community will embark upon organic recycling this spring. Information about this process will be provided to our residents in March.

Within the boundaries of our District, the Committee find that several Department of Education schools are not properly placing their garbage on the sidewalk for collection. They are placing clear plastic garbage bags in front of bus stops, school bus staging areas, and other areas of public egress. This practice must stop in order that we have a cleaner and safer community.

At future meetings, the Committee will look at energy conservation measures in our community. The next scheduled Committee meeting will be on February 15, 2017, 6:00 pm in the Community Board Office. They are currently soliciting Committee members and or encouraging Board members as well as community residents to join them.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron.

Mr. Faulkner reported that the Vandalia Senior Center has been without heat since 2015. This should not be tolerated. Representatives of Assemblyman Barron Office and Community Board #5 which covers the location will be meeting with those responsible to ensure that heat is brought into the center.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Richard Nelson, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III.

Mr. Nelson announced that on Thursday, February 23, 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis De Sales School for the Deaf, located at 260 Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, Hamilton will hold a "Raise the Age" Task Force Meeting and invites the community to become involved with criminal justice reform to raise the age at which the criminal justice system may treat youth as adults from 15 years old to 18 years old. If you would to become a member of their Civil Rights Committee, please call (718) 284-4700.

Senator Hamilton will host an African Story Telling event at the Brownsville Heritage House on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, stated that National Grid will hold a Customer Assistance Expo at Borough This Month for anyone who has questions about their gas service or bill.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Borough President Adams will host a Property Value Workshop at Borough Hall. Property owners can meet with representatives from the Department of Finance to discuss the valuation of their property.

Free tax preparation will be available at Borough Hall this tax season. For dates and additional information, please read the flyer on tonight's distribution table. Also available on the table are fliers on the various events taking place at Borough Hall throughout the month.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Medgar Evers Beacon Program at P.S./I.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street as well as the Cornerstone Program at Van Dyke. He has been receiving a number of calls concerning their summer program which scheduled to start on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The youth who are enrolled in their afterschool programs will have first preference the slots for the summer program. They currently have a waiting list for the remaining slots. You may call (347) 770-8673 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to be added to the waiting list.

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