

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – February 28, 2017**

Attendance

David Alexander  
Carolyn Benjamin-Smith  
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  
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 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.

IN THE MATTER OF the City's Preliminary Budget Statement and Community District Register for Fiscal Year 2018.

The Board's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and responses from the agencies were read aloud by Chairperson Morgan and the following comments were made:

Regarding Capital Items 11 through 17, 19, and 20 which request accessibility for the various subway stations within the District, Ms. Pierre stated that these items have been placed on a budget requests for many years without being granted. Will they ever be accepted?

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Junius Street station has been approved for an elevator. It is important that these items continue to be placed on the Board's budget requests. If the Board stops talking about them, the agencies will not look upon them as being priorities.

Regarding Expense Budget Item 1, someone asked why the request is being denied?

Chairperson Morgan stated that a letter requesting a full explanation will be sent to the agency. If the questioner has a statement he would like to be included in the Board's response to the agency, he may inform the Board.

The questioner stated that he feels that it is important that community entrepreneurs be given opportunities to have businesses in the community, as opposed to having outsiders come in.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the statement will be included in the response to the agency.

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 Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that they are experiencing a 7.4 % decline in the seven major crime categories this year. The decline is across the board, except for felony assaults. They are up 7.8% in felony assaults and 12 % in domestic violence. They are struggling across the city to get these types of crimes under control and to reduce them. They are working with the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence to outreach to the affected groups and find methods to reverse the trend towards violence. They are also going into schools and having conversations with the youth as a means of hopefully giving them tools that they can use to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.

There were no shootings in the Precinct during the past 28 days as compared to 3 shootings during the same timeframe in the prior year. Year-to-date they are down 1 shooting and 2 shooting victims. They look to continue this trend, as they go forward.

At last month's meeting, he reported a spike in burglaries, specifically in the northern section of the Precinct. Using precision policing tactics, they apprehended a few of the individuals who were constantly committing burglaries which now has burglaries in Precinct on a downward trend this year.

Robberies are on a slight uptick, in the past 28 days. However, they remain down 13.6% for the year.

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

- *A Summer Internship Program* at the Brooklyn Navy Yard will connect college-attending or college-bound young adults with Navy Yard-based businesses for 8-weeks summer internships.

To apply, go online to [brooklynnavyyard.org/employment/summer-internship](http://brooklynnavyyard.org/employment/summer-internship). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The deadline for all applicants is April 15, 2017.

- *NYC Ladders for Leaders* provides high school and college students the opportunity to participate in summer internships with some of the most dynamic corporations and businesses in New York City.

Apply online at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd). The deadline to apply to Ladders for Leaders is Friday, March 3, 2017.

- Summer Youth Employment Program - youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who are looking for valuable work experience and earning money this summer, should apply for SYEP by visiting [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd). The deadline is March 17, 2017. [Postponed to Friday, March 31, 2017.]
- The Brownsville Multi-Service (BMS) Family Health Center has an opening for a Credentialing Associate for their Main Office, located at 592 Rockaway Avenue.

For more information contact Coreen London Mitchell, Human Resources & Credentialing Director at [clondon@bmsfhc.org](mailto:clondon@bmsfhc.org) or Lewis Bond, Human Resources Generalist at [lbond@bmsfhc.org](mailto:lbond@bmsfhc.org) \*\*\*No telephone calls please\*\*\*

- Brooklyn Woods is actively recruiting for their FREE woodworker job training program. If you are an unemployed or underemployed New Yorker who has some experience or skill working with your hands and have a desire for a career in a wood-related trade, attend an orientation to get more information and to apply.

For more information about this or BWI's other job training and placement programs, visit [www.bwiny.org](http://www.bwiny.org). or call Jason Sperry, Program Associate, at (718) 389-3636 Extension 10.

- The Brownsville Community Justice Center, in partnership with IDNYC and Brownsville Partnership, will host the IDNYC pop up location at the Greg Jackson Center, located at 519 Rockaway Avenue, from March 7<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>. Residents can make an appointment at the website: [www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/card/make-an-appointment.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/card/make-an-appointment.page).
- You may work on your resume, get education and career advice, learn interview skills, practice LinkedIn, and more with help from trained Brooklyn Public Library staff. Help is available at the following locations:

Brownsville Library  
61 Glenmore Avenue at Watkins Street  
Mondays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
(718) 498-9721

Saratoga Library  
8 Thomas S. Boyland Street at Macon Street  
Mondays, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(718) 573-5224

Stone Avenue Library  
581 Mother Gaston Boulevard at Dumont Avenue  
Fridays 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
(718) 485-8347

Laptops are available for up to 2 hour sessions in these libraries, allowing you extra time to work on your resume, search job boards, update your LinkedIn profile, and more.

Please call the branch or visit [www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar) are subject to occasional changes.

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 February 14, 2017 with members of a coalition to establish landmark status for the former Our Lady of Loreto Church, located on Sackman Street at Pacific Street. Once landmark status is established the group plans to develop a cultural center for the community.

She asked Ms. Miriam Robinson and members of the group to come forward and give a brief presentation on the project.

Mr. Les Ford stated that he is a member of the Brownsville Arts Coalition and the Artistic Director of NIA Theatrical Production Company.

Ms. Robinson stated that she is the Director of Operations for the Brownsville Heritage House. Working collaboratively with other cultural groups in the community, they have formed the Brownsville Cultural Coalition.

The Coalition is here this evening seeking the support of the Board in bringing landmark status to the Our Lady of Loretto Church building, located at 126 Sackman Street (corner of Pacific Street). The Brownsville community is lacking in cultural spaces. It is their contention that the 109-year old building with its distinct architecture should be preserved and converted for use as a cultural center. A requirement of landmarking the location is community support, thus their appearance this evening.

Its proximity to multiple lines of public transportation makes it not only a place where local artist can perform for their own community; but it can also serve as an economic engine for the community. They envision plays and dance performances taking place in the venue which can accommodate over 1500 seats.

Mr. Ford stated that he lives in the community as well as produce art in the community. New York City has deemed Brownsville as a culturally underserved community. Indeed, some have labeled the community as a cultural desert. This is not true. There are many arts and cultural organizations in the community. However, they do not have space to do their work.

The Our Lady of Loretto church site has the potential to be a gem for Brownsville. It can be a jewel where the community can and see high culture and art. Walking through this community one will see many basketball courts and other athletic fields. This is a good thing because we know the power that sports have on developing our youths. Let us also understand the power of the arts to do the same thing. Where in Brownsville can someone who wants to become a visual artist or a creative writer go to strengthen their craft? Nowhere.

They hope that the Board will offer its support in landmarking the church and making it into a place that community can be proud to have.

Ms. Kollock-Wallace thanked the representatives of the Coalition for their presentation and stated that the Committee also met with representatives from the Brooklyn Public Library regarding a proposal to update the signage at the Stone Avenue Library.

She requested the Library representative to come forward and make a brief presentation.

Ms Krissa Cavouras from the Marketing Division of the Brooklyn Public Library stated that the interior of the Stone Avenue Library, located at the corner of Mother Gaston Boulevard and Dumont Avenue, underwent renovation a few years ago which she hopes the community has had the opportunity to enjoy. However, it lacks streetfront signage. They are seeking to install new digital signage that will not only display the name of the library, but also give information on the library's programing and hours of operation.

They have not had the funding to do projects such as this in a long time. In the last couple of years, they were able to get some funding allocated to institute a pilot project. This will be part of phase two of the project.

Ms. Laura Bacardi, a consultant on the project, displayed images of what the signage will look like once installed. They have been working on the design of the signage for over a year. There is a theme which will be the standard for all sixty branches of the library giving some consistency in styling and materials.

Having heard the two presentations, the Committee recommends that the Community Board vote in support of them.

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

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney Jr., seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to send a letter in support of the application to the Landmarks Commission to grant landmark status to the former Our Lady of Loreto Church building.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to send a letter in support of the proposal by the Brooklyn Public Library to update the signage at the Stone Avenue Library.

Mr. Albion Liburd, Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

The Committee reviewed one (1) new application for a liquor license submitted by Leeland Baird and Margaret Baird who are the owners of the establishment "Mona Karaoke Lounge" and have requested a letter of support from the Board concerning their application for an "On Premise Retail License".

The business is a bar/lounge located at 210 Tapscott Street (between Blake and Dumont Avenues), Brooklyn, New York 11212. The business is in the final phase of construction and expects construction to be complete on or before March 30, 2017. The purpose of the license is to allow beverages containing alcohol to be consumed on premises during operating hours not earlier than 4:30 p.m. and not later than 4:00 a.m.

- a) The business is not located within 200 feet of a place of worship; is located near a designated commercial strip (E.98th Street & Howard Avenue) and will operate Monday - Sunday.
- b) The business is not located within 500 feet of a school house

- c) The business has submitted to a tour of business

The Committee recommends that the Board support the application.

The Committee also met with Varun Sanyal, Director of Economic Development Policy for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and Evie Sylvain, Community Partnerships Manager for Santander Bank.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (335 Adams Street, Suite 2700; Brooklyn, New York 11201) is the largest Chamber of Commerce in New York State and conducts economic and labor market research in addition to its many programs and services that support entrepreneurship and employment.

Mr. Varun shared information about the Chamber's GoDigital program which helps businesses in low-income neighborhoods to utilize digital marketing platforms. The Chamber on the Go program is a mobile van service which visits commercial corridors to assist business owners unable to leave their storefront operations to receive services. The Chamber also operates the NYC Small Business Solutions Center which offers a suite of services to help businesses launch, grow and remain resilient. The Chamber's Good Help Program assists businesses recruit and screen employees to fill open positions and help individuals with barriers to employment secure jobs. The Chamber has several business committees which members voluntarily participate on and hosts various events throughout the year such as job fairs, business networking events and Brooklyn Health & Fitness Week. For more information, please visit [www.ibrooklyn.com](http://www.ibrooklyn.com) or call (718) 875-1000.

Santander Bank has opened a new branch in Brownsville at 190 East 98th Street. Ms. Sylvain shared information about Santander's charitable giving programs which awards grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for programs supporting affordable housing, financial education, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization. Applications can be submitted for spring, summer and fall award cycles. The next cycle is summer and applications are due June 2.

The bank also offers FDIC Money Smart – Financial Education Workshops through partnerships with non-profit organization. Topics include Banking Basics, Budgeting and Money Management, Credit and Credit Cards, Credit Reports and Loans, Identity Theft, Fraud and Scam and Home Buying/Ownership.

For more information about these programs, please contact Evie Sylvain at (646) 209-0241 or Toby Baba at (347) 322-0624.

The purpose of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the district, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same. The Committee invites members of the community with interests in Economic Development to attend our next meeting which will be Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and the Committee will discuss job opportunities and needs within the community and has requested a representative from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs to attend the meeting.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov).

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

In a roll call vote, members of the Board voted to support the application by the owners of the Mona Karaoke Bar for an "On Premise Retail License" with 16-in favor, 5-against, and 0 abstentions (total membership of 47).

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 8, 2017 with Ms. Elizabeth DeWan, a representative of the Department of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, NYC Health and Hospitals King County, Brooklyn. She stated that the Team Leader, Dr. Valery Roudnitsky, the Trauma Medical Director and the Team's investment not only in excellent care for patients, but also in preventive measures that will help Brooklyn stay safe and healthy. The Team's responsibility is to inform community outreach and public education initiatives at health fairs, schools, senior citizen homes, block parties, youth events, public meetings, and other events in here in our community.

The following are the topics and programs the Team addresses:

- Fall risk assessment and prevention strategies for older adults and their caregivers
- Violence prevention and intervention in collaboration with the King’s Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) and Guns Down, Life Up.
- Positive Youth development and restorative justice in collaboration with KAVI
- Recognizing and managing post traumatic symptoms after an injury or accident happens to you or someone you’re close to.
- Pedestrian and bike safety for children and adults including free helmet giveaways
- Healthy alcohol use
- Training course on bleeding control intervention for bystanders in a disaster situation (part of the White House initiative “STOP THE BLEED”. For more information, visit [www.bleedingcontrol.org](http://www.bleedingcontrol.org))
- Tai Chi for Arthritis program. To sign up, please email or call [dewane@nychhc.org](mailto:dewane@nychhc.org) (718) 245-5232

The Committee invited the Team to our March Community Board meeting for a presentation. They also encouraged and requested the Team’s participation at the next health fair event and the upcoming Youth Committee Conference.

The Committee is seeking 25 Community Board members/volunteers to be trained as Mental Health First Aides in Brownville on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call the Board’s office at (718) 385-0323 to register or complete and submit the applications available at the table, today.

For more information on other workshops, trainings and activities, please email [BrooklynActionCenter@health.nyc.gov](mailto:BrooklynActionCenter@health.nyc.gov).

The Health and Human Services Committee’s goal is to protect the health of our residents and provide essential human services by improving the health, safety and well-being of all residents.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 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.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on Wednesday February 1, 2017, the Committee met to review the town hall meeting held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and domestic violence which is increasing in the District.

The Committee agreed to cover the topic in depth at their upcoming meetings that will encompass education and available resources. The first topic will be, “What is Domestic Violence”

She reminded the audience to obey traffic signals, cross at the intersections, and allow pedestrians to cross before turning.

Recently, there has been an increase in reported robberies in the area. She urged everyone to stay alert, travel in pairs, secure your cash, and separate your cash (not all in the same place). Watch how and when you use your cell phone (preoccupied or snatchable).

In addition, this is the season for identity theft. Please use care in handling your and your children’s vital information. There are people making malicious use of other people’s birthday, social security #, address, and next of kin information. Such actions can harm your future.

She congratulated 73rd Precinct’s Police Officer Angel Rodriguez for receiving The Explorer Post Advisor of the Year Award. Our children are “In good hands” with P.O. Rodriguez and the Explorer Program. If you have any interested teens, he has room for them.

The Public Safety Committee meeting is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on March 1, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., here in Room 103.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr. and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women’s Committee, reported that the Committee held a teleconference on Friday, February 17, 2017 to discuss upcoming events. Committee members and participants attended a financial workshop on February 23, 2017 at the MacDonough Café, located at 83 Saratoga Avenue. The hosts provided tools to jump start one’s savings program by handing out the “Straight Talk Money 30 Day Challenge” worksheet. The checklist consisted of twenty items to begin a plan of action and it also listed websites to help you accomplish goals. The workshop was not only informative, but enlightened the attendees as they shared some very important resources for success and informed us of the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America ("NACA") , a non-profit, community advocacy, and homeownership organization. NACA’s primary goal is to build strong, healthy neighborhoods in urban and rural areas nationwide through affordable homeownership. NACA has made the dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of working people by counseling them honestly and effectively, enabling even those with poor credit to purchase a home or modify their predatory loan with far better terms than those provided even in the prime market. You may visit their website at NACA.com, for more information.

On Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Rivera met with Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee and Capt. Anderson of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct to discuss domestic violence outreach. They discussed the challenges of reaching out to the victims and brainstormed ways of getting them involved in the community. They will be working on a collaborative program and will supply the officers that conduct home visits with flyers inviting them to join the Women’s Committee meetings.

The next Women’s Committee meeting will be on Friday, March 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board office.

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Women’s Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 9, 2017 via teleconference to discuss the upcoming Youth Workshop for the students in the middle schools in School District #23. The YSPC concluded that the workshop will be held on April 22, 2017 at PS/IS 323. The sponsors of the event are the Community Education Council of District #23 and the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program. The workshop topics were reviewed and approved by the youth that attended the December 2016 YSPC and confirmed in a meeting in February at the Oasis Beacon Program.

The next meeting will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 444 Thomas Boyland. I would like to thank the committee and all those who have devoted their time to acquiring and providing services to the youth in our community and their families.

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.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Leroy Hutchinson, representing the Office of Assemblyman Nick Perry.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that there has been an uptick in scams being perpetrated against seniors in Assemblyman Perry’s district. He requests that the Public Safety Committee discuss the topic in an upcoming meeting and make people aware of ways that they may be targeted.

He reminded the audience that auto shops will now be required to check window tinting on all vehicles as part of the annual inspection process.

The law in New York State already requires your vehicle’s windows to let at least 70 percent of the light through, but until now, that rule was only enforced by police who checked the tinting with special meters. Now, every vehicle in New York State will be checked to ensure compliance with the law.

It is important that all drivers follow the rules for window tinting. Having windows that are too dark can create dangerous situations for drivers who may not be able to fully see their

surroundings, and those dark windows can also create dangerous situations for law enforcement officers.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated that at last month's Board meeting, he reported that the Vandalia Senior Center had been without heat since 2015. He is pleased to announce that heat is now on. They will meet again to ensure that the heat remains on through the heating season.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that earlier this month, Congresswoman Clarke hosted a Town Hall meeting wherein she discussed, immigration, the Affordable Care Act, and climate change. The event was very well attended with over 2,000 persons present. She will host another Town Hall in the East Flatbush neighborhood during the latter part of March. Please contact her office, for further information.

They continue to receive complaints about the Brownsville Postal Station and urge the community to continue to send their complaints to the Congresswoman's office. Complaint forms can be found on tonight's distribution table.

This Congress will be working on the federal budget during the month of March. Congresswoman Clarke has stated that she will oppose any cuts to the Affordable Care Act.

Congresswoman Clarke will participate in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional App Challenge and urges high school students in her district to enter the contest.

Ms. Carolyn Benjamin-Smith asked if there has been any improvement in postal service since they have been taking the complaints.

Mr. Belon stated that there have been one or two resolved issues, but it remains a day-to-day issue.

Chairperson Morgan stated that in her communication with the Postal Services Client Coordinator for the region, she was informed that there are times when people may receive mail that does not belong in their mailbox. It may be due to improper barcoding by the Postal Service's barcode printers. They advise that this be reported to the Postal Service so that the machine can be recalibrated.

Ms. Benjamin-Smith stated that is a poor excuse for putting mail in wrong boxes. The Carrier should be able to see that the address does not match with what is on the mailbox.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., stated that their office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue. They offer a variety services for constituents, from housing to immigration. They may also refer individuals to different resources as need be. They can be reached by calling (718) 642-8664.

Councilmember Espinal is pleased to announce that he has allocated funds that will furnish 120 desktop computers for students of the Brooklyn Landmark Elementary School to use at home during their enrollment at the school. He encourages school principals to create a wish to assist him in helping them.

Ms. Tahirah Moore, representing the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, stated that she is relinquishing her time to her colleague, Gagandeep Kaur, who is a member of the ThriveNYC initiative.

Ms. Kaur stated that ThriveNYC is an initiative of First Lady Chirlane McCray to combat mental health illnesses. Many of us know someone who suffers from stress, anxiety, or depression. The goal of the initiative is to train all New Yorkers in recognizing the signs of mental illness; starting with providing 150,000 individuals with Mental Health First Aid Training.

Training is currently done at the Department of Health's facility in Long Island City.

Mr. Richard Nelson, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, stated that Senator Hamilton will host their Third Annual Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the St. Francis School for the Deaf, located at 260 Eastern Parkway. Please call the Senator's office at (718) 284-4700, if you wish to attend.



Mr. Carl Luciano, representing the Office of Councilmember Darlene, announced that Councilmember Mealy will host her next Monthly Advisory Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

She also encourages her constituents to take advantage of the free legal services available at her office. Information on the services may be found in her newsletter, copies of which are on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Robert Henderson.

Mr. Henderson stated that he an Outreach Coordinator with RBSCC (the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council. They operate a HomeBase program which is funded by the Department of Homeless Services. HomeBase serves to keep individuals and families who are at risk of eviction from losing their apartments. They offer short-term financial assistance, legal assistance, job training, and financial literacy assistance. Locally, they operate out of 145 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street.

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