

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – April 25, 2017**

Attendance

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

Yolanda Matthews  
John McCadney, Jr.  
Virginia McClam  
Andrea McCullough  
Ronella Medica (A)  
Shemene Minter (A)  
Genese Morgan  
Anita Pierce (A)  
Marie Pierre (E)  
Linda Rivera  
Wendy Rutherford (A)  
Evelyn Sanchez (E)  
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  
Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III  
Jason Salmon for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery  
Marie Monk-Boone for Hon. Roxanne Persaud  
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron  
H. Leroy Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry  
Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.  
William Williams for Hon. Darlene Mealy  
Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric L. Adams  
Shelton Jones for Hon. Eric Gonzalez

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 6:50 p.m. and an invocation was given by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by Brownsville Linden Plaza LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17d:

1. changing from an M1-1 District to an R7A District property bounded by New Lots Avenue, Powell Street, a line 150 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Sackman Street, a line 100 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Christopher Avenue, Hegeman Avenue, and Mother Gaston Boulevard;
2. changing from an M1-1 District to an R7D District property bounded by a line 100 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Sackman Street, a line 150 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Powell Street, Hegeman Avenue, and Christopher Avenue;
3. establishing within a proposed R7A District a C2-4 District bounded by New Lots Avenue, Powell Street, a line 150 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Sackman Street, a line 100 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Christopher Avenue, Hegeman Avenue, and Mother Gaston Boulevard; and
4. establishing within a proposed R7D District a C2-4 District bounded by a line 100 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Sackman Street, a line 150 feet northerly of Hegeman Avenue, Powell Street, Hegeman Avenue, and Christopher Avenue;

Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated March 20, 2017, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-419.

Chairperson Morgan called forward representatives of Brownsville Linden Plaza, LLC. For a presentation.

Mr. Peter Procida stated that Brownsville Linden Plaza, LLC is a joint venture with the Church of God of East Flatbush which seeks to build 531 affordable housing units in Brownsville. The first phase of their development will contain approximately 315 units on property bounded by New Lots Avenue, Powell Street, Hegeman Avenue, and Sackman Street. They are hoping to begin construction in December of 2017. The second phase of construction is scheduled to begin about a year later, on land bounded by New Lots Avenue, Hegeman Avenue, Sackman Avenue, and Christopher Street.

It is their intention to have these two blocks that they control rezoned with a R7A/R7D split and at the request of City Planning, one additional block (bounded by Hegeman Avenue, Christopher Avenue, New Lots Avenue, and Mother Gaston Boulevard). The area will be mapped as a MIH (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing) district, as is required by City Planning. The first phase includes 315 units; all of which will be affordable to households earning under 60% of Area Median Income (AMI). There will be several tiers, including 40%, 30%, and 50% of AMI and the second phase will have 216 units which are in negotiations with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) for affordability by persons earning between 30% and 80% of AMI.

There will be several tiers, including 40%, 30%, and 50% of the Area Median Income. The second phase, which is about 216 units, will be affordable to households under 60% of AMI with a couple of tiers. It is all up for negotiation with HPD and it has not been decided. The rest will be available to households earning up to 80% of AMI.

Mr. Procida displayed an aerial map of the proposed rezoning area bounded by Linden Boulevard, Powell Street, Sackman Street, Christopher Avenue, Mother Gaston Boulevard, Hegeman Avenue, and New Lots Avenue. The R7A will be closer to New Lots Avenue which enables a shorter building. R7D on Hegeman Avenue will be a taller building. It is 150 feet from Hegeman Avenue on the larger block to the R7A boundary and 100 feet on the smaller block. The third block, which they do not control, will be R7A.

Currently, the site has several vacant buildings which were formerly occupied by a number of auto-related businesses. Demolition of the buildings is slated to begin in June of 2017 with completion set for the end of the summer.

At the request of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee of Community Board #16, they have reduced the number of studio apartments in the first phase by 73 units and now have 47 studio units, 318 1-bedroom units, 79 2-bedroom units, and 85 3-bedroom units. Over the entire development, there will be 2 units set aside for the onsite superintendents, making a total of 531 units.

One of the development's partners is the Church of God of East Flatbush which is moving their sanctuary. Some of the services that they provide will occupy approximately 40,000 square feet of ground floor and cellar space in Phase one. Phase two will contain approximately 20,000 square feet of retail space.

Bishop Hugh Nelson, Pastor of the Church of God of East Flatbush, stated that the church is currently located at 409 East 95<sup>th</sup> Street. A few years ago, they partnered with the developers and will be moving to the new site. They presently have a very community engaged congregation. Apart from their spiritual activities, they have a non-profit which offers GED classes, a food pantry, a soup kitchen, computer literacy classes, and other services geared towards the welfare of the community. They will function from both sites. When the church moves to their new site, they will be able to expand programs on East 95<sup>th</sup> Street.

He is aware of a concern about parking in the area of the proposed development. They have entered into an agreement with Brookdale Hospital wherein members of the congregation will park their vehicles in the hospital's garage and the church will operate two shuttle vans to bring them to and from the new sanctuary.

Someone asked what will the salary ranges be for a person to qualify for an apartment?

Mr. Procida stated that the income levels are set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and the

Housing Development Corporation (HDC). For the first phase of this project, Brownsville Linden Plaza, LLC. is targeting low-income residents (those earning approximately 40% of AMI, currently \$38,160 for a family of four, \$34,360 for a family of three, \$30,560 for a family of two, and \$26,720 for an individual).

The questioner asked how many of the units will be available for low-income earners?

Mr. Procida stated that 100% of the units will be affordable.

Ms. Ericka Keller-Wala of Brisa Builders stated that 20% of the units will be set aside for formerly homeless individuals and families under a HPD initiative called “Our Space” which funds the new construction of rental units affordable to formerly homeless households whose incomes are at or below 30% of AMI. The remaining units in the first phase will be for households earning no more than 60% of AMI. For the second phase of the project, 15% of the units will be set aside under the Our Space program, 50 % will be for households earning up to 60% of AMI, and the remainder for those earning up to 80% of AMI. It is their intent to have the units be truly affordable to members of the community. Residents are required to have income and applications for rental of the units which will go through the city’s Housing Connect housing lottery program. There will be a 50% preference for current residents of Community District #16, along with other preferences for visually- and mobility-challenged individuals.

Someone stated that he has pastored a church on Sackman Street between Lott and New Lots Avenues for the past three years. The garages in the vicinity already cause a parking issue by parking on sidewalks. The addition of the housing development will make the situation worse.

Bishop Nelson stated that this is New York and he does not expect that the parking situation will improve anytime soon. As a congregation, they are doing things in anticipation of the parking issue. For example, they are keeping their current location and will use it to store the church’s buses, being mindful that the new location is at a busier location. As pastors, they should be creative in managing parking.

Mr. David Alexander asked how will the traffic be managed in the area? There is a bus route nearby.

Ms. Keller-Wala stated that as part of the rezoning process an environmental impact study will be performed. The study will analyze traffic patterns along with other components which affect the quality of life in the community. Based on the outcome of the study, certain traffic managing devices such as stop signs, traffic signals, or directional flow may be installed.

The review process has a subjective component which involves the local community through the city level and technical component which looks at things such as the location of schools and impact on city services. Certainly, the influx of 500 families will affect the schools in the community. The study will inform the city of changes that need to be made.

Someone stated that formerly homeless households often earn below the income levels mentioned earlier. How will they qualify for the units set aside for them?

Ms. Keller-Wala stated that the Our Space initiative provides further subsidies allowing for incomes of less than 20% of AMI. Subsidies are also available to assist the households with obtaining furniture and the like.

Someone asked if there will be onsite parking available?

Ms. Keller-Wala stated that the location is recognized as being in a transit zone where onsite parking is not required. Onsite parking will not be provided for the first phase of the project. They are looking at ways to perhaps provide parking for phase two.

Ms. Deborah Mack requested clarification on what is being requested of the Board this evening.

Chairperson Morgan stated that Brownsville Linden Plaza, LLC. is seeking to have the area rezoned from a manufacturing district to a residential district. This is necessary in order that they may construct residential units on the site.

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.

Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, was introduced and stated that during the first thirteen weeks of the year the Precinct did well in fighting crimes. However, during the past three weeks they have seen a spike in grand larcenies and robberies. Regarding the grand larcenies, they have noticed property being left unattended, such as a pocketbook left hanging on the back of a chair while its owner goes to the bathroom and stolen in her absence.

They are also experiencing a slight uptick in robberies. Unlike the uptick they experienced early in the year, they do not have a suspect or a “MO” to work with which makes this streak a bit more difficult to resolve. However, his officers are making every effort to apprehend the responsible individuals.

Overall, crimes in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct are even for the year as compared to the previous year. Shootings are down by 5.3% as compared to last year. They continue striving to improve the quality of life in the community and to make it as safe as possible.

Mr. Danny King asked what happened along Pitkin Avenue a few weeks ago?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that there was a shooting that occurred in broad daylight involving two groups from outside the community. What began as a disagreement being aired out on Facebook became a confrontation on the Avenue that led to an innocent bystander being shot. His detectives gathered videos from several stores in the area, spoke to eyewitnesses, and along with leg work were able to identify the perpetrator. Using social media, they built a case against the individual and apprehended the perpetrator who is now in custody on \$100,000 bail.

Someone asked if the Police Department has any programs to engage youth.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that there are several. The Explorer Program is a program in which youth learn about police procedures, receive mentoring, and get assistance with their school work. There is also the PAL (Police Athletic League), and they collaborate with several community-based organizations to help mentor youth.

Deputy Inspector Mascol announced and invited everyone to participate in their Cops and Clergy Hour of Prayer to take place outside the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct on May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Captain Amir Yakatali, Executive Officer of PSA #2, in behalf of Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector Jesse Lance, reported that within the Service Area, crime in the seven major categories, is down 25%. There were no shootings for the past month and year-to-date there have been 2. There were two shots fired calls which they were not able to solve but rest assured that they respond and take the calls seriously. He informs his officers that each shot fired is one that missed hitting someone. He encourages the audience to report shots that they might hear along with any narcotics activity.

Chairperson Morgan next announced that in preparation of the upcoming election of Executive Board members, the following Board members have been asked to serve on the Nominating Committee: Albion Liburd, Carolyn Benjamin-Smith, Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Eula Key, and Danny King.

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back to the Board’s May 23, 2017 meeting a slate of names to fill the positions of Executive Officers for the period of June 2017 to June 2018.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to accept the Chairperson’s report.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Jose Serrano-McLain.

Mr. Serrano-McLain stated that he works for the Mayor’s Office of Technology and Innovation. He is here this evening to discuss the Innovation Labs, the first of which will be in Brownsville.

He asked the audience if they are familiar with the Big Belly litter bins that are located along Pitkin Avenue. (Several people in the audience indicated that they were familiar with the bins.)

Mr. Serrano-McLain stated the bins are solar powered and connected to the internet. By being connected to the internet, the bins can send out notification to someone or an agency (In this case, the Pitkin BID), which will inform them of a need for servicing the bin. This can make pickup routes for collection more efficient by not having to schedule trucks when the bins do not need to be emptied. This also creates less congestion of our streets, as well as less pollution.

Objects such as these trash bins are part of a new breed of urban infrastructure that make up smart city technology. Devices are linked together on the internet as part of the urban infrastructure. We are in the early stages of having these sorts of devices in our cities across the nation. New York City wants to ensure that these sorts of investments are in line with community needs and make the idea of smart cities even smarter.

This summer, the Brownsville Neighborhood Innovation Lab will have some of these smart city technologies available on Belmont Avenue for the public to interact with them. There will be an information kiosk that will allow individuals access to information on things such the public hearing item we heard about earlier. Osborn Plaza will also be a place where the community can provide feedback on how these technologies can be improved upon and inform the community and the city on quality of life issues that can be improved.

On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., they will host the first Brownsville Technology Summit at 3 Black Cats Café on Belmont Avenue. They will be engaging in conversations about what these technologies may be able to do, what they cannot do, and what risk factors may exist. He encourages everyone to come out and participate.

Someone asked how this correlates to the Mayor's plan to bring information technology to the schools?

Mr. Serrano-McLain stated that he is often asked how these technologies will help the youth? One objective of the program is that once youth engage with the devices, it will inspire them to want to become the next generation of technologist seeking to solve problems in their communities. One of their lead partners, the Brownsville Community Justice Center, is seeking funding to help youth have a pipeline into the technology careers. They are creating a narrative on what technology has to do with outcomes in the community and how the youth can affect that narrative.

Chairperson Morgan invited the questioner to reach out to Mr. Serrano-McLain to see if they may be able to share information and strategies.

Someone stated that they recently moved into the community from Bedford Stuyvesant and have noticed a lack of litter baskets along Livonia Avenue. What informs the Department of Sanitation as to where they should be placed. She has also seen several rats running around and reported the issue to 3-1-1. The Department of Health did respond, but how can we improve the community so that this condition does not occur in the first place?

Mr. Serrano-McLain stated that he does not have the answer for her. However, 3-1-1 calls provide a great deal of data to the city and gives agencies information as to how and where resources are used. Brownsville is very low in calls to 3-1-1 and he would like to find out why.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Board wants to be respectful and answer as many questions as possible. However, to fulfill the agenda in a timely fashion, she encourages participation in committee meetings where specific issues can be discussed at length. The Board's office can be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and you may call District Manager Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to waive the reading the minutes of the Board's March 28, 2017 meeting.

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

- *National Grid* – In last month's District Manager's Report, information was given regarding the installation of gas lines by National Grid. This information has been revised and can be found on page one of this month's report.

- Brooklyn Woods - Brooklyn Woods is actively recruiting for their FREE Woodworker Job Training Program. The final chance to apply for their next 7-week cycle is Wednesday, April 26, 2017.
- New York Striders – NYRR (New York Road Runners) Striders meet at Tilden Houses Community Center, located at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard at Livonia Avenue on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and offers free, coach-led walking sessions to increase the presence of fitness walkers and older adults in NYRR five-borough events year-round.
- Fresh Air Fund - Girls ages 8 to 12 and boys ages 8 to 15 are eligible to participate in the in the Fresh Air Fund's summer camping program. Information on the program can be found in her report.

Also contained within her report is grant information as well as several complaints received by the Board's office which were forwarded to various agencies for resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, second by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Morgan stated that a quorum was not present at last month's meeting, therefore the Board was unable to accept the Minutes of the February meeting and District Manager's Report. She requested a motion to accept them.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the Minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report for the month of March 2017.

Ms. Adrainer K. Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 11, 2017 with the developers of Ebenezer Plaza, a project that you heard earlier this evening during the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) public hearing. The rezoning of Blocks 3861 and 3862 will enable the development of affordable housing, retail commercial space, and a church.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support the rezoning of Blocks 3861 and 3862.

The Committee also met with representatives from the Brownsville Cultural Coalition and once again heard their request for the Community Board's support of their application to landmark the former Our Lady of Loreto Church building at 124 Sackman Street.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board vote to table this matter.

In a roll call vote, of 21-in favor, 0-against, 3-abstentions, the Board voted to support the application submitted by Brownsville Linden Plaza LLC pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17d, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated March 20, 2017, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-419.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, and carried to adopt the March 28, 2017 reports of the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Transportation and Franchises Committee, the Economic Development Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the Legislative Committee, Public Safety Committee, the Women's Committee, the Youth Services Planning Committee, and the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee is requesting that the Board table the matter of a letter of support for the landmarking the former Our Lady of Loreto church building, located at 124 Sackman Street to do due diligence on the matter. We believe that this is the best interest of the community. The Board's work is for the broad community and not just in the interest a particular group.

In a roll call vote of 25-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions, the Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee to table the matter of

supporting the landmarking of the former Our Lady of Loreto Church building at 124 Sackman Street.

Chairperson Morgan stated that matter will be revisited upon receiving additional information.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 6, 2017 with Eric and Lamant L. Mitchell, who are seeking to co-name Rockaway Avenue at Livonia Avenue in memory of their late brother Clinton Mitchell. Mr. Eric Mitchel stated that they grew up in Brownsville initially on Livonia Avenue and then in Marcus Garvey Village. His brother become a boxer and won the Golden Glove and became a professional boxer. His career ended when he was diagnosed with diabetes, to which he eventually succumbed.

While living in Brownsville, he encouraged several youths to positively change their lives. He introduced them to boxing and influenced a few to return to school. He worked with the youth mostly at Howard Houses and occasionally at the Brownsville Recreation.

The Committee also met with Janie Washington-Bennett, who is seeking to have Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Junius Street renamed in memory of her brother the late Dwayne (Pearl) Washington.

Mr. Washington became a professional basketball player in the NBA and worked with the late Gregory (Jocko) Jackson in putting on tournament and fund raising efforts for the Brownsville Recreation Center. He was always present for the fish-fry during Old-timers Weekend. He formed the P.E.A.R.L. 31 Inc. Foundation to have a means to give back to the community.

At the Committee's March 13, 2017 meeting, the Committee met with DOT representatives who presented suggested new bike lane routes. They also presented on behalf of the proprietors of 3 Black Cats Café and Cakery, located at 3 Belmont Avenue whose owners have filed an application for Street Seats along the curb in front of 3 Belmont Avenue. They are present tonight to give a brief presentation on the two matters.

Representatives from the Department of Transportation and 3 Black Cats were called forward to give a brief presentation on their request.

Ms. Glickman of the Department of Transportation introduced two of the owners of 3 Black Cats Café and Cakery, Ms. Iona Jimenez and Diana Jimenez.

Ms. Glickman stated the Department of Transportation (DOT) installed their first Street Seat about two years ago. Street Seat is a citywide program where local partners apply to transform underused streets into vibrant, social public spaces during the warm weather months. Street Seats are installed in the roadbed along the curb line to create an attractive setting for eating, reading, working, meeting a friend or taking a rest.

Last year, the Pitkin Avenue BID, in partnership with Sal's Pizzeria, applied for a Street Seat installation in front of Sal's Pizzeria. This year, DOT is seeking to do the same type of installation, but now on Belmont Avenue. They project that the Street Seat will revitalize the Avenue, support small businesses, attract additional businesses, and provide a public space for people to sit, relax, and enjoy a meal.

Ms. Iona Jimenez stated that 3 Black Cats is located on Belmont Avenue near Rockaway Avenue. When walking along Rockaway Avenue, people do not always see the store. They are requesting the Street Seat to increase foot traffic along Belmont Avenue as well as provide a space for pedestrians to sit and relax.

Ms. Glickman stated the program is application based and part of the application process requires approval of the Community Board. If approved, the Street Seat will temporarily eliminate one parking space. It is a seasonal program with the installation taking place in March and removal in December.

There are three design types. The Café selected the standard design which is the same as what was placed in front of Sal's Pizzeria last year. During the months of operation, the Café will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the installation and surrounding area. Furnishings must be removed or broken down and locked up at night and then put out again each morning.

DOT will install safety amenities (wheel stop bars and bollards), and no standing anytime signs. Although the application is being made by the 3 Black Cats Café, the space is a public space. As such, smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Financial transactions are also not permitted. You do not have to be a Café customer to use the space.

Benefits to the Café include: more active street life, space of one parked car utilized by 100 people in a day, greenery and seating, and open views. On some installations, they have reported an increase of 10 to 15% in sales.

Members of the Washington Family were asked to come forward and give a brief presentation regarding their request to co-name a segment of Belmont Avenue in memory of the late Dwayne Washington.

Ms. Janie Washington-Bennett stated that her brother was loved by his family. It is their desire to keep his legacy going. He wanted to give back to the community and in 2006 he formed the P.E.A.R.L. 31 Foundation to achieve this goal. After his death, the family decided to pick up the mantle and keep his legacy going.

Although he was a great player, his NBA career did not last long enough for him to accomplish the things he wanted to do. As a family, they will push forward in his behalf. She worked as an educator in this community at I.S. 271. Going forward, this summer they will have a program that will incorporate both athletic and educational components. They will have a reading program, a tournament that will provide awards, and she has arranged for tour of the Barclay's Center for the youth. As a former educator, she knows that middle school boys have an especially difficult time. She wants to encourage reading.

Mr. Chris Shaw, Dwayne's nephew, stated that by co-naming Belmont Avenue they would be able to have the Brooklyn Nets, formerly the New Jersey Nets, one of the teams his uncle played on, participate in activities along the Avenue.

Mr. Steven Washington, brother of Dwayne Washington, stated that seeing his brother's name on the street signs may inspire youth and let them know that they can be anything they want to be.

Mrs. Janie Washington, Dwayne's mother, greeted the audience.

Ms. Washington-Bennett thanked the audience for allowing them to say a few words about her brother. She stated that P.E.A.R.L is an acronym for providing education and revitalizing lives.

The Committee recommends that the Board support the installation of a Street Seat in front of 3 Belmont Ave. and the request for the co-naming of Belmont Avenue between Christopher Street and Powell Street in memory of Dwayne (Pearl) Washington.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman asked if they have planned the programs for the summer?

Ms. Washington-Bennett stated that under the aegis of the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corp., their fiscal sponsor, they will be able to run the program from this building.

Mr. Charles Ladson encourage the family to keep the reading program going.

Ms. Washington-Bennett stated that she believes that reading is very important and that it can allow the child to go wherever he or she may want to go.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the family for their presentation. She commended Mrs. Washington for coming out in the inclement weather to support the family's cause.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

In a roll call vote of 26-in favor, 1-against, and 0-abstentions the Board voted to support the application of three Black Cats Café and Cakery to install a Street Seat in front of 3 Belmont Avenue.

In a roll call vote of 27-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions the Board voted to support the request for the co-naming of Belmont Avenue between Christopher Street and Powell Street in memory of Dwayne (Pearl) Washington.



Mr. Albion Liburd, in behalf of Genese Morgan Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The Committee heard a presentation on the HireNYC program facilitated by Kenyada Mclean and Claudia Flores of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). HireNYC is a free program that connects the city's workforce development services to economic development projects. HireNYC collaborates with NYCEDC, real estate developers, businesses, and communities to assess business opportunities and job creation.

HireNYC mandates that contract holders with projects that create five (5) or more jobs participate in the program by registering contracts in the HireNYC Portal and recruiting for jobs through their respective Workforce 1 Center.

HPD (Department of Housing Preservation and Development) requires developers, general contractors, working on projects that receive more than \$2 million in City subsidy to share job openings in entry- and mid-level construction positions with HireNYC and to interview the qualified candidates that HireNYC refers for those openings; subcontractors with contracts of \$500,000 or more are also required to do the same.

The Committee will be working closely with staff of the HireNYC program and Workforce 1 program to track opportunities for residents in our community. For more information about HireNYC, please visit [www.nycedc.com/program/hirenyc](http://www.nycedc.com/program/hirenyc).

The Committee reviewed one "renewal" application for a beer and wine license in regards to Villa Castillo Restaurant. The establishment is a restaurant located at 1474 Pitkin Avenue.

The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit by the Committee.

The Committee recommends that the Board support this application.

The Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc., in partnership with Level Solar, is seeking residents ages 16-19 to participate in the Solar Pioneers Program which is funded by the United States Department of Energy and offers participating youth a \$250 weekly stipend over the course of 6 weeks.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply with a letter of qualifications or resume by April 30, 2017 by emailing: [solarpioneersnyc@gmail.com](mailto:solarpioneersnyc@gmail.com)

Additionally, as a follow-up to the Committee's January 19, 2017 meeting with Yulitza Franklin of the New York State Banking Department to discuss community banking needs and determine next steps to develop a Banking Development District, the Committee was introduced to Spring Bank via the Department of Financial Services. Members of the Committee conducted a meeting and site tour with Demetris Giannoulis, President and CEO, and Melanie Stern, Commercial Reinvestment Act Officer of Spring Bank at their Bronx Headquarters on April 5, 2017 and subsequently, hosted a Brownsville for a walking tour of Pitkin Avenue and Belmont Avenue on April 11, 2017. The Committee will continue to vet Spring Bank along with other financial institutions to arrive at a recommendation to the community for the addition of a new financial institution through the Banking Develop District program.

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. Members of the community with interests in economic development are invited to attend the Committee's next meeting which will be Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

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

In a roll call vote of 11- in favor, 7-against, and 7-abstentions, the Board voted to support the "renewal" application for a beer and wine license in regards to Villa Castillo Restaurant located at 1474 Pitkin Avenue.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 12, 2017 to discuss the updates on the One Brooklyn Hospital System, the Healthy Brooklyn Community Centered Study and the Brooklyn Health Enterprise Program Proposal, Brooklyn Mental Health Issues and the need for expansion of the Mental Health First Aid training, and Operation C.A.R.E (Child Abuse, Response and Engagement).

The Health and Human Services Committee's goal is advocating for and protecting the health of our residents and providing essential human services to improve the health, safety, well-being, and quality of life in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that recently a woman jumped onto the tracks of the Saratoga Avenue train station and was killed. He knows the family and was told that she had been in the hospital for mental health care, but signed herself out. He would like to see legislation that would not allow persons who are deemed by clinicians as mental unhealthy to sign themselves out of hospitals to prevent such loss of life.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that currently, an adult may sign a waiver and be released by the hospital. This is a problem which they are aware of and they will work on the issue.

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

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 19, 2017 at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The guest speaker was Maria Ortiz, Director of the Human Resources Administration's Eligibility Information Services who informed the Committee that because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Medicaid submission process has changed within the local district as of January 1, 2014. She informed the Committee of the eligibility criteria for Medicaid and ACA.

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee will be on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

John McCadney, Jr., Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on April 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with representatives from GrowNYC's Environmental Ambassadors Program and discussed recycling at the New York City Housing Authority facilities in the District. They provided tips and suggestions on increasing conformance to recycling regulations. They also discussed changes in the District's recycling guidelines. Information about the changes may be obtained at the Community Board's office.

The Committee seeks to conduct a survey regarding waste disposal at the public schools in the District. There are certain schools that are disposing their refuse in a manner that causes a public nuisance. The Committee is requesting that residents report any incidents of improper disposal of waste at the schools to the Board's office. A report will be created and presented to the principals and custodial staff of the offending schools.

The Committee is also seeking the assistance of the community in keeping the rain gardens/bioswales in the community clean. There are those in the community who are using the pits as a place to allow their pets to defecate. They ask that people refrain from doing this and using the pit as a place to dispose of litter.

The Committee is looking for individuals to join the Committee. Anyone interested in working with them may call the Board's office at (718) 385-0323. The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Community Board Office.

Someone asked if NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) recycles?

Mr. McCadney stated that they are beginning to recycle now. Previously, they were not. He is hopeful that they will adopt a strong policy for adhering to the same recycling guidelines observed by other New York City residents.

Someone stated that he and several of his neighbors received brown collection bins. No instructions were given and he is unsure of what to do.

Chairperson Morgan stated that dependent on the number of units in the residences, 1 to 3 bins were distributed to all homes of one- to two-units in the District. Information on usage of the bins was mailed to all residents and is available at the Board's office. Representatives from the Department of Sanitation are also available to speak to block associations regarding organics collection.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 and discussed the effects of domestic violence on children, offering non-judgmental support, being a supportive community, celebrating families event, and community messaging.

On April 27th at 6:00 p.m., the Committee will host their 2<sup>nd</sup> Domestic Violence presentation and Mr. Kevin Morris from OCDV (The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence) is present tonight to highlight Thursday's event.

The Public Safety Committee will next meet on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street in Room 103.

She called Mr. Morris to give a brief presentation.

Mr. Morris stated that he is a Community Liaison for the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. They provide services and information to combat intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and human sex trafficking. He does this by hosting workshops and going out into the community and letting people know what services are available to them. They also have a Healthy Relationship Training Academy wherein young people are trained to provide peer to peer information regarding teen dating violence and how to build healthy relationships.

They are seeking to connect victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and human sex traffic through the Family Justice Centers. Family Justice Centers are one-stop centers where victims of these crimes can go to get legal counselling to press charges if they so desire, get assistance with obtaining benefits, and other social services. Childcare is available. The services are confidential and free of charge regardless of the victim's income, immigration status, or education. Victims can seek assistance whether the crime took place twenty years ago, 30 years ago, or yesterday.

The centers are walk-in centers; meaning appointments are not necessary. He does add the caution, that if you have an open warrant, you should call in advance to avoid being arrested while seeking their assistance.

As a Community Liaison, it is his job to be out in the community providing services which means he is always available. If you or someone you know can avail of these services, please do not hesitate to reach out him at any time. He can be reached by calling (917) 280-6060.

In Brooklyn, the Family Justice Center is located at 350 Jay Street. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution table and he encourages everyone to pass the information along to anyone that might need it. You may be saving a life.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, 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 conference call on Friday, April 21, 2017 in concert with the Economic Development Committee to discuss the topic of the small business week event which will be a Minority and Women Owned Business (MWBE) Symposium to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to

2:00 p.m. at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. In preparation of the event, on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> both Committees were invited to tour the venue.

If you know of any small business owners that would like to get certified in the NYC area, please feel free to share the information you will receive tonight and make sure they RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2oWL4oE>.

If there are any topics that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Rivera at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) or the District Manager at (718) 385- 0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall, and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Williams, representing the Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Mr. Williams announced that Councilmember Mealy will sponsor a College Fair with SUNY, CUNY and private universities on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Concern for Independent Living, located at 151 Rochester Avenue. He encourages college bound students and their parents to attend.

Mr. H. Leroy Hutchinson, representing the Office of Assemblyman Nick Perry, stated that their office is located at 931 Utica Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 385-3336.

He stated that New York State recently passed legislation to raise the age that an individual may be charged as an adult to 18 years old. While it is a step in the right direction, much remains to be done. Assemblyman Perry is working on legislation which would retroactively change the status of individuals who were charged as adults for crimes committed prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This will go a long way towards enabling these individuals in their ability to get meaningful work.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated that deed theft is on the rise in our communities. Recently, three men were found to be operating 110 companies that have questionably acquired 189 properties.

He highly recommends that if you or someone you know owns property in the City of New York, have that property registered with the Department of Finance. Information on how to do this is available on tonight's distribution table.

This type of action is being done with assistance of realtors, lawyers, and certain judges. It is not difficult for them to find out that a home has a lien against it and get the marshall to seize the property in the owner's absence. Some people get their property placed on lien list because they are having financial problems and do not know how to get from under them. He urges those who find themselves in this position to enter into an agreement with the company they owe money to. In most cases, the company will agree to accept as little as \$10 per month to cover arrears provided you pay the current bills along with it. This will prevent your property from being placed on lien list.

Assemblyman Barron is working on legislation to make this underhanded method of gaining property unlawful.

Someone stated that she and several of her neighbors were approached by someone seeking to buy their homes by calling their cellphones. How are they gaining access to this private information?

Mr. Faulkner stated that it may be through a lender or other source they may have given the number to. Be careful with the information you provide to anyone.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Mr. Faulkner for his presentation on this topic which she knows he is passionate about. She suggests that he discuss the topic with a committee to have it presented to the community with the time it deserves.

Mr. Faulkner agreed to the meeting.

Mr. Jason Salmon, representing the Office of Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that Senator Montgomery’s version of the Raise the Age” legislation was not the version which was passed. The Governor’s version which did pass requires a 10-year wait to seal records. This is ten years which as was mentioned by Mr. Hutchinson that a youth offender will have great difficulty finding meaningful work.

On tonight’s distribution table are copies of Senator Montgomery’s Connect Guide – a brochure with a listing of criminal justice resources.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal Jr., stated that the office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue. The telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

Most people know that 3-1-1 serves as a place for residents to make inquiries and non-urgent community concern requests. However, at times the service fails to resolve the concerns. If you have an issue that is not being addressed properly through 3-1-1, you may call Mr. Soto at Councilmember Espinal’s office where they have access to the liaisons to the various city agencies and their commissioners, if need be, to help resolve the issues.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, stated Borough President Adams hosted several events during the month, including a workshop on the Faith-Based Development Initiative. The program connects houses of worship with resources to help them realize their development potential, and in turn work to build affordable housing and community resources on their properties. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (1927 Fulton Street) will be demolishing their building and rebuilding with housing on the site. Mr. Winchester Key will be the developer.

Operation C.A.R.E. (Child Abuse Response and Engagement), an outreach campaign to educate and empower residents across Brooklyn on identifying the signs of child abuse and neglect in their communities. Borough President Adams and Ama Dwimoh, Special Counsel to the Borough President, are asking anyone interested in receiving an Operation C.A.R.E. presentation - including civic organizations, houses of worship, schools, and senior centers - to call his office at (718) 802-4042.

Along with being National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Autism Awareness Month, April is National Financial Literacy Month. In an effort to bring forward financial literacy in the borough, Borough President Adams hosted several workshops aimed at reducing consumer debt. For additional information, you may call (718) 802-3700.

There will be a ULURP Hearing on the Ebenzer Plaza Project at Borough Hall on May 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The buildings will be 9-stories tall and house over 500 households. Some of the issues to be discussed are the blocking of sunlight to the community garden, should a speed hump be installed along Hegeman Avenue, the supermarket proposed for the ground floor, and improving the lighting at the “L” train station.

Lastly, there are several events on their calendar and he especially wants to call attention to their June 16<sup>th</sup> Men’s Health Symposium and Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Over forty health providers and vendors will be present and you will be able to participate in a men’s health forum, free health screenings, health workshops, and giveaways which include a pair of plane tickets to anywhere within the United States.

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