

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

### Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Andrea McCullough (A)
Margaret Brewer	Ronella Medica (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Melanie Mendonca
Adrainer Coleman	Shemene M. Minter
Brenda Duchene	Genese Morgan
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Anita Pierce
Norman Frazier	Marie Pierre
Danny Goodine (A)	Linda Rivera
Chyanne Hairston (A)	Johnnymae Robinson
Sarah Hall	Evelyn Sanchez
Balinda Harris	Celina Trowell (A)
Mawuli Hormeku	Ernestine Turner
Michael Howard	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph (A)	Deborah Williams
Eula Key	Patricia Williamson (A)
Danny King (A)	Pat Winston
Bettie Kollock Wallace (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Charles Ladson (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Wendy Lanier (A)	Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Carolyn Lee	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric L. Adams
Albion Liburd	Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron
Deborah Mack (A)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
Yolanda Matthews	Shelton Jones for Hon. Eric Gonzalez
John McCadney, Jr.	Rev. Eddie Karim for Hon. Latrice Walker

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and an invocation was given by Ms. Sarah Hall.

Chairperson Morgan stated that because a quorum was not achieved at the October Board meeting the Board will be voting on the acceptance of reports from both tonight's and October's meetings.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following items from the District Manager's report:

- 1) An announcement by Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez inviting junior and senior high school students living and attending classes in Brooklyn to apply for internships at his office.
- 2) The State University of New York Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center (SUNY-BEOC) is offering tuition free training to adult and young adult learners of New York.
- 3) The Department of Parks and Recreation's Shape Up NYC drop-in fitness program with locations across the five boroughs including several sites in Community District #16.
- 4) An invitation to participate in City of Science, a free program from the World Science Festival and Con Edison on Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Park Slope Amory YMCA (361 15<sup>th</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues in Brooklyn).
- 5) The Senior Citizens and Disabled Homeowner's Exemption Program.
- 6) The Brooklyn Public Library is seeking volunteers for several of their programs.
- 7) Information regarding various grants that are available to eligible organizations and individuals can also be found in the report.

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

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that overall crime in the Precinct has increased slightly year-to-date. They are down 31% in shootings; coming off what was already a record low year. They are down 32% in homicides, even considering that two of the homicides are from crimes which took place in earlier years with the victims succumbing to their injuries this year.

They seek the assistance of the community in curtailing a rash of burglaries taking place in Sector A of the Precinct which incorporates most of the Ocean Hill community and Sector D which covers the area south of Blake Avenue from East 98<sup>th</sup> Street to Rockaway Avenue, then south to Newport Street, continues east to Van Sinderen Avenue, then south to Ditmas Avenue to East 98<sup>th</sup> Street, and north to Blake Avenue. The burglaries are taking place mostly in the overnight hours. If you see something suspicious; i.e., someone moving tools around in shopping carts or packing tools into a vehicle in a manner or hour that seems strange, or refrigerators being removed from a building that is under construction, call 9-1-1 and report it. If it happens to be a burglary in progress they have an opportunity to catch the burglars and arrest them perhaps preventing another burglary in the future.

They are also experiencing a series of juvenile robberies. These types of crimes are always of great concern to him. Fourteen- and fifteen-year-olds who are the future of Brownsville preying upon their peers. This is unacceptable. We have to reach out to the parents and the youth. Such behavior is setting the youth up for a rough life ahead. To combat the transgressions, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has established an anti-bullying program. Additionally, they are going into the schools and speaking with the youth to let them know that behavior that they may think of as just having fun with their friends or goofing-off can seriously impact their future. They are partnered with P.S./I.S. 184 in the Adopt-a-School program and are participating in various programs with 125 students who attend the school. There is an upcoming “It’s not Okay” event, they go bowling with the students, and take in several events throughout the year to establish a good working relationship with the children. They are also reaching out to the other schools in the Precinct and hosting anti-bullying workshops and speaking on the realities of committing crime. At 13-, 14-, and 15-years old, they may not fully comprehend what doing crime can do to their lives going forward. The goal is to get the message to the youth before they must be apprehended for committing crimes.

They have reached out to eight to ten juveniles who were caught committing transgressions and spoken to the youth with consent of their parents to get this message across and prevent future occurrences. They try to link them with services that can help them such as domestic violence counseling, mental health counseling, education counseling, etcetera with the hope of reducing the rate of recidivism.

They went through the Halloween and Thanksgiving holidays wherein they distributed turkeys to community residents. The Domestic Violence Unit furnished full Thanksgiving meals to ten families who they felt had the greatest need. Halloween night was one of the safest Halloweens ever for the Precinct. In addition to being one of the safest Halloween, they setup a van outside the Precinct where, for four consecutive hours, they distributed candies that were donated by officers. He does not want the first experience that a child has with a police officer to be one where the police is arresting a family member or stopping them on the street in a negative way. He would like the children to have positive interactions with police officers.

Ms. Sydore Thompson stated that she called to report a vehicle blocking her driveway and it took three hours to get a response. Is there a way to improve the response time?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that 3-1-1 calls should be responded to within one hour. Should a 3-1-1 call not be responded to within an hour of the call, please call the Precinct directly.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca asked how is information about the workshops communicated to the community?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that they work directly with the schools.

A roll call of Board members was conducted with a quorum not being present.

Chairperson Morgan recognized speakers from Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center.

Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid, Director of Community Relations, stated that Brookdale is in a very good position in terms of their departments. They have a state-of-the-art Oncology Department. There is no need to travel over a bridge to Manhattan to receive excellent cancer care services. They have a Stroke Center which is state-of-the-art with Lutheran Hospital being the only other hospital in Brooklyn offering the program. Her business card can be found on tonight's distribution table and she can be contacted about issues concerning Brookdale, but she encourages the audience to reach out to the next speaker, Ms. Nicole Francois, Assistant Vice President of Patient Experience. Ms. Francois was a longtime employee of Brookdale who left for a time and has returned to head the newly-formed Patient Experience Department.

Ms. Francois stated that she left Brookdale in 2014, after having worked there for 13 years. She went on to work at Interfaith Hospital and then with New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation at Coney Island Hospital. She returned to Brookdale when she heard that they would be undergoing some transitions.

She is here to speak about some of the changes. One is the Patient Experience Department. While a new department within hospitals, it is really patient relations. As most of the audience has heard, Brookdale, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center are being integrated into one network – One Brooklyn Health. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is part of the Department of Health and Human Services which established a baseline standard for patient care around 2011. A survey is given to patients upon discharge for them to rate the hospital and the care given. In much the same way that people want to stay at 5-star hotels, everyone wants to experience a 5-star hospital.

Members of the audience who have been hospitalized at Brookdale may be aware that an institutional culture needs to take place at the hospital. In fairness, this may take several years to accomplish.

Within her department, when a patient has a bad experience or a good one, she has representatives who will visit the patient to listen to their concern. If a complaint cannot be resolved right then or at the least during their hospital stay, it turns into a grievance. The grievance process will cause them to investigate to determine if the allegations are true. Whether they are found to be true or not, the patient will be sent a letter letting them know if their grievance has been substantiated or not.

One good thing about the Patient Experience Department is that the representatives engage with patients frequently. She makes herself available to patients at a moment's notice.

She is not saying that Brookdale has made a huge turn and has become a shiny new penny. They are going through a transition. With the integration of the four hospitals into One Brooklyn, they are seeking to make the transitioning systemwide. If the experience is one way at Brookdale, it should be the same at Interfaith and at Kingsbrook. They are looking have the care that patients receive improve across the network.

There are good things happening at Brookdale. She related the story of two recent items in the news where critically injured individuals were brought to Brookdale for care with their outcomes being successful. Brookdale is an adult trauma hospital. If a pediatric trauma case arrives at the hospital, they will treat and try to stabilize the patient and then move them to an appropriate facility.

She says this to inform the community that the hospital is important to the community. As a trauma hospital, they receive funding from the government. The funding is contingent on their scores on CMS's hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies (HHAs) surveys. Brookdale has not scored well on these surveys. Since returning to Brookdale this past January, she has studied the scores and sees that they have a very low rate of return. People complete the survey when they have problems, but not when things go well. It is important that these surveys be returned. She considers it a small victory that they have moved from the 40s to 50s (the New York State average is in the 70s), but acknowledges that more needs to be done. She asks the audience that should they or anyone they know be hospitalized, to please complete the survey.

The MyBrookdale web application is another way for patients to communicate with their doctors, look up their charts, and more. They want people to make use of the system, as this is

the way the world functions today. Access to MyBrookdale is also available to the hospital's outpatients as well.

Someone asked if they would be capable of looking at their records from hospitals other than Brookdale on the application?

Ms. Francois stated that clinicians have access to a system where they can see charts from other institutions. However, the MyChart applications do not give cross institution access to patients.

Someone asked what has the hospital done to ensure that cultural biases do not affect patients and staff?

Ms. Francois stated that hospitals are bound to provide equal opportunity and care to all. They take such issues very seriously. If a bias issue should arise, their Human Resources Department is equipped to deal with the issue.

Having acquired a quorum, Chairperson Morgan requested a motion on the minutes of the September 26, 2017 and the October 24, 2017 Community Board meetings.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the minutes from the September 26, 2017 and October 24, 2017 general meetings of Community Board #16.

A motion was made Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to accept the District Manager's reports from September 26, 2017, October 24, 2017 and November 28, 2017.

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, read the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital and Expense Budget requests submitted by the Community Board.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked how much will it cost to implement the requests?

Chairperson Morgan stated that it is not possible to say at this time. Oftentimes, a scope of a project needs to be done to determine specifics and pricing.

Ms. Sydone Thompson stated that she read that the City passed the Brownsville Plan this past June. She also saw that many of the budget items are included in the plan. What can the Board do to ensure that these items are carried through to the letter as the plans to revitalize the community move forward?

Chairperson Morgan stated that there will be a Community Partners meeting on December 7, 2017 where implementation of the Brownsville Plan will be discussed. Representatives from HPD will also be present at the December 19, 2017 Community Board meeting. The Board is in constant communication with the City agencies and working directly with them regarding the items listed in The Brownsville Plan. The Board has several committees who meet to discuss various issues affecting the community that reach out to the city agencies, non-profits, and others to address the concerns. She invites Ms. Thompson to join any committee that deals with issues of concern to her.

Someone asked if the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was exclusively for members of the Board?

Chairperson Morgan clarified that the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is the Board's regular monthly meeting. Due to Christmas falling on the Monday before what would ordinarily be the day of the meeting, it was rescheduled to December 19<sup>th</sup> and it is open to everyone as is the Community Partners meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further comments or questions regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital and Expense Budget Requests, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the requests as submitted.

Someone asked if there is a proposed WorkForce1 location in Brownsville?

Chairperson Morgan stated that there is not a proposed location in Brownsville. There is a location in East New York at 2916 Atlantic Avenue and Sheffield Street which serves Brownsville. However, the Board seeks a location in the Brownsville community.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Thomas Kuebrich of Get CoveredNYC.

Mr. Kuebrich stated that he is a Public Health Advocate for the City of New York and is here tonight representing Get CoveredNYC which is an initiative of the de Blasio Administration with the goal of having all New Yorkers being covered by health insurance leading to healthy communities and a healthy New York. Communities such Brownsville and East New York have a disproportion of individuals who do not have health insurance coverage.

Get CoveredNYC is under the umbrella of the Public Engagement Unit of the Human Resources Administration. They work out in the public, they are at community events, collaborate with Health and Hospitals, Metro Plus, and several elected officials. They have weekly office hours at the office of Senator Roxanne Persaud. Unlike many city agencies, they are not bound to their desk. They are engaged with the public and help people navigate the health care system and figure out issues with their health insurance, and also have more New Yorkers enrolled in health insurance.

Get CoveredNYC offers free one-on-one assistance to individuals to help determine qualifications for New Yorkers and their families. They help guide you through forms and questions that you may have. After the enrollment period ends, they will be there to help with follow-ups on how to best utilize the insurance. This includes preventative care to help you take charge of your health.

You may call 3-1-1 or text CoveredNYC or SeguroNYC (for Spanish language assistance) to 877877 for free, in-person enrollment assistance information.

Someone asked if the program is for persons without health coverage or those who are underinsured?

Mr. Kuebrich stated that they can assist those who are not covered as well as those who may need to make changes since we are in the open enrollment period – which nationwide ends on December 15<sup>th</sup>. However, in New York State, it is extended to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

They serve all 5 boroughs. Appointments are relatively quick, at around half-an-hour.

Someone asked if their services are for undocumented or documented individuals?

Mr. Kuebrich stated that undocumented individuals can receive health care through the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) where they can pay for treatment on a sliding scale based on income. They can of course assist documented immigrants as well.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Darlie Equabor of Catholic Guardian Services who stated that Catholic Guardian Services provides foster care services and services for people with a developmental disability, along with family support services.

As they looked at the numbers, they saw that Brooklyn and Brownsville, in particular, have a great disparity between children in need of foster care and foster parents. She is here to see if she can pique the interest of some in the audience about becoming a foster parent. When foster parents are not available, the children must remain in the intake center and some will age out of the system.

Informational flyers on becoming a foster parent are available on tonight's distribution table and she invites the audience to take and read them.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Megan Bednarz of CityParks Learn.

Ms. Bednarz stated that she is the Youth Development Coordinator at CityParks Learn. In collaborations with the Department of Youth and Community Development, they operate a Teen P.A.S.S. (Parks, Arts, Sports, and Science) program at the Brownsville Recreation Center. Flyers are available on tonight's distribution table. They operate Mondays through Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and are open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at no cost to the participants.

The program focuses on building leadership skills and building hands-on science projects. One current project is the repopulation of oysters which once flourished in New York City waterways. The students are creating reefs in Jamaica Bay and placing cameras to monitor the oysters. They also participate in field trips outside the city, including a recent apple picking trip

and an upcoming ice skating trip. They also perform weekly walks to their learning gardens and cooking classes. They have homework help and counseling for arts careers.

If you know a middle-schooler who may be interested, contact information can be found on their flyer. They also have a job opening for a part-time sports instructor who help get the youth active.

Chairperson Morgan thanked all the evening's presenters for their presentations.

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that on November 18, 2017, the Community Resident Planning Work Group met with Michele Martinez Gugerli, Community Affairs Unit at NYC Department of Education, to discuss how her agency functions within the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community. The Work Group was interested in knowing what services are being provided to students living in temporary housing. Ms. Martinez explained that the Department of Education (DOE) services to schools are extensive from busing students living in temporary housing to their perspective schools and back, to homework support services within the schools and shelters. She informed them that there are family assistance programs operated through DOE in all the shelters, and they also have mental health services through certain programs in DOE such as the Single Shepherd Programs for middle school students to high school.

Ms. Martinez also informed them that P.S. 156, 165, 284, 298 provide wrap around services to students/families. There are also two (2) Gifted and Talented schools, I.S. 392 and the Brooklyn Landmark School located in School District 23. Due to difficulty hiring teachers to come to Ocean Hill-Brownsville, classes have become over crowded, which is being addressed by DOE. The Mayor's initiative to provide air conditioners to all the District 23 schools will be completed by June 2018.

Also in attendance at this meeting was Ms. Robinson from HouseCalls Home Care Program, located at 2440 Fulton Street in Brooklyn. They will provide a myriad of services to home bound individuals who cannot make continuous visits to their medical provider. This organization will provide more information about their program in the coming months. If you are interested in more information about HouseCalls Home Care Program, call Ms. Robinson at (718) 922-9200.

Ms. Judith Rivera, a recruiter for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, spoke about doing an outreach to recruit young girls in Ocean Hill-Brownsville to join the organization. The Work Group recommended that she contact community schools, churches, and other community-based organizations. If you are interested in the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, call Ms. Rivera at (212) 645-4000.

The Senior Citizens Affairs Committee met on November 15, 2017 and discussed topics they will be addressing during 2018. The next Breast Cancer Awareness Walk is scheduled for October 11, 2018.

The Committee also met with Ms. Elana Martins from the Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center, who will partner with them to bring workshops on medicines, nutrition and food demonstrations for seniors.

The next Senior Citizens Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

On November 22, 2017, Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, met with Mr. Jamel Evans from Project Eats at Marcus Garvey Apartments. Project Eats has several locations throughout New York City. The organization does more than planting vegetable gardens for consumption. It offers training to individuals interested in agriculture and the use of vegetable farming to help prevent and/or treat medical conditions like diabetes. Mr. Evans is present to give a summary of what his organization does for our community.

Mr. Evans stated that Project Eats has operated three production farms in the Brownsville community since 2009. They are interested in hearing what the community likes and wants to see in the neighborhood. Beyond the production farms, they operate farm stands in the community and hire youth from the neighborhood.

They have several projects. Brie's Garden teaches women how to produce natural beauty products from flowers and herbs grown on the farm. They host a free community breakfast for seniors and children which features a storytime program, and they are also in schools such as Teacher's Prep where they have educational programs. Project Eats is seeking to have more community participation. If you are interested, their contact information can be found on flyers on tonight's distribution table.

Mr. Evans played a video (which can be found by visiting <https://youtu.be/hGp575gKWpM>) featuring some of the youth in the program.

The farm stands accept many forms of payment including EBT, WIC, and Health Bucks. Their Pharmacy program collaborates with several doctors who prescribe produce as an alternative to drugs.

Ms. Rivera continued with the report of the Community Resident Planning Work Group and announced that open enrollment continues at Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation's SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial program for students attending middle schools and their GED program for ages 17 and up. Both programs are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Their telephone number is (718) 498-4513.

Enrollment opportunities also continue at The CAMPUS Afterschool Tech and Arts Program for Middle School Students at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS) located at 85 Watkins Street. To enroll, call (718) 284-4700 for applications.

Fathers and mentors are now meeting. If you are interested, please call Mr. William Rochford at (718) 240-3657 or (917) 428-9647 to obtain the date and time of the meetings.

She thanked all of the committees for their hard work to improve the conditions in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. Anyone interested in joining any of the committees, please call Ms. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323. The next meeting of the Community Resident Planning Work Group will be held at 444 Thomas Boyland Street on December 13, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the reports of the Community Resident Planning Work Group for October 24, 2017 and November 28, 2017.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on Monday, November 20, 2017 and discussed organic recycling and the need for residents to participate in the process. It was suggested that outreach be done to block associations to promote better organic recycling habits.

They also discussed rain gardens (formerly bioswales) and how to keep them clean. They encourage volunteers to help with this effort.

In addition, they discussed a cleanliness campaign to address the issue of removal of litter baskets from NYCHA property that was brought to our attention by the Public Safety Committee.

There are 24 parks and playgrounds in the District. As was heard during the report on the FY 2019 Capital and Expense budget, funding has been requested to rehabilitate several of our parks. Saratoga Ballfield, Ocean Hill Playground, and Powell Playground have been rehabilitated and are open to the public.

Last month, two new stop signs were installed on Junius Street at Dumont Avenue to improve pedestrian safety.

The next meeting of the City Services Work Group will be on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Someone asked if this is the group which would address issues concerning "No Standing" signs being installed in the neighborhood?

Chairperson Morgan stated that it is. However, she stated that this type of issue may be resolved by calling the Community Board's office at (718) 385-0323. If the issue requires additional

discussion it can be brought to committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Patricia Winston, and carried to accept the reports of the City Services Planning Work Group for October 24, 2017 and November 28, 2017.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on November 9, 2017 to review the Construction Act which was passed by the City Council.

This bill seeks to make construction sites safer by reducing safety violations and strengthening crane regulations which were listed.

Because of the importance of the Right to Know Act, the Committee feels that they must have a detailed review of this legislation at their next meeting, which will be held on December 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. She invites persons with interest in legislation to join the Legislative Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Fiscal and Policy Work Group.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 4, 2017, to discuss the following: 1) Neighborhood Cleanliness, 2) Emergency Response Procedures, 3) Identifying Safe Spaces-Brownsville Initiative, 4) Shared Community Values, 5) Safety for Our Seniors, 6) Safe Reporting Practices, and 7) Narcan Training.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board office.

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

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on November 14, 2017 with representatives from L&M Development Partners who are proposing to develop 724 units of affordable housing on 7 (seven) vacant sites that they own along Livonia Avenue and Chester Street. They are in the preliminary development stage. As more information about the project becomes available, it will be shared with the community.

The Work Group discussed ways to improve the shopping experience along our retail corridors and will be creating a merchant's culture of compliance document.

They are working with the Borough President's Office to complete a Banking Development District application to create opportunities for financial institutions to come into the District to serve the needs of our Community.

Beginning January 2018, the Work Group will host a series of financial workshops for residents.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to accept the October 24, 2017 and November 28, 2017 reports of the Equity Planning Work Group.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Rev. Eddie Karim, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice M. Walker.

Rev. Karim encouraged the audience to be vigilant as they go about doing their shopping during the holiday season. He reported that Assemblywoman Walker is pleased to have been able to distribute Thanksgiving dinners to 225 seniors and distribute 365 turkeys – most with groceries to help make a complete holiday meal for families in the community.



Persons who are interested in applying for grants can learn about the application process during a webinar to take place on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. For information about the webinar, please call Assemblywoman Walker's office at (718) 342-1256 and ask to speak with Chief of Staff Isis McIntosh.

The New York State Department of Labor now has an Outreach Team operating on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 400 Rockaway Avenue, where you can have questions or concerns addressed on issues regarding unemployment and the like. On Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., a representative from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke will be at Assemblywoman Walker's office to assist with issues regarding immigration, postal delivery, and other issues concerning the federal government. An IDNYC "pop-up" Enrollment Center will be available at their office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the next two weeks. No appointments are necessary, walk-ins are welcome and information on what you need to bring to obtain the ID can be found on tonight's distribution table. Assemblywoman Walker hosts her Advisory Board meetings on the third Saturday of each month and she invites everyone to attend.

At last month's Community Board meeting, questions arose regarding the status of homes with solar panels that were installed by the now defunct Level Solar. The company that will now service the homes is Sun Nation. Assemblywoman Walker's office is seeking to sponsor a meeting at a church near the Nehemiah Homes to give an update.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Councilmember Charles Barron, informed the audience that their office can assist with completing forms for government programs that can help seniors and veterans save money. These programs are for home owners. He hopes to have something for renters in the future.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that as reported by Rev. Karim, Congresswoman Clarke will have members of her staff assigned to work at Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office at 400 Rockaway Avenue on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They encourage the community to come to the office with their federal government concerns. There is a health care debate and a tax reform showdown currently taking place in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in knowing Congresswoman Clarke's stand on these issues, please come visit their offices.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing the Office of Acting Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzales, stated that he is the Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement for District Attorney-Elect Gonzales. He thanked District Manager Greene-Walker for including information on District Attorney-Elect Gonzales' internship program in her report and stated that flyers are available on tonight's distribution table. He added that for this year's internship they are requiring that applicants both live and attend school in Brooklyn. In the past, either was acceptable.

As the holidays approach, many scams come up. They recently indicted three individuals, one who is a resident of Brownsville, for scamming a lonely man out of \$50,000. The victim called a telephone chat line and spoke with someone who he thought to be a woman. Upon hanging-up he was called by someone, who pretended to be a law enforcement officer, stating that the victim had been communicating to an underaged individual in an explicit manner that is unlawful and that he would be arrested. They had a woman call pretending to be the parent of the "minor" and stating that she would press charges, unless he gave up some money. The extortion was done several times, until it reached \$50,000 and the victim decided to contact true law enforcement. They apprehended the criminals, one of whom was running the scheme while in prison.

There may be other victims of this crime who are fearful of coming forward. Be aware that if someone is calling you on the phone asking for money, it is very likely a scam. He received three calls within the past week informing him that the IRS was coming to arrest him for tax debts. If an actual arrest warrant is issued, you will not be called to be warned beforehand.

On Black Friday, there were numerous fraudulent websites setup, luring people to them with popular merchandise. Victims provide the credit card information and lose their money. He encourages the audience to be mindful when giving information on the web and avoid doing so over the telephone. If you feel that you may have been scammed, please call their Action Line at (718) 250-2340.

They are currently doing visits to senior centers to inform the residents about elder abuse scams. If you are interested in having a workshop, you may call him directly at (718) 250-3146.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, announced that through December 15<sup>th</sup>, they are doing their holiday collection drive. This year, they are only collecting new books and pajamas for children 3- to 11-years old.

He announced several events to take place at Borough Hall in the coming month, including, a Hearings Support for Veterans event on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., a World AIDS Day community forum on December 4, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., their Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and several others.

Borough President Adams also wants you to be aware of the Benefit Kitchen app ([app.benefitkitchen.com](http://app.benefitkitchen.com)) which helps New Yorkers learn about their eligibility for benefits such as SNAP and others.

Anyone seeking to volunteer at Borough Hall may reach out to him. They have many events where people may volunteer and it is a great way to network and meet new people. He can be reached by calling either (718) 802-2681 or (347) 942-1692.

Ms. Joy Simmons, representing the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron, announced that the window to apply for funding from your Councilmember's budget is from January to February for funding beginning in July. Now is the time for those seeking funds to put together their proposals. You must be a 501c organization to receive funding. You should look to meet with Councilmember Barron before January. They urge grassroots organizations in the community to bring their ideas forward.

During her last visit to Community Board #16's monthly meeting, Councilmember Barron spoke about the upcoming Ebenezer Plaza project. Councilmember Barron met with Mayor de Blasio who has agreed to push forward the project as it has been approved by the Board and her Office.

Someone stated that she has sought to visit Councilmember Barron's office on several occasions and each time she has found the office closed. What are their hours of operation?

Ms. Simmons stated that the office is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. for Constituent Services. On Fridays, they generally hold staff meetings so the office may be closed to the public. They also elect to take off on some non-traditional holidays such as Black Solidarity Day, Malcolm X's Birthday, etcetera. The office can be reached by calling (718) 649-9495.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Charlie Reynoso from the New York Restoration Project (NYRP).

Mr. Reynoso stated that he is the Community Engagement Manager for NYRP and they are a non-profit organization with 52 community gardens throughout New York City, one being at 145 Hull Street for which they have recently receiving funding for renovation. They are seeking community input on how to make the space useful to the community. They are hosting a series of forums to hear from the community with the first being held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Daily Press coffee shop located at the corner of Somers Street and Rockaway Avenue.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there are any additional concerns?

Ms. Melanie Mendonca offered gratitude for the Thanksgiving baskets that were provided to School District #23 families in need by the Community Board.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the baskets were provided by the staff of Brookdale Hospital, who each year put together the baskets and ask the assistance of the Community Board in distributing them to families in need. The gratitude goes to the staff of Brookdale Hospital.

She reminded the audience that the Board's monthly meeting will be held a week early, on December 19<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas holiday and that the Brownsville Plan meeting will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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