

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – DECEMBER 19, 2017

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and an invocation was given by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

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

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

- 1) Helpful information on how you can keep yourself and your family safe from fire during the holiday season.
- 2) Information on the New York State Paid Family Leave Program which will begin on January 1, 2018.
- 3) New York Cares is requesting new and gently used coats be donated at any New York City Police Precinct now through December 29th for their Winter Coat Drive.
- 4) The City's largest Kwanzaa celebrations both take place on December 30th at the American Museum of Natural History and at Harlem's Apollo Theater.
- 5) Prospect Park Alliance asks that you join them for their annual New Year's Eve fireworks celebration.
- 6) The 32nd Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. returns to the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Monday, January 15, 2018. Tickets to this free event will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.
- 7) Information regarding various grants that are available to eligible organizations and individuals, and a listing of complaints received by the Board's office for resolution are also found in the report.

Chairperson Morgan recognized representatives from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) who gave an update on the Brownsville Plan.

Mr. Michael Sandler stated that the Brownsville Plan started with learning about existing conditions in the community in June 2016. A workshop was held in July 2016 and in September 2016 where shared goals for the Plan were established. A third workshop for the Brownsville Plan was held in November 2016. Community members, together with planners and urban designers from the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Department of City Planning, led participants through activities to create proposals for four sites, building upon what was heard at previous workshops. In March 2017, HPD and its agency partners hosted the fourth public workshop for the Brownsville Plan aimed at sharing the draft strategies of the Brownsville Plan and gather community feedback.

The Brownsville Plan website is at www.nyc.gov/brownsvilleplan. The comment section of the website has been closed. However, the site may still be visited to see the plan and its updates.

Photographs taken at the Brownsville Plan Release Event in July of this year were displayed. They were also present at several events throughout the summer and received input from approximately 580 residents.

The fourth phase of the Plan, which is implementation, is now in process with internal tracking at the Mayor's Office of Operations. Annual progress reports will be provided with an updated public project tracker, including:

- Responsible agency/organization
- Timeline
- Status
- Community Partners group, to be re-convened by Community Board 16, will meet with the City twice a year

The Plan is organized around eight strategies to guide City agencies and local organizations as they design and implement work in the neighborhood. Any investment has the potential to accomplish multiple goals, and it is important that they aim to achieve a common vision

The goals for the neighborhood are not goals that were preset by HPD. They are goals informed by what was heard through the process:

1. Achieve equitable health outcomes
2. Improve neighborhood safety
3. Promote community-driven economic development
4. Foster local arts and identity

From these goals, they have formulated eight strategies:

1. Promote active mixed-use corridors
2. Improve connections throughout the neighborhood
3. Create active and safe public spaces
4. Provide resources to support healthy lifestyles
5. Connect Brownsville residents to jobs and job training
6. Support small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs
7. Improve housing stability and support residents at risk of displacement
8. Support capacity building for local organizations

Ms. Giovania Tiarachristie gave a progress report on the eight stratagem and the roles of various agencies in fulfilling the goals.

Someone asked if it is possible that the Zombie Homes initiative have listing of such homes that might be available for purchase?

Ms. Tiarachristie stated that they will survey the homes and hopefully have the owners maintain the properties but these are not city-owned homes and may not be for sale.

Mr. Sandler stated that the primary goal of the program is to have owners improve their properties so that people living in the community do not have to worry about homes that are unguarded, have rodent infestations, and are vacant. These are that are generally, owned by banks but have not yet been foreclosed. The banks are supposed to upkeep the properties. The goal is to have the City Law Department get those banks to do their job in maintaining the

properties. To the extent of getting the buildings repopulated, he thinks that this is a bit far off, at this point in time.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that the report was very lengthy and she asks that printed copies be made available for their future reports so that members of the audience can better absorb the information. She is specifically interested in knowing the exact location of the homes being built.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated the information is available on their website at www.nyc.gov/brownsvilleplan including tonight's presentation. Maps are on the site showing the location and names of the projects.

Mr. Sandler offered to make printed copies available to the Community Board's office for distribution to those who wish to have a hardcopy.

Someone asked how can owners of privately-owned property in the catchment area participate?

Mr. Sandler stated that HPD has reached out to the owners of some of the larger parcels and informed them of options available to them for creating 100% affordable housing on the lots. Some of those conversations are going well, but he is currently unable to report on it. He will say that there are a number of programs available to property owners, such as programs for mission-driven non-profit organizations. They offer technical support to organizations such as churches that may be interested in building affordable housing.

Ms. Tiarachristie stated they also assist churches that are interested in acquiring city-owned lots to build affordable housing and maintain a list of pre-qualified developers that can work with the churches to get the projects built.

Before taking additional questions, Chairperson Morgan stated that there will be three stakeholder groups forming who, in addition to the work groups of the Community Board, will be closely following the process to ensure that the community remains involved in the process and can be proactive in ensuring the goals of the plan are being met.

Ms. Jestine Roper of Jes' Good Rewards Garden stated that she is pleased to see that the Plan includes permanent gardens and thanks the Community Board and the community for their support over the years in establishing and preserving her garden site. She asked how can they get involved in the Brownsville Plan?

Chairperson Morgan stated that it is important that organizations with history in this community are a part of the Plan and remain a part of the fabric of this community as we move forward. She encouraged Ms. Roper to keep the Board informed about activities taking place in the garden so that it can be shared with the community and the Board can also help keep her informed about processes such as the Brownsville Plan.

Ms. Chanel Haliburton stated that now that the RFPs have been issued, is there a way for the community to be a part of the approval process?

Mr. Sandler stated that the RFPs were issued with much community input. For the first time, the City has put in the RFPs a preference in the scorecard for organizations with a proven track record of doing community development in the neighborhood. They have also included a remainder interest clause, meaning that the City is not giving away land without strings. The City will have a way to take the land back after a set period to ensure long-term permanent affordable housing at a site. The goals of each of the specific RFPs was tailored to what they heard through the various workshops. There is an arts and cultural theme, an economic development theme and a health theme.

As this is City-owned land, there is not much room for flexibility to the review process, especially since there are many applicants from the area. However, since it is City-owned property, the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) will give many opportunities for the Board to review and request changes.

Chairperson Morgan requested that members of the audience with interest in the betterment of the community join a committee in the coming year. It is with the community's input that the Board can reach out to our elected officials and advocate for policies that are meaningful to the community.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on Monday, December 14, 2017 with representatives from the Parks Department who presented the Betsy Head Park Phase 2 design.

She called on the Parks Department representatives to come forward and make their presentation.

Mr. John Butz, a principle of the landscape architectural firm of Abel Bainnson Butz, LLP, stated that they are here to present the schematic design for Betsy Head Playground Phase II.

They developed the following goals for the project:

- Create inviting entrances with opportunities for seating and gathering.
- Provide a synthetic turf sports field to accommodate softball, football, soccer and lacrosse.
- Provide a new running track with resilient surfacing.
- Reconfigure the southern portion of the site to provide community requested programming activities.
- Eliminate redundant fencing and improve site perimeter and access to comply with the Commissioner's Parks Without Borders Initiative.

The total budget for the project is \$30,000,000. They previously met with members of the community in November 2016 and in February 2017.

Slides were displayed showing the location of the park and its relation to the community and other parks in area.

During the visioning session in November 2016, they heard that the track and field were very important. All the active recreation is important. Programming and placemaking opportunities are desired. Lights for security and activities are needed and gathering places with amenities such as game and picnic tables. Improved circulation into and through the park was requested, as well as a review of some of the fencing around the perimeter of the park. Areas for adult fitness, other sports, and play spaces are wanted features. The pool and pool house are not part of this project.

Site photographs and a schematic plan of the existing conditions were displayed. Analysis of the park shows that concrete wall and bleachers create barrier to neighborhood, the resilient running track is in poor condition, the natural turf ballfields are also in poor condition, and entries into the comfort station and fixtures are not ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant.

The concept plan, which was introduced to the community in February 2017, seeks to improve the connection to the Imagination Station area of the park to the north and allow for safer crossing between the two parcels of the park. It creates new entry points with seating areas and moves the summer stage to an area near the Herzl Street entry at Dumont Avenue to reduce the wear and tear on the field from vehicles crossing the field. The new resilient running track is reduced from 4 lanes to 3 lanes to accommodate two full size softball fields. Along the running track, they have introduced two areas for adult fitness. Along the southern edge will be a totally reconstructed comfort station, a new entry, a plaza area with adult fitness equipment, a handball court, two basketball full courts, and a seating area.

There are numerous mature trees on the site, consisting mostly of London Plane and Ginkgo trees. Six trees will be removed because they are in poor condition.

Additional slides were displayed with photographs, schematics, and concept drawings for proposed changes and equipment.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace stated that she was present for the presentation in February 2017 and thought the plans were very nice. The concern that she had and did not hear addressed this evening is what methods would be used to curb the usage of the park as a place for people to have their dogs relieve themselves?

Mr. Butz stated that it is difficult to control. There will be some short fencing around planting areas that should serve to keep the dogs out, but will not eradicate the problem. One the benefits of Parks Without Borders is the openness it creates. He thinks the answer lies in self-policing by the community.

Mr. Chris Yandoli, Director of Capital Projects with the Department of Parks and Recreation, stated that this is something that can also be brought to the attention of the Borough Office to have Parks Enforcement investigate and enforce the rules.

Ms. Kollock-Wallace asked if this is something that should be addressed before it begins to take place?

Mr. Yandoli stated it can be, however, it is not part of the design aspect. It is a day-to-day maintenance issue.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there might be other parks in the city where the issue is addressed? Perhaps, pooper-scooper stations could be placed?

Mr. Yandoli stated that might be a double-edged sword. Having a pooper-station in the park might encourage people to bring their dogs to the park to relieve themselves.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this is the type of question that should be asked on the committee level. The Parks Department is seeking a vote on the item tonight. Will the Board send the project back because it does not meet certain criteria?

Ms. Kollock-Wallace stated that she brought up this very issue when the project was presented in February. The response she received at that time was that they would consider it and respond at a later date. However, she heard nothing about her concern during tonight's presentation.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman asked if the climbing wall has safety equipment to protect climbers?

Mr. Butz stated that that there will be padding at the base of the wall that is rated for falls from ten feet in height. The greatest distance that a climber can fall from the wall is approximately 3 feet in height.

Ms. Anita Pierce asked what does the \$30,000,000 covers? Will the pool and pool house be rehabilitated?

Mr. Butz stated that the pool and pool house are not included. The \$30,000, 000 covers Phase I and Phase II of the project.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the pool is landmarked and as such it can sometime have additional cost when attempting to rehabilitate it.

Mr. Yandoli stated that there are many aspects to their study for rehabilitating the pool and pool house. It functions differently for different times of the year. There are structural considerations with the roof.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if a concession area will be part of the plan?

Mr. Yandoli stated that it is not part of the plan. However, there has been discussion about allowing carts to be brought in. There is limited vehicular access to the park.

Mr. David Alexander asked how long can the community expect the park to remain in good condition?

Mr. Yandoli stated that some of it depends on how well it is maintained. The synthetic turf is typically warranted for eight years. They have gotten more than eight years with heavy use from the material. Pavers and some of the other hardscape materials should last for some time. He has seen some of the fitness equipment in place for 10 to 12 years and some cases almost 20 years.

Mr. Alexander asked if it is possible to have a list of components with their warranties, so someone can be held accountable should there be failures.

Mr. Butz stated that they are finding as time goes by materials such as synthetic turf are improving. Also, the cost is reduced because after the initial installation, the underlayment remains intact and only the turf itself needs to be replaced like replacing carpeting in a home.

They are a good client and they encourage manufacturers to make quality products. In the case of the fitness equipment, they have gone from wooden apparatus to ones made of durable metals.

Someone asked what is the timeframe for completion?

Mr. Yandoli stated that for this phase they are looking at the spring of 2020.

Chairperson Morgan expressed concern about the distance between the two base/softball fields being sufficient to avoid balls hit from one field toward the other causing injury to players whose backs are turned in the opposite direction.

Mr. Butz stated that the distances are above the average size for fields.

Chairperson Morgan stated that a request was made for electrical outlets to accommodate events that require electrical service. Are there provisions in this design for the outlets?

Mr. Yandoli stated that outlets will be placed in several locations throughout the park.

Ms. Williams continued the report and stated that the City Services Planning Work Group recommends that the Community Board vote in support of the Betsy Head Park-Phase 2 design.

The next meeting of the City Services Work Group will be on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

Chairperson Morgan stated that in absence of a quorum, the vote on the item will be held over until a quorum is achieved. She recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol reported that they are currently up in crimes by less than one percent from the previous year's record low. They are working diligently to push the numbers down and end the year victoriously with another record low. Regarding violent crimes, they are down 35% in homicides which includes two wherein the actual crimes took place in 2004 and 1992 with the victims succumbing to their injuries this year. Shootings are down by 31% year-to-year.

What he recited are numbers, but in his heart, he also knows that each one of those numbers represents a human being. This inspires them to continue striving to push the numbers down every year.

As we continue through the Christmas holiday season, he reminds everyone to safeguard their belonging as they do their shopping. There have been recent incidents of crimes of opportunity that have taken place along Pitkin Avenue and Rockaway Avenue because the victims left packages visible in their cars. He encourages everyone to lock their items in the trunk where it is not visible. He also advises against using cellphones while walking on the streets unaware of your surroundings.

They have taken two robberies near Fulton Street and Rockaway Avenue where it is poorly lit. They are beefing up patrols in the area and ask the assistance of the Board in getting lighting improvements in the area.

On Thursday, Chief Jeffrey Maddrey, Borough Commander, will be having a "Sleigh Ride" through the ten precincts that make up Brooklyn North. The "sleigh" will be manned by police officers who will be distributing about 150 toys to children 13 years and under at Zion Triangle. The 73rd Precinct's Neighborhood Coordinating Officers have selected the families that they feel have a great need of these gifts. Officers of 73rd Precinct will also be giving gifts out to children in their Adopt-a-School program.

Someone asked how is the level of crime in the area of the Nehemiah Homes along Mother Gaston Boulevard?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that is one of the lowest crime areas of the Precinct. From time-to-time, they may have little spikes, but overall it is safe. Sector "D", specifically in the area of Marcus Garvey Village, is currently the area of the greatest concern. They are strategizing ways to reduce the crime in the area and have increased patrols.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca asked if they are accepting toy donations for their give away?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that while they have plenty of toys, they will accept donations through Friday so that they can give to children that they might not have been able to reach on Thursday and Friday.

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that on December 13, 2017, the Community Resident Planning Work Group met with Ms. Ambrosia Johnson, Lead Founder of Ivy Hill Prep Charter School, to discuss the dynamics of her establishment. The concept of this charter school is data driven, individual instruction for all children (including those with disabilities), leadership skills development and tracking of each student after graduation. Currently, the school does not have a location in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. She is looking to serve K-5 students in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community.

Also discussed was the developmental stages of the upcoming 2018 Youth Conference for middle school students. A location has been selected, however, the date has not.

The Health and Human Services Committee is establishing a monitoring system to track the mental health services for children from birth to high school. The Committee's concern is that there are no services dedicated to the child, separate from the family. This tracking system will ensure that there are services in Ocean Hill-Brownsville to accommodate children with mental illness from an early age.

The Women's Committee is proposing a Financial Awareness Workshop in February 2018, and a march celebrating Women's History during March 2018.

Open enrollment continues at Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation's SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial program for students attending middle schools, Youth Community Ambassador Program, and their GED program for ages 17 and up. All programs are located on the 3rd 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) 428-0647, to obtain the date and time of the meetings.

The Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center at 259 Bristol Street, Brooklyn, NY is creating a Resident Action Committee. The Resident Action Committee will ensure that the community has a voice in the policy decision making process that affects the financial, health and social services delivery and livelihood of our residents. You must be at least 16 years of age and up. The deadline to apply is January 8, 2018. For more information and an application, call Keira Sutton-Agnew at (718) 312-6142 or email ksuttonagnew@health.nyc.gov.

She thanked all the committees for their hard work to improve the conditions in Ocean Hill-Brownsville and invited persons interested in joining any committee to 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 January 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker reported that the Fiscal and Policy work group met on December 11, 2017 and heard a presentation by Ms. Elana Martins and her colleague from the Brownsville Neighborhood Action Center regarding the importance of community members being part of the Resident Action Committee. Being a member of the Resident Action Committee gives you a stake in the policy making that affects the health and wellness of our community. You are urged to consider joining the Resident Action Committee. For more information and an application, contact Keira Sutton-Agnew at (718) 312-6142 or email ksuttoagnew@health.nyc.gov. The deadline for application is January 5, 2018.

The Work Group also discussed two pieces of legislation known as the "Right to Know Act".

The first is Intro 541 which calls for law enforcement officers to provide proof of consent prior to conducting a search. Officers must inform the person in a language they understand that the search is consensual and that they have the right to deny consent. This bill would further require that if consent is given, the officer must create a video or signed record of the consent and

provide proof of the consent to the person searched. Finally, the bill would require the NYPD to report to the City Council frequency of consensual searches.

The second piece of legislation is Intro 182 which requires law enforcement officers to identify themselves to the public.

Several members stated that the bills act as vehicles of accountability, however, other members had reservations about the bills citing that in some cases it just reinforces what is already in the Patrol Guide. The consensus of the group was that civil liberty groups, bar associations, legal services groups, and activist groups must begin a rigorous campaign to educate our communities about our constitutional rights regarding law enforcement searches. They also felt that it was important for Community Affairs programs in the high schools include training on one's constitutional rights involving law enforcement searches.

The Work Group also discussed the implementation of body cameras and the training of officers which play a very important role in law enforcement accountability.

The Work Group understands that there is a different version of the bill being discussed which makes our reservations relevant that real accountability could be undermined. They understand that some form of the bills will pass, however, we should remain vigilant about our suggestions about training and knowledge of our constitutional rights, help our youth to understand their rights, and monitor results of the use and effectiveness of body cameras.

The next Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting will be on January 8, 2018.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on December 4, 2017, the Committee met to discuss the following:

Seniors Network – The Committee has been working for the past several months to organize the most effective senior network that will best serve some of the social needs of the seniors in our District.

The Committee agreed that utilizing the seniors themselves as the communication network is the best current option that can alert monitors to activate available resources to aid in often unnoticed dangerous or otherwise unhealthy situations.

Safe Spaces – The Committee discussed identifying businesses as “Safe Spaces”. Ocean Hill-Brownsville’s Safe Space program would have merchants agree to be trained as “Safe Space Providers” where they will be carefully instructed to and expected to receive, calm, and direct a person in need.

The Committee will continue to accept suggestions you may have of locations in the District you feel may serve as a Safe Space.

Public Trainings – Seeing as the recent Narcan training was well received, the Committee is organizing another presentation in mid-January.

Building the Committee – For the past several years, she has chaired the Public Safety Committee and thanks the audience often for trusting and allowing her to be the consolidated community voice for our public safety.

The Committee has had wonderful results. Complaints and concerns are carefully handled and generally resolved without incident.

She encourages her fellow Board members who are not actively working with a committee to join one to build a safer and stronger community.

During the holiday season, please consider checking on your neighbors, contact relatives and friends if you can. Share a kind word with someone. Also remember this is “fire” season, please be cautious when cooking, using candles, and keeping a live Christmas tree and lights in your home.

The Public Safety Committee meets every 1st Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on January 3, 2018, here in Room 103 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on December 12, 2017 with representatives from the Fifth Avenue Committee and Habitat for Humanity New York City regarding their proposal to develop 8 vacant sites in Community District #16 that were awarded to them under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's New Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program and Neighborhood Construction Program.

Prior to designing the buildings, they are seeking the Community Board's input as it relates to the height of the buildings.

The Work Group's recommendations are as follows:

- 1) 87 Legion Street – 4 stories / 8 units with a setback
- 2) 250 Herzl Street – 3 stories / 6 units with a setback
- 3) 425 Mother Gaston Boulevard – 4 stories / 4 units with commercial ground floor space
- 4) 2150 Atlantic Avenue – 4 stories / 4 units
- 5) 1794 St. John's Place 5 stories /4 units
- 6) 1717 St. John's Place – 3 stories / 3 units
- 7) 546 Thomas S. Boyland Street 5 stories / 18 units
- 8) 638 Howard Avenue – 5 stories / 8 units
(When designing the building, the Work Group requested that the architect consider that the adjacent building has windows on the side of it.)

The Work Group also met with a representative from CAMBA's Small Business Services who informed us about workshops they offer to both aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. In addition, they offer One-on-One Business Counselling and Small Business Loans.

To learn more about CAMBA Small Business Services, visit them at 2244 Church Avenue, 4th Floor, Brooklyn or call (718) 226-0436.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there were any questions regarding topics discussed in tonight's meeting?

Someone stated that she observed on the news that there are groups that are not happy with the policies that are being recommended by the City with regard to the use of body cameras. She asked what, if anything, was discussed regarding the use of body cameras by police officers during traffic stops?

Chairperson Morgan stated that they did not have much conversation on the issue because they felt that an update on the City's position on the use of the cameras is needed for the Work Group to make a recommendation on the policy. She will reach out to the Legislative Committee to inform them that an update has been made. Next, she recognized Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Mr. Belon stated that Congresswoman Clarke wants her constituents to know that she voted against the major tax reform bill that passed in the House today by a vote of 227 for and 202 against. The bill will next go to the Senate where it will likely pass and move to the President who will likely sign it into law by week's end.

Although the Administration has been saying otherwise, this reform will likely negatively affect our communities. Beginning in January, Congresswoman Clarke will be distributing fact sheets to inform you on what the effects of the reform are. If you have any questions about the reform please call her office.

They have been holding Brownsville Constituent Service Days on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office at 400 Rockaway Avenue. Response has been sparse and they are now asking people to call ahead so that they can track the number and type of concerns that are being addressed. He asks the audience to spread the word on the events.

On tonight's distribution table, there are summary reports from Congresswoman Clarke on what she has done during the year. She has been a staunch advocate for immigration. A flier is available on the distribution table highlighting ten points of action championed by her. She also introduced the ASPIRE Act to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for six years and provide them with a path to citizenship.

Chairperson Morgan recognized representatives from Brooklyn Collegiate High School.

Ms. Tamika Glen stated that she is an English teacher at the school which is located at 2021 Bergen Street. Yesterday, they received devastating news that the school will be closing as of June 30, 2018.

They are here this evening to ask for the assistance of the Community Board. While on paper it appears that the school is struggling, they want you to understand that most of the students that attend the school come to them with a host of social and economic issues. They have students who are living in homeless shelters, students who come from broken homes, students who come from homes where there is abuse present, and some who come from great homes. In that conglomerate, they have had to deal with the issue of students progressing forward. Progressing not only in the school environment, but as productive members of society once they leave the school.

The news of the closing came as a blow. Although she is not from Brownsville, she chose to come to Brooklyn Collegiate because it was a school in need. She feels that through education doors could be opened for the students that could provide them with the skills and resources needed to be successful outside of high school.

They are starting a petition and will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, where students, teachers, parents, and others will come to speak out against the closing of the school. They are asking for members of the Board to join them in this cause. They are also starting an online campaign the hashtag #I am BC Strong.

They believe that keeping the school open is a viable choice. They provide their students with many supportive services. They recognize that it takes a lot for a student who has to deal with issues of homelessness and other problems to also deal with school work successfully. They have programs to help make leaders from these students. They have programs that link students to various colleges throughout the nation. They participate in youth justice programs where students learn how to use the law to help their community.

Chairperson Morgan requested that they keep Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Board's Youth Service Planning Committee, informed of the dates and activities they are planning to keep the school open.

Mr. Allan stated that the teachers of the school show a vested interest in the students' success. They are more like a family than simply educators. They go the extra mile to ensure that the students are prepared to become the true leaders of tomorrow and morale leaders of society. He pleads for the support of the Board in keeping the school open.

Chairperson Morgan recognize Ms. Brenda Lawrence of Bedford-Stuyvesant Headstart.

Ms. Lawrence stated that she is the Family Engagement Liaison at Bedford-Stuyvesant Headstart. They are present here this evening because they are extending their enrollment to include 3- to 5-year-olds in the Brownsville community. They are starting a busing program that will allow them to bring children from the community to and from their program free of charge. They operate Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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