

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 23, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander	Andrea McCullough
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 (A)
Balinda Harris	Celina Trowell (A)
Mawuli Hormeku (A)	Ernestine Turner (E)
Michael Howard	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph	Deborah Williams
Eula Key	Patricia Williamson (A)
Danny King	Pat Winston
Dr. Bettie Kollock Wallace (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Charles Ladson (A)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Wendy Lanier (A)	Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Carolyn Lee	Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Albion Liburd (E)	Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Deborah Mack (E)	Rev. Eddie Karim for Hon. Latrice Walker
Yolanda Matthews	Shelton Jones for Hon. Eric Gonzalez
John McCadney, Jr.	

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and requested a moment of silence.

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

Deputy Inspector Mascol reported that overall crime was down for the calendar year 2017. This was a difficult task because, under the command of Inspector Miguel Iglesias, the 73rd Precinct set a record low in 2016. They saw an amazing reduction in crime again with the help of the community. Homicides were reduced by 30% and shooting incidents by 13%. This is taking place at a time when the population of the community is growing. They saw a drop in domestic violence reports which is a difficult crime for them to battle because it tends to happen behind closed doors. They made a concentrated effort to bring awareness about domestic violence to the community. However, they did not do much in schools. This year, they will focus on bringing awareness to the high schools.

They are in their third of operation with the NCO (Neighborhood Coordinating Officer) Program which brings a philosophy of shared responsibility between the community and police to communities. They have learned from this, mistakes were made and they hope to continue to improve upon the program going forward.

As Commanding Officer, he looks forward to continuing their reduction in crime in 2018 by going after those individuals who are responsible for much of crimes in the community. They have conducted studies which show that certain individuals continue to commit crimes over and over, and over again. Through Precision Policing, they can identify the small number of people in our community who are causing the most number of crimes, target, and arrest them for the crimes they commit. Working collaboratively with the District Attorney's Office, they help ensure that the offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

For those who need help, they will seek to get them help. They have had problems with youth on youth robberies and he formed a taskforce within the Precinct to reach out to the families of those who commit the robberies to reduce recidivism. They try to find the root of the problem. Is it an issue with the family? Is it the youth themselves? Why is the behavior happening? If there is an agency that can help, they try to bring the families or youth to the agency. If they can

bring in a mentor, they do. If there is a domestic violence issue present, he involves his DV (Domestic Violence) Officers.

You may have seen on the news videos of a group in mask committing commercial robberies of bodegas. The robberies have taken place here in Brownville as well as locations in Queens. They are working with area merchants to bring awareness and educate them on best methods to keep safe. Year-to-date, they have only experienced one such robbery at a location which was previously hit.

Each quarter, Operation Build-the-Block brings the Precinct's NCOs together with the community for neighborhood safety meetings to strategize on identifying public safety challenges and discuss potential solutions. To find your NCO, you can visit the website at buildtheblock.nyc.

Someone expressed concern with parking on Sundays in front of his church.

Deputy Inspector Mascol requested that he reach out to the Precinct's Community Affairs Officers to bring about a solution.

Ms. Anita Pierce stated that last Memorial Day weekend her vehicle was hit by another vehicle. She was not present at the time but was able to see the incident on surveillance video. When she went to the Precinct to obtain a report she was unable to get one. A similar incident occurred this past weekend on Dumont Avenue at Thomas S. Boyland Street. What is being done about these incidents.

Deputy Inspector Mascol requested that she give the details to his Community Affairs Officers and he will follow up on the investigation.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this has occurred in several locations throughout the Precinct. Is there a specific protocol that is followed?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated there is Traffic Unit that investigate these types of incidents. They are always looking for persons who are driving erratically or under the influence. Last year, they and the Strategic Response Group (SRG) made over five hundred arrests. He encourages the audience to call the Precinct if they see someone driving in an erratic way. However, it is a bit difficult to investigate when there is no pattern or witnesses.

Someone asked what do the police do when they encounter vehicles with illegally tinted windows?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that they cannot stop the vehicle simply because of the tinted windows. However, if they commit another offense, they issue a summons for the tinted windows as well. This is an area of concern for the police as it creates a very dangerous condition as they approach such vehicles.

Someone stated that there is a lounge at 206 Tapscott Street which is a nuisance to the community. There are fights that take place outside the venue along with loud noise coming from within that make it extremely difficult for him and other residents to sleep. The venue has been raided by the police and it has gotten worst. Last Saturday morning at 3:32 a.m., he was awoken by gunfire which left him in fear for his and his family's safety. What can be done to resolve this?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that the location is on their radar. They were there after the shooting. He asked to speak with the complainant privately.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this is also an issue that the Board takes into consideration during their review of liquor license applications. If an establishment has those types of issues, it is important that they be reported to the Police Department and to the Board. When the renewal application is presented, it will factor in. If the problem is persistent, the Board can move to request the State Liquor Authority to revoke the license. The Board will continue to monitor this location and act accordingly. The Board supports the issuance of liquor licenses to bring about economic development in the community. However, it will not allow those businesses to be a nuisance to the community.

A roll call of Board members was conducted with a quorum being present.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Community Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report from December 19, 2017.

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

- 1) Information on how non-City organizations may apply for Fiscal Year 2019 capital funding through the City Council.
- 2) Information on how non-City organizations may apply for Fiscal Year 2019 capital funding through the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President.
- 3) Availability of applications from the Municipal Arts Society for their Livable Neighborhoods Program Workshops.
- 4) Offering by Brooklyn Networks for their Cable Installation Training Program.
- 5) Availability of free tax preparation services for eligible earners.
- 6) Information on becoming a volunteer with the Department for the Aging.
- 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.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept tonight's District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Morgan recognized representatives from the Department of Transportation who are present to give a report on the Atlantic Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Huáscar Robles, Director of Community Affairs for the Division of Bridges at the Department of Transportation (DOT), stated they are here to share information on the Atlantic Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project which will begin in the coming weeks. Present with him tonight are Hui Yong, Joseph Kelley, and Christopher Woods who will be the community's liaison to the project.

Mr. Kelley displayed a slide presentation of the project.

The project will

- Replace roadway deck and expansion joints
- Replace curb and median barriers
- Repair deteriorated steel beams and columns
- Retrofit column bases and add cross bracing to meet current seismic design requirements
- Repair interior concrete walls
- Repair and clean stone facing, repoint joints
- Mill and repave service roads
- Provide new drain inlets on bridge, retain current outlets
- Replace bridge and service road lighting with LED fixtures
- Remove hazardous material in construction zone
- Provide protection to LIRR tracks from the overhead or adjacent construction so that LIRR can maintain service
- Relocate or protect utilities

To accommodate traffic, the work will be done in phases. They are currently in the pre-stage phase wherein the contractor will remove the barrier between the east bound and west bound roadbed and install temporary barriers. They expect this work to take more or less four months.

The next phase (Stage 1) will have them replace the west bound roadbed of the bridge. During this phase, the two east bound lanes of the bridge roadbed will be converted to one lane east and one lane west, and the service roads will be converted from one lane of traffic to two lanes. This has the drawback of eliminating the parking lanes of the service roads. This phase is expected to last 9 months.

Stage 2A will move the work to the east bound lanes and have traffic flow as one lane east and one lane west along the north side of the bridge and will last 9 months. The service roads will remain as in Stage 1.

Stage 2A will have them replacing the median, close the two inner traffic lanes, and have east and west bound traffic on the outer lanes of the bridge. This phase should last about 3 months.

The final configuration will return traffic to the original configuration with the parking lanes restored.

There will be some impact to the Long Island Rail Road service during the reconstruction. They are coordinating with the Metropolitan Transit Authority to mitigate disruption as much as possible. Protective shields are being installed to protect tracks from debris and to allow construction operations during normal train service. Construction operations that will require single track closures, will be done over weekends.

Total construction time is expected to be approximately 3.5 years at an approximate cost of \$70 million.

To keep traffic flow as much as possible, Traffic Control Agents will be assigned to each end of the bridge. Currently scheduled for 12-hours per day, 5-days per week. Variable Message Signs will be installed on both sides of the bridge to advise motorists of traffic changes. Plans are in place to keep service of the elevated "L" train from being disrupted.

As was mentioned, Mr. Christopher Woods will be the liaison to the project and he can be reached by calling (516) 987-6130. They are also working with the Police and Fire Departments to ensure that access to emergency service is always maintained.

Someone asked how many work shifts will there be and how will they mitigate access to the side streets in consideration to crane operations?

Mr. Robles stated that their normal working hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There may be some instances where they will work overnight, but this will not be the norm.

Mr. Kelley added that the contract specifies that six traffic lanes must be available during the morning and evening rush hours. Any lane closures required will only take place between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. They have the ability to direct the contractor to make any necessary repairs to the surface of the service roads as may be needed to keep traffic flowing.

Regarding construction equipment, he does not know where they will be staged, but they are not allowed to block any of the side streets. Mr. Woods has been working with local organizations to resolve issues surrounding parking availability.

Someone asked if people from the community will be hired for the project.

Mr. Robles stated that he will bring the issue up with DOT.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the contracts require that hiring be done through HireNYC and there are also MWBE (Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises) mandates attached to them.

Ms. Anita Pierce suggested that additional Traffic Control Agents be assigned at locations leading to the construction points, such as the terminus of the Jackie Robinson Parkway, to avoid bottlenecks.

Mr. Robles stated that this is the type of feedback they are seeking from the community, people who know the community and its idiosyncrasies. He asks that as the project moves along that Mr. Woods be given information on what seems to be working and what is not.

Ms. Digna Layne asked is there a way that the community can find out what are the qualifications for the various positions so that members of the community can be prepared to fill the positions?

Chairperson Morgan stated that we can contact DOT (Each city agency has an Office of Minority Contracts). Since the contract has already been awarded, we can speak to the contractor directly and to the unions associated with the work.

Bishop Steve Belgrove stated that there are schools in the area. Have plans been made to increase the number of School Crossing Guards to react to the traffic that will be diverted?

Mr. Woods stated that some outreach has been done but nothing has been cast in stone at this point. They welcome suggestions from the community on what may be needed to help the project go smoothly.

Ms. Deborah Williams stated that lighting in the area is inadequate. Is improving the lighting part of this contract?

Mr. Kelley stated that the light for both the service roads and the bridge will be replaced with new LED lighting.

Someone asked what is being done to keep the work from interfering with the operation of the Long Island Rail Road?

Mr. Robles stated that they will coordinate with MTA regarding scheduling and will also install protective barriers to prevent debris from falling on the platform and tracks.

Someone asked if improvements will be made to the Long Island Rail Road station?

Chairperson Morgan stated that it is not in the scope of this project.

She thanked the audience for their participation in this process and encouraged everyone to stay informed about its progress.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on January 18, 2018.

The Department of Parks is seeking a letter of support from the Community Board for the schematic design for Betsy Head Park presented at our December 19, 2017 Board meeting. Because we did not have a quorum at the December meeting, I ask for a vote this evening. In addition, the Parks Department is requesting a letter of support for the design for the rehabilitation of the existing comfort station at Betsy Head Park.

The Transportation and Franchises Committee continues to work on the issue of elevators for stations along the IRT-3 line.

The Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee plans to schedule information sessions to encourage organic recycling in the community.

The next meeting of the City Services Planning Work Group will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the December 19, 2017 and January 23, 2018 reports of the City Services Work Group.

In a roll call vote of 22 in-favor, 1 against, and no abstentions, members of the Board voted to approve the Betsy Head Park Phase 2 design.

In a roll call vote of 23 in-favor, 0 against, and no abstentions, members of the Board voted to approve the comfort station design for Betsy Head Park.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on January 9, 2018 with representatives from the NYC Economic Development Corporation and Armand Corporation to review the design for the East New York Industrial Building rehabilitation.

She asked the representatives to come forward to present the design.

Mr. Ricky Da Costa, Borough Director with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC), stated that he is present with his colleague, Kristen Hinks, Property Manager for the East New York Industrial Building – a building in Community District #16 that is owned by EDC. The building is in disrepair and they would like to make repairs and improvements to it. They have submitted plans to the City Planning Commission for approval and are here to speak about the plans.

Ms. Hinks displayed a slide presentation of the site and indicated that it is in the Industrial Business Zone (IBZ), an area designated to protect industrial businesses. This building is the only one that is city owned in the IBZ. It is on Powell Street between Pitkin Avenue and Belmont Avenue. The building is 30,000 square feet. There are four tenants in the building with one tenant occupying 10,000 square feet.

She displayed photographs of the site indicating that it is not very appealing with its barbed-wire topped chain-link fencing and dull façade. There are some dark conditions and the lighting is not efficient. The parking lots are dark and have damaged asphalt which puddles when it rains.

There is no clear signage on the building so people do not know what is in the building. They are proposing to make changes to the building to make it visually more vibrant and connected to the surrounding community. They will replace the fencing with a perforated corrugated fence that is about 11 feet tall. Signage will be installed that will make the building easily identifiable. They have selected bright blue and yellow colors to make the building stand out and delineate different businesses in the building. She went on to show the different materials to be used at the site. There will be both smooth and corrugate steel used with different types of panels for entries and windows. The panels are insulated to provide comfort and lower heating and cooling cost to the tenants. Lighting fixtures will be affixed to the building as well as pole mounted in the parking lots which will also illuminate the sidewalks.

There will be multiple jobs created and the contractors are required to hire 20% locally. They also have a program called ConstructNYC which local contractors can reach out to.

Someone asked if they will be installing a solar roof?

Ms. Hinks stated they are trying to squeeze a new roof into their budget but she is uncertain about solar panels.

Someone asked if the tenants can only be manufacturers?

Ms. Hinks stated that the goal of the IBZs is to keep manufacturing in the city. There are currently two businesses in the building that each employ about 30 local residents.

Someone asked how many businesses are at the location?

Ms. Hinks stated that the building has six slots. The two businesses that will remain each occupy two slots; EDC will be looking to bring in two additional businesses. The businesses will have to have a minimum number of employees and they cannot be warehouse type of businesses with two or three employees.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to approve the report of the Equity Planning Work Group.

In a roll call vote of 23 in-favor, 0 against, and no abstentions members of the board voted to approve the designs for the rehabilitation of the East New York Industrial Building.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, member of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on January 10, 2018 and discussed the 2018 Youth Conference. A date for the conference has not been determined.

On January 16, 2018, Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, attended a community meeting with Dr. Miatheresa Pate, Superintendent of School District #23, parents, teachers, and principals to discuss the proposed consolidation of Brooklyn Collaborative and Gregory “Jocko” Jackson Middle School. Mr. Alexander will follow up on the course of action being taken by Dr. Pate to ensure community support.

As a follow-up to the announcement made by representative from Brooklyn Collegiate High School at the Community Board meeting on December 19, 2017, that the Department of Education is proposing to close Brooklyn Collegiate at the end of this school year. The Work Group met with the Assistant Principal of Brooklyn Collegiate on January 10, 2018. According to the Assistant Principal, the school did not meet the City’s Department of Education benchmarks to remain open. However, the State Education Department approved Brooklyn Collegiate High School’s compliance. The Work Group will be following up with the Principal of Brooklyn Collegiate to support their efforts to keep the school open. There will be a public hearing at Brooklyn Collegiate, located at 2021 Bergen Street, on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The community is asked to come out and support efforts to keep the school open. The Department of Education is scheduled to vote on the closing at a public hearing on February 28, 2018 at Murry Bergtraum High School, located at 411 Pearl Street in Manhattan. Transportation will be provided from Brooklyn Collegiate.

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.

Recruitment for the Resident Action Committee at Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center, located at 259 Bristol Street, Brooklyn, NY continues. For more information, contact Keira Sutton-Agnew at (718) 312-6142 or ksuttonagnew@health.nyc.gov.

The Health and Human Services Committee continues to gather data on resources available in the community for children in need of mental health services.

The Women’s Committee continues to plan for a financial awareness workshop in February and an event in March to commemorate Women’s History Month.

The Senior Citizens Affairs Committee will be meeting on February 21, 2018, 12:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The next meeting of the Community Resident Planning Work Group will be on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 6:00 pm at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Community Resident Planning Work Group.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work group held a teleconference on January 16, 2018 and reviewed legislations that were passed last year and some of those that would come into effect this year.

You should be aware that the minimum wage now stands at \$13 per hour and that a ban on e-cigarettes came into effect. This could be considered an addition to the legislation banning cigarettes in public spaces, which include work places, restaurants and bars so now e-cigarettes have the same restrictions.

They also reviewed the New York State Family Leave legislation which went into effect January 1, 2018.

Beginning January 1, 2018, Paid Family Leave will provide time off with pay for an employee to:

1. Bond with a newly born, adopted, or fostered child
2. Care for a family member with serious health conditions, or
3. Assist loved ones when a family member is deployed abroad on active military duty.

Protections include:

1. Employees have the right to return to their same or comparable job upon return from Paid Family Leave.
2. Employees are guaranteed continued health insurance while on leave. However, employers may require employees to continue to pay their health insurance premium contributions.
3. Citizenship and immigration status do not impact eligibility.
4. Employers cannot discriminate against employees for taking Paid Family Leave.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Employees with regular work schedule of 20 or more hours per week are eligible after 26 weeks of employment.
- Employees with a regular work schedule of less than 20 hours per week are eligible after 175 days worked.

Benefits are phased in over a four-year period. Employees are eligible for up to eight weeks of paid leave at 50% of their average weekly wage and up to 50% of New York State Average Weekly Wage (SAWW) and it progressively rises:

- 2019 - 10 weeks leave 55% of employees AWW (average weekly wage) up to 55% SAWW.
- 2020 - 10 weeks 60% of employees AWW up to 60% SAWW.
- 2021 - 12 weeks 67% employees AWW up to 67% SAWW.

These benefits are paid through a small weekly payroll deduction. Employees and employers are urged to arm themselves with information about this legislation, especially small businesses and independent contractors. Information can be accessed through the website ny.gov/paidfamilyleave or call (844) 337-6303. You can also get information on how to calculate deductions by accessing the website at ny.gov/pflcalculator to get estimates.

In addition, all employers must inform employees about the Paid Family Leave, employee handbooks should be updated, or written material should be made available, update payroll process to collect employee's contributions that pay for this insurance and employers should even notify employees before withholding any contributions. You can get information from Consumer Affairs Department and the Labor Department. An employer may not discriminate or retaliate against employees for requesting or taking Paid Family Leave.

Following the review of the Paid Family Leave legislation, we began to brainstorm as to what we can do to impact the disparity of the Area Median Income that affects eligibility of affordable housing. We will continue to work on the best solution we can find.

The next Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting will be held on February 20, 2018.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the Family Paid Leave applies to all workers?

Ms. Pierre stated that additional information can be found on the website for individuals to determine their specific eligibility. Overall, it applies to all employees who are employed by a business with a specific number of employees. There are some exemptions.

Chairperson Morgan stated that your Human Resources Department should be able to tell you about the plan and provide written information to you with your paystub. They are also required to have posters with the new guidelines posted for employees to avoid fines by the state.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of Fiscal and Policy Work Group.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 3, 2018 and discussed the following:

Safe Spaces – Locations were identified and the Committee is in the process of vetting/clearing the business for suitability for the program

Public Safety forum – They will begin the process of planning at the next meeting. The process includes collecting questions/concerns, forward to the appropriate agencies for getting the answers/resolutions and selecting panelist suited for presenting to the community.

Narcan Training - The 73rd Precinct will again open their doors for our second Narcan Training event on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 a.m.

On Saturday, January 27th, ABC (7) will broadcast "Operation 7: Save a Life," at 7:00 p.m., please tune in.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the December 19, 2017 and January 23, 2018 reports of the Public Safety Committee.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that her office is temporarily co-located with Assemblywoman Latrice Walker on the 2nd Floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue. Work has begun on preparing her office space on the Ground Level of 400 Rockaway Avenue and expect to begin occupancy by the end of February 2018. Her office can be reached by calling (212) 788-7387.

She introduced Ms. Jennifer Joseph who is serving as her Acting Chief-of-Staff and Chief of District Operations. She has completed the hiring of her staff. Mr. Jamel Henderson, Communications Director, Mr. Everton Smith, Budget and Legislative Director, Ms. Kim Robinson, Community Liaison, Cynthia Moices, Community Liaison, and her permanent Chief-of-Staff, Ms. India Sneed, will begin next month.

She announced that she has been appointed to Chair the Public Housing Committee. She also sits on the Education Committee, the Health Committee, the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, the Committee on Criminal Justice, and the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management. These are the committees which the community asked her to participate on and she looks forward to working with the community on the issues brought to the committees. She also participates on the Speaker's Leadership Team.

As part of a package of criminal justice reforms that will raise New York's age of criminal responsibility from 16- to 18-year-old, youthful offenders must be removed from Rikers Island no later than October 1, 2018. These youths will be transferred to the Crossroads Juvenile Center (Bristol Street at East New York Avenue) and Horizon Juvenile Center, in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. Crossroads' current population is 20; it has a capacity of 126. She will return to a future Community Board meeting to give an update on this issue.

The application process for obtaining funding from your City Councilmember is now open. The deadline for submissions is February 20, 2018. She requests that persons who are submitting applications for funding from her, send her an email to alert her of their submission. She is expecting to have \$500,000 for capital items and \$650,000 for expense items.

Someone asked when will Councilmember Ampry-Samuel hold her Advisory Board meetings? Will they conflict with Assemblywoman Walker's Advisory Board meetings?

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that there will not be a conflict, as the meetings will be combined as sort of a town hall meeting on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Johnnymae Robinson asked when will her inauguration take place?

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that it will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 3:00 p.m. Tentatively, at the Liberty Battalion Church, located at Schenectady Avenue and Linden Boulevard.

Mr. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that Congresswoman Clarke is working with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle regarding the government shutdown. They have agreed on an extension through February and will continue to negotiate.

Congresswoman Clarke, along with Assemblyman Walter Mosley, Senator Jessie Hamilton, III, and Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, will hold a DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) town hall meeting, on Thursday, January 25th at the Grand Army Plaza Library.

She will also have a citizenship drive at Nazareth High School in February, for person who have been lawful permanent residents of the United States for at least 5 years.

Last month, she and a colleague in Queens reached out to both the Brooklyn Postmaster and the United States Postmaster General for a meeting and were declined. They are hopeful that a meeting will be held in Brooklyn sometime in February.

Rev. Eddie Karim, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, stated that Assemblywoman Walker has been appointed to Chair the Black, Asian, and Latino Caucus. Their annual event will take place February 16th through the 19th with a bus leaving for Albany from 400 Rockaway Avenue at 6:00 a.m. on February 17th.

One of the goals of the Caucus is to raise funds for scholarship for our youth. In past, the cost of the event has prevented them from being able give great scholarships to the youth. This year, Assemblywoman Walker, in an effort to increase the amount raised for the scholarships, is instituting a \$10.00 registration fee for youth and senior citizens and a \$25.00 fee for adults. The fee will cover the cost of attending workshops and other events at the Caucus. You may call (718) 498-8681 for additional information.

Mr. Richard Nelson, representing the Office of Senator Jessie Hamilton, III, announced that Senator Hamilton will hold a Senior Mobile Office to assist seniors with issues such housing, public safety, or any other issue of concern to them at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As was mentioned earlier, Senator Hamilton will be collaborating on a DACA meeting on January 25th at 5:30 p.m.

He encouraged the audience to reach out to their office with their concerns by calling (718) 284-4700 or visiting the office at 1669 Bedford Avenue.

An Immigration Specialist is available at their office, once a month. Please call the office for an appointment.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing the Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced that their Conviction Review Unit recently had the 24th overturn of a wrongly convicted individual since 2014. This individual was in prison since 1998 for a rape that he did not commit. Prior to 2014, only two convictions were overturned.

As of April 2017, they are no longer asking for monetary bail for persons charged with misdemeanors. They do not believe that your economic status should determine if you are held in jail while awaiting a trial. It should be based upon the level of threat to our society.

Furthermore, they have stopped treating individuals arrested for drug possession as criminals. They will refer them for treatment before they go before a judge so that they can help themselves. They want to treat drug addiction as a health crisis, not as a crime.

District Attorney Gonzales will announce a groundbreaking initiative aimed at keeping Brooklyn safe and strengthening community trust in the criminal justice system by ensuring fairness and equal justice for all. Justice 2020 will rely on criminal justice reform experts, defense groups, service providers, law enforcement, formerly incarcerated individuals, clergy and community leaders with the goal of becoming the national vision of progressive reform of prosecution. They will continue to keep Brooklyn safe. Individuals who are doing things that are not conducive to a safe Brooklyn will be prosecuted and sent to jail, if convicted. As more information on the initiative becomes available, they will inform the community.

Their Action Center continues to operate and he encourages the audience to contact them about crimes (Other than those in progress which should be reported to 9-1-1.) at (718) 250-3146. He is available to speak to groups in regard to elder abuse and can be reached by calling (718) 250-3146.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Judith Rivera of the Girl Scouts of America.

Ms. Rivera stated that she is a Recruitment Specialist for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York. They are seeking individuals to become troop leaders who will volunteer their time to lead girls at local community centers, churches, etcetera. This an opportunity to share your knowledge and be a mentor and grow with the girls. The Girl Scouts of Greater New York will guide you, train you, and provide many opportunities for troop activities and trips. For additional information, you can reach out to her and informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Morgan stated that there are several troops in the community, including some new ones. Can a list be provided to the Board, so that outreach can be done to the troops?

Ms. Rivera stated that she will ask the Council?

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Jolena Bennett of the Long Life Unity Food Buyers Collective.

Ms. Bennett stated that the food cooperative was started over twenty years ago by someone who was well known in the community, Mr. Jitu Weusi. She is certain that everyone in audience would benefit from having their food dollars stretched further. By becoming a member of the Long Life Unity Food Buyers Collective, you can eat healthier, increase your food buying power, and support the economy of the community. An annual membership of \$20.00 will allow you to place a bi-weekly order of a variety of fresh produce obtained from the Huntspoint Market. Informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Vincent Riggins of Brite Leadership Coalition.

Mr. Riggins stated that he is the Founder and President of Brite Leadership Coalition and is present this evening to inform the community that they are providing resources to help keep Brownsville Collegiate High School from being closed. Brooklyn Collegiate High School is Brownsville's first historical high school.

Brite Leadership Coalition is bringing together stakeholders, including community-based organizations and parents who meet most Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the school. He was the second Parent-Teacher Association President and his son was a member of the basketball team that earned Brownsville's first high school athletic championship. They are seeking the support of the community to ask them to attend the meetings. If they cannot attend, they can email the persons on the list they have created to ask that the school not be closed.

He highlighted the fact that the City is seeking to close 26 schools. Most are schools where the majority of students are of color (59% Black, 40% Latino, 82% low-income, and 3% White).

Chairperson Morgan thanked Mr. Riggins for his efforts in helping to keep the school open.

She announced that Legal Hands will hold workshops on January 25th and February 1st 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 650 Rockaway Avenue. They are available to provide legal assistance on Mondays from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

District Council 37 will hold a Black History Month event at 5:30 p.m. on February 9th at 125 Barclay Street in Manhattan. The Keynote Speaker will be Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

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