

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander	Andrea McCullough (A)
Margaret Brewer	Ronella Medica (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (E)	Melanie Mendonca (E)
Adrainer Coleman	Shemene M. Minter
Brenda Duchene (E)	Genese Morgan (E)
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	Ernestine Turner
Michael Howard	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph (A)	Deborah Williams
Eula Key	Patricia Williamson (A)
Danny King (A)	Pat Winston
Dr. Bettie Kollock Wallace (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Charles Ladson (A)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Wendy Lanier (A)	Cynthia Moices for Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Carolyn Lee	Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Albion Liburd	Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Deborah Mack	James Moutrie for Hon. Latrice Walker
Yolanda Matthews	Devin Thorpe for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
John McCadney, Jr.	

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

First Vice Chairperson Adrainer Coleman called the hearing to order at 6:37 p.m. She requested a moment of silence and that Chairperson Genese Morgan and her family be kept in prayer as they mourn the passing of a loved one.

She called forward Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee.

Mr. Howard stated that this public hearing is to receive comments regarding the response from City agencies to the Board's Capital and Expense Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2019.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that the Board's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities were submitted to the Office of Management and Budget last October. She read aloud the agencies' responses to each item. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

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

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 23, 2018 Community Board meeting.

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

- 1) Information on the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation's annual Summer Internship Program. Apply online at brooklynnavyyard.org/employment/summer-internship. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 2, 2018.
- 2) Information on NYC Ladders for Leaders program, professional internships for NYC youth between the ages of 16 to 22. The deadline to apply to Ladders for Leaders is March 3, 2018
- 3) Information on the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) for New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24. The SYEP Application deadline is March 16, 2018.

- 4) 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 Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept tonight's District Manager's Report.

First Vice Chairperson Coleman recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that he is the Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct and reported that overall crime is down 11% in the command with a slight increase in burglaries. Two burglaries occurred along Rockaway Avenue last week. There was also a location that was burglarized twice by the same individual. He has been identified and they expect to have him in custody soon.

Regarding violent crimes, they are down 50% in homicides with one having been a domestic homicide which has been closed with the arrest of the individual. They are down 66% in shootings year-to-date; going from three last year at this time to one this year. They saw an uptick in domestic robberies. His Domestic Violence Unit is being proactive on the issue of domestic crime. They do outreach to bring awareness about domestic crime and its effects on families and the community. Domestic robbery is defined as a robbery or attempt to commit robbery by one cohabitant against another. As an example, a spouse finds the phone number of a rival on the cellphone of their partner, have a fight over it, assaults the partner and leaves with the phone. They are working hard to get the message out regarding solving these types of issues without resorting to violence.

Even though they have had a decrease in Grand Larceny and Petty Larceny Auto, they are experiencing a small increase in unattended property theft stemming from people leaving items in the vehicles in plain sight. He asks the audience to secure or take their valuables with them when leaving their vehicles.

He cautioned the audience to be aware of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scams going around. The IRS will never initiate telephone calls to taxpayers. If someone calls you and states that they are with the IRS, hang up.

Another type of fraud that is taking place is check washing wherein some or all of the information on a check is removed and manipulated to the benefit of the criminal. The check is then passed on or cashed by the criminal or an accomplice. He encourages the audience to use electronic transfers where possible and ensure that their envelopes fall completely down when placed in mailboxes. The Postal Service is also in the process of adjusting collection boxes to have smaller slots to prevent mail from being fished out of the mailbox.

He also encourages everyone to avoid using their cellphones when leaving their vehicles and wait until they have reached their destination to use their phone. Being alert and aware of your surroundings will keep you from becoming a victim of crime.

Ms. Anita Pierce stated that she recently saw a billboard wherein it appeared that the Police Department is actively seeking to recruit people of color. Is that the case?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that he is familiar with a campaign by the Fire Department. He is unfamiliar with the billboard that Ms. Pierce is referring to, however, he knows that the Police Department is always looking for qualified individuals and offers walk-in test at various locations throughout the city. He invites her to visit the Department of Citywide Services' website (www.nyc.gov/dcas) for information about test schedules and the location of the test sites.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the perpetrators of crime in the Precinct also reside in the area?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that many do. He knows of situations where youth commit crimes within blocks of their home. There are some crimes committed by outsiders but most are homegrown.

Mr. Mawuli Hormeku asked about an incident which occurred in the area of 648 Howard Avenue.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that a shooting occurred at the location. It is under investigation and he cannot divulge more at this time. He is fairly confident that he will be able to give a good report about the incident at next month's Community Board meeting.

First Vice Chairperson Coleman recognized Mr. Andy Inglesby of the New York City Transit Authority and his colleagues who are present to give an update on work to be done on the Canarsie L line.

Mr. Inglesby stated that the Transit Authority and the Department of Transportation are here tonight to give an update regarding alternate service and street treatments for when the reconstruction of the Canarsie Tube takes place. The start of the reconstruction will not begin until April 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by July 2020. They want to bring this information to affected communities well in advance of the changes.

Mr. Eric Lo stated they received input from more than 40 community events and meetings where they spoke about the tunnel closure. Feedback included wanting to have dedicated buses lanes, multiple options for getting around – including ferries should be available and interborough bus service should be simple and straight forward. Bike lanes need to be separated for safety. Street treatments should consider emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles. Their approach will be to use current travel patterns and use modeling to model traffic conditions and test various street treatments and transit options.

The Canarsie Tube was inundated with saltwater during Superstorm Sandy causing corrosion of cabling, circuit breakers and power and track equipment. The tunnel needs to be completely overhauled. A contract for the repairs was awarded in April 2017. They remain on schedule for the 15-month closure to begin April 2019. The contract includes a bonus for early completion and a \$400,000 per-day penalty for delays.

A total of 400,000 daily riders use the L – 225,000 riders use the Canarsie Tube to cross the East River. This is nearly as many inbound passengers during the morning peak hour as those travelling in private vehicles on all six East River bridges and tunnels combined. Fifty thousand riders travel solely in Manhattan and 125,000 riders travel solely in Brooklyn.

L train customers can be grouped into three overlapping zones, each with its own set of alternatives with various train, shuttle bus and ferry routes. Alternative subway service will be the best option for most customers in all three zones (70%-80% of current L tube users). Bus service will be best for 5%-15% with a need for fast and reliable bus service to reduce subway demand to manageable levels.

The L train will continue to operate at all stations in Brooklyn from Bedford Avenue to Rockaway Avenue during the rehab project.

Subway service will be increased on the G, J, M, and Z lines. The J and Z trains will run local from Myrtle Avenue to Marcy Avenue to serve additional demand at Hewes Street, Lorimer Street, and Flushing Avenue. Free MetroCard transfers will be available between the G line and the J, M, and Z lines at Broadway and Lorimer Street / Hewes Street, at Junius Street and Livonia Avenue between the 3 and L lines, and the G line at 21st Street and the 7 line at Hunterspoint Avenue. During weekends and overnights, M trains will run to 96 Street and 2nd Avenue.

Three shuttle bus routes were displayed. One route will operate from Grand Street in Brooklyn to 1st Avenue and 15th Street, another will operate from Grand Street to Bleeker Street and Lafayette Avenue in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan, and the third route operating between Bedford Avenue in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn and 1st Avenue and 15th Street.

Mr. Ryan Feller of the Transit Development Group at New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) stated that to make the bus routes mentioned by Mr. Lo run efficiently, DOT will be making some temporary changes to streets. On the Williamsburg Bridge, during peak hours, they are proposing to limit access to the bridge to trucks, buses, Access-a-Ride vehicles, emergency vehicles, and HOV (any vehicle with 3 or more passengers). They are seeking community feedback on what the hours for restricted crossings should be and will return to this venue to report on the decision, once it has been established.

When the restrictions are in place, the inner roadway will be for HOVs and the outer roadway for buses, trucks, and HOVs making the first right turn off the bridge in Manhattan unto Clinton Street. There will be clearly marked signage to inform drivers of the restrictions.

Someone asked if the HOV implementation will be integrated with the tolling planned for other bridges that cross over the East River and will it continue after the construction is completed.

Mr. Feller stated that HOV restrictions on the Williamsburg Bridge is unrelated to any tolling plan. He cannot speak to the tolling plan. However, the HOV plans for the Williamsburg Bridge are only for the duration of the work on the Canarsie Tunnel which will revert back to the current configuration, after completion of that work.

Ms. Anita Pierce stated that at last month's meeting a presentation was done regarding work to be done on the Atlantic Avenue Bridge. It included plans to mitigate expected traffic congestion caused by diversions. Are there any plans for the mitigation of excess traffic in this community caused by the work to take place on the L line?

Mr. Feller stated that they are working with NYPD on an enforcement plan for traffic along the Williamsburg Bridge and 14th Street which will include some type of in-person enforcement, as well as automated camera enforcement. There are no plans for the impact on traffic in Brownsville or any other locales in the city, but it can be part of another conversation.

Mr. David Alexander asked if an analysis has been done to determine if the bridge can withstand the change in traffic?

Mr. Feller stated that the bridge is up to code and able to handle the additional traffic.

Someone asked if there are any plans in place to accommodate additional riders on the IRT-3 line?

Mr. Inglesby stated that ridership will be monitored with adjustment made as may be needed. However, they are not currently anticipating ridership to increase beyond current capacity.

Mr. John McCadney stated that a large amount of funding was allocated towards rehabbing the Myrtle Viaduct and the Fresh Pond Bridge to accommodate the work to be done on the “L” line. As late as last year, the Board requested that at least a temporary elevator be installed at Junius Street and Livonia Avenue to help people with mobility challenges make the transfer between the lines. Considering the Junius Street station has the greatest elevation of stations in the District, has any thought been given to the request?

Mr. Inglesby stated that they were pleased to have their request for free transfers approved. However, the cost of installation of an elevator is quite high. In the 1980s the MTA was mandated to make 100 stations accessible by 2020.

By the end of 2020, they will have met the goal of 100 stations. They are currently in the planning process of what will happen next. The MTA has a new president who wants to get as many stations ADA accessible as possible.

Regarding a temporary elevator, this is not something that they would do. Elevators are expensive to install. They would not install one just for temporary use.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil reminded Mr. Inglesby that there are no ADA accessible stations in the entire District.

Mr. Inglesby stated that he is aware of this.

Mr. McCadney stated that the MTA is currently being sued on the issue.

Mr. Inglesby stated that he cannot comment on any active lawsuits.

He thanked the audience for their comments and stated that they will return with further updates as they get closer to the start of the rehabilitation project.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Marie Pierre, Legislative Committee Chairperson, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on February 20, 2018 and

reviewed the responses from the city agencies to the Community Board's Capital and Expense Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2019. Members of the Work Group were disappointed by the responses, especially those from the MTA regarding the request to install elevators or escalators along the IRT- 3 line.

They briefly revisited the lack of affordable housing in our area in relation to projects proposed in our community. They will continue to work on this issue.

At the next Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting on March 19,2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the First-Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, they will begin planning for a voter education forum.

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

Mr. Albion Liburd, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, called forward Mr. Mawuli Hormeku, Executive Director of Nehemiah Economic Development (N.E.D.), Inc., to announce opportunities available to the community through his organization.

Mr. Hormeku announced that they received a grant from the New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability to increase awareness of solar energy and access to solar through community group purchasing led by the NYC Solar Partnership: Sustainable CUNY of the City University of New York, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and New York City Economic Development Corporation.

N.E.D. is looking for Solar Pioneers who live in the community, ages 16 to 19, who will be trained to do outreach for Solarize Brownsville 2018. Candidates must attend a Solar Boot Camp at 3 Black Cats Café and Cakery, located at 3 Belmont Avenue, on Saturday, March 10th at 9:00 a.m. (Breakfast and lunch will be served.). Candidates who are selected to take part in program will be furnished a stipend of \$1,000 for working four weekends (eight hours on Saturday and a few hours on Sunday). For more information, please email Mr. Gabriel Jamison at solarpioneer@nehemiahed.org.

Mr. Liburd reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on February 13, 2018 and reviewed two applications for State Liquor Authority licenses and heard a presentation by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn CDC.

The Work Group has established a process for all applications, which include applicants satisfactorily responding to and agreeing to the following:

- What is the level of security to be provided at the establishment?
- What are the management and marketing plans for the establishment?
- What, if any, accommodations will be made for parking?
- Agree to return to the Work Group on a quarterly basis to review the management of the SLA License
- Agree to regular visits by the Work Group to ensure compliance with SLA regulations and Work Group mandates
- To collaborate with other similar establishments in the community, where possible
- Agree to join the local BID, where possible

The State Liquor Authority application was for a location for a social club at 552 Howard Avenue (between Eastern Parkway and East New York Avenues), a site formerly occupied by S and H Glazer Building Supplies and Appliances. The applicant had previously applied for a State Liquor Authority license at another location, which the Committee had supported; however, due to business circumstances they did not open or move into that space. The applicant is a membership organization, providing a place for its members, primarily of Nigerian heritage, to socialize and have celebratory affairs. It will be open Monday to Saturday, from 4:00 p.m. to midnight with occupancy for 30 people.

The Work Group voted to support the application.

The applicant for a site at 371 E 98th Street was unable to appear before the Work Group and it was tabled for future consideration.

A representative from Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn CDC appeared before the Work Group, for a letter of support in their application for funding. NHS of Brooklyn CDC made a presentation of outlining their history and the services that they are able to provide to the community.

The Work Group, as per its decision-making process, outlined its requirements for supporting NHS Brooklyn CDC's grant application:

- Agree to provide a guaranteed percentage of the work and support to residents of Community District #16
- Agree to review the opening of an NHS Brooklyn CDC office in Community District #16, or at the very least partner with a local CBO to provide NHS Brooklyn CDC services locally
- Agree to engage Community District #16 residents for all levels of employment

The Work Group elected to table NHS Brooklyn CDC's request for a letter of support until it received a response to its concerns from NHS Brooklyn CDC.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be on March 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if any members of the Work Group visited the location on Howard Avenue.

Mr. Liburd stated that he and some other members have visited the site.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the report of the Equity Planning Work Group.

In a roll call vote of 15-in favor, 4-against, and 0-abstentions, members of the Board elected to support the liquor license application for a social club at 552 Howard Avenue.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the City Service Planning Work Group met on February 8, 2018, to discuss Swim for Life, Howard Playground, and Saratoga Ballfield. Mr. Peter Kohnstamm, Director of the Swim for Life Program, in collaboration with the City of New York Parks and Recreation, presented on the Swim for Life program and how it would greatly impact our community.

Swim for Life is an innovative program that provides second grade students in New York City's public schools with basic swimming instructions, arming them with an important skill that provides lifelong health benefits. The long-term goal for this program is to annually train all second graders enrolled in New York City public schools. According to Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, participation in formal swim lessons reduces the likelihood of drowning by 88%. It was mentioned that a letter of support from Community Board #16 is needed.

A representative from BMS Family Health Center, Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez, discussed Howard Playground Art, wherein local artists created 20 pieces of art with the community's input and displayed the art in the playground. The program was a success. It showed an increase of the use of the playground and a sense of pride of the community.

They also met with Ms. Zora Hardamon, Executive Director of What About the Children, Inc., to discuss the renaming of Saratoga Ball field to Hill Top Park which identifies the Ocean Hill community. They have been very active in the upkeep of the new park along with Ms. Johnnymae Robinson, and the Ocean Hill community. All information was presented and a letter of support from the Community Board #16 is needed.

On April 6, 2017, the Transportation and Franchises Committee met with Eric and Lamont Mitchell who are seeking the Community Board's support to co-name Rockaway Avenue at Livonia Avenue in memory of their late brother Clinton Mitchell. Mr. Eric Mitchell stated that they grew up in Brownsville initially on Livonia Avenue and later in Marcus Garvey Village. Clinton became a boxer, won the Golden Glove and became a professional boxer. His career ended when he was diagnosed with diabetes, to which he eventually succumbed.

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

Mr. Eric Mitchell was invited to attend tonight's meeting to address the audience. However, he is not present at this time.

She thanked everyone who participates in our City Service Planning Work Group meetings which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to support the request for a letter of support for the Swim for Life program.

A motion was made by Ms. Johnnymae Robinson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to support the request for a letter of support for the renaming of Saratoga Ballfield to Hilltop Park.

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on February 14, 2018 and discussed proposed school closings and school mergers in the District.

Brooklyn Collegiate was removed from the school closing list. They were given one year to bring the students' academics up to the New York City Department of Education standards. The Youth Services Planning Committee thanks all who participated in the rally to keep the school open.

The Gregory "Jocko" Jackson School of Sports, Arts, and Technology at 213 Osborn Street and the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School, located at 85 Watkins Street are being considered for consolidation into one middle school (MS363) to be located at 85 Watkins Street. There will be a public hearing on March 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 85 Watkins Street. The Panel for Education Policy (PEP) will formally vote on March 21, 2018. More information will be provided as the process unfolds.

Preparation for the Youth Conference continues. A date and location will be announced at next month's meeting.

Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street on the 3rd Floor; telephone number (718) 498-4513 has open enrollment for SONYC BIZ, Entrepreneurial program for students attending middle schools, Youth Community Ambassador Program, and their GED program for ages 17 and up.

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.

Volunteers are needed to work with the Jes Good Rewards Children's Garden at 155 Amboy Street. For additional information and application, contact Carina Nieves at (212) 602-5317 or carina.nieves@parks.nyc.gov.

Applications for the Nehemiah Economic Development (N.E.D.), Inc. Merit Scholarships for graduating high school seniors in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville, and East New York communities will be available thru May 1, 2018. A total of \$20,000 in scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For additional information, visit www.nehemiahed.org.

In response to the current health condition in Brownsville as reflected in the Brownsville Plan, the Health and Human Services Committee, in collaboration with the Brownsville Neighborhood Action Center and the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health and Wellness Center, is organizing a Neighborhood Health and Wellness Stakeholders Group to address the health disparities and inequalities in the Brownsville Community.

The Neighborhood Health and Wellness Stakeholder Group will establish:

- a) a communication system with all health service providers, related data, activities and funding
- b) an evaluation/assessment system that accurately gauges the health impact of all community-based organizations, city, state, and federal agencies' plans or activities in Brownsville
- c) a set of best practices for community organizations, agencies in Brownsville roles for health equity to the community.

Ultimately, the Work Group seeks to understand Brownsville's story, coordinate, invest, empower residents and health services agencies to eliminate the barriers to health and wellness in Brownsville and is determined to coordinate health resources and services to advance a healthier Brownsville.

On February 14, 2018, the Community Residents Planning Work Group met with representatives of ACI, a chemical dependency residential and outpatient treatment center. ACI incorporates a holistic and wellness treatment approach towards treating chemical dependency, mental illness, medical/physical challenges, and spiritual voids.

After discussing the ACI proposal to relocate their residential treatment center to Brownsville, members of the Work Group requested that they reach out to similar programs in the community. The Work Group will revisit the proposal at next month's meeting.

The Work Group also met with a representative from the Mayor's Office regarding a New York City soccer initiative to install a soccer field at the Christopher Avenue School (P.S. 150).

She called forward Mr. Ifran Ahmed to elaborate on the soccer field initiative.

Mr. Ahmed stated that he is with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization with a mission to facilitate public-private partnerships throughout New York City's most vulnerable communities. The NYC Soccer Initiative seeks to build, maintain, and program 50 soccer fields across the five boroughs over the next five years. They built ten fields last year and are now in their second year.

He met with the principal and the Parent-Teacher Association of P.S. 150 (located on Belmont Avenue between Christopher Avenue and Sackman Street) who are in support of the soccer pitch being installed. Their current playground is in need of rehabilitation. It contains two side by side basketball courts. One of which is badly deteriorated. It is their proposal to rehab the area and install the soccer field on top of the playground and bring in a free afterschool program wherein youth will receive free soccer clinics and gear.

They are seeking to collaborate with the community and would like to reach out to the Community Board to identify other possible locations for soccer field, in the District. The Soccer Initiative is supported through a partnership with the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the New York City Football Club, Etihad Airways, and Adidas.

The surface of the field will be an acrylic product found to be well suited for this use. There is a maintenance fund that will allow for maintaining the field and any repairs that might be caused by acts of vandalism.

Someone asked if the collaborators are only looking at schoolyards as locations for the fields?

Mr. Ahmad stated that they are working with the Department of Education, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York City Authority and are not limiting themselves to public lands.

Someone asked if the soccer fields will be permanent installations?

Mr. Ahmad stated that they will be permanent with the goal anchored into the ground.

Mr. David Alexander asked if ownership of the land would be transferred to the Soccer Initiative?

Mr. Ahmad stated that the land will remain the property of the agency whose catalogue it was in. The agency will continue to be held responsible for the property.

The Community Residential Planning Work Group recommends that the Community Board support the proposal to install a soccer field at P.S. 150.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of death in Brooklyn. Brooklyn men die from colorectal cancer at a higher rate than women.

There will be a Colon Cancer Awareness Forum on March 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street. Please attend.

The Senior Citizens Affairs Committee met on February 21, 2018 at the Mt. Ararat Senior Center where a Community Health Advocate from the Brooklyn Perinatal Network presented a workshop on “Nutrition Labels” to learn how to make healthy food choices using the information on the nutrition facts label.

The next Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting will be on March 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The next Senior Citizens Affairs Committee will be on March 21, 2018, 12:00 p.m. 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 Work Group and its recommendation to support the proposal to install a soccer field at P.S. 150.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee held a conference call on February 3, 2018, and discussed the Safe Spaces Project – the launch of which has been postponed from April to September.

The Committee is working on a Public Safety Forum, much like the last one, Q&A to first responders who help keep the community safe. She has established a “Project Committee” to work on this and is seeking three additional people to work on the Committee. An initial meeting will be held during the 3rd or 4th week of March.

As part of their effort to reduce fatalities from opioid drug use, on Saturday, February 10th, the Committee hosted another Narcan Training at the 73rd Precinct. Completion of the class allowed 7 community members and another 37 police officers to be certified. They issued all 50 of the available Narcan kits.

She thanked Ms. Debora Harris, along with a Health and Hospital Corporation administrator, for the education and the professionalism they provided at no cost to the attendees. She looks forward to continuing to work with them.

Members of the community who were unable to attend a training are urged to get informed. Many of us know someone, if not ourselves, who rely on pain relief drugs, and sometimes the use of the drugs goes in unplanned directions. Learning as much as we can to better control the outcome of as many of these situations as possible, can make you better prepared to help someone in need. You can learn more at the next Narcan training class.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on March 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

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

First Vice Chairperson Coleman recognized Mr. James Moutrie, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice M. Walker.

Mr. Moutrie announced that Assemblywoman Walker will host her next Advisory Board meeting on the third Saturday of March at 400 Rockaway Avenue. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 342-1256.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Baron, announced that an information session will be held on homes that are available for sale in the Gateway Center section of East New York at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, located at 859 Hendrix Street, on March 12th. He encourages persons who may be interested in purchasing a home to attend.

Ms. Cynthia Moices, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, stated that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel is currently sharing office space with Assemblywoman Walker on the Second Floor at 400 Rockaway Avenue and expects that her office space on the First Floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue will be ready for use in a few weeks.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., announced the repeal of the City's cabaret law, beginning March 1st. This racist law had been in effect since the early 1900s during the Harlem Renaissance.

Councilmember Espinal's office has moved to 1945 Broadway, near Broadway Junction. This move gives easier access to their multitude of services to constituents. The telephone number continues to be (718) 642-8264.

Ms. Adrienne Felton, representing, the Office of Public Advocate Leticia James, stated that she is Public Advocates James' liaison to Community District #16. She can be reached by calling (212) 669-7683 or (646) 942-1663.

She announced that copies of Public Advocate James' newsletter are available on tonight's distribution table and includes information on the availability of childcare resources at CUNY schools.

Although not many people are aware of this resource, CUNY is one of the few schools that make childcare available to students. The reason for this is not that being kept quiet, but rather because it is not well organized. The Office of the Public Advocate has been pushing to get them better organized so that they can better serve those who need their services.

They are also working on using the law to help New Yorkers keep "Obamaphones" (Lifeline Assistance) a federal program that the current presidential administration is seeking to cut or end. The cellphones are in wide use in New York City, especially in communities of color.

Lastly, Public Advocate James is calling on Bank of America to rescind its new policy of charging fees to customers who have low balances in their eBanking accounts. In their original agreements, the eBanking account offered customers a checking account without any monthly fees, provided they conduct their business online or at ATMs. If the eBanking customers wanted to get their statements by mail and speak with tellers in person, the accounts would carry a monthly fee.

Now, the bank has swapped those remaining customers into an account that requires customers to maintain a minimum daily balance of \$1,500 or at least one direct deposit a month of \$250 or more. Public Advocate James is threatening to disinvesting city funds from Bank of America if they proceed with their plan to charge fees on these accounts.

Ms. Carolyn Lee asked for some clarification on the "Obamaphones".

Ms. Felton stated that Public Advocate James has called on the Federal Communication Corporation (FCC) to protect the Lifeline Assistance – federal program that provides subsidized cellular telephone service to qualifying individuals. Over a million New Yorkers participate in the program, the majority of whom are senior citizens.

Mr. Marcus Harris, Special Assistant to Borough President Eric Adams, stated that he is present tonight due to the passing of Malcolm McDaniel's mother and asks that the audience keep him and his family in prayer.

Mr. Harris announced that there will be a Black History Month event at Brooklyn Borough Hall on February 28th at 6:00 p.m. where they will be honoring several Black businesses.

Free tax preparations services are being offered to individuals who earn \$24,000 or less up to families of four who have earned \$66,000 or less in 2017.

He was pleased to hear Colon Cancer Awareness Month mentioned in one of the reports given this evening. Borough President Adams spoke to him and stated that people need to be informed on screenings for this disease. In most cases, we are told that men should begin screening for colon cancer at age 40. He was only 37 when he was diagnosed. You should be aware of any family history of cancer, as it can play a part in determining your risk of getting the disease. If a

doctor tells you that your insurance will not cover a colonoscopy, that is a copout. If your body is telling something is not right, seek a second opinion.

On Thursday, March 1st, they will host a Colon Cancer Awareness Month Forum where you can learn about the role of genetics, screenings, nutrition, symptoms, and treatment for colon cancer. They are also collaborating with 10 Brooklyn-based hospitals to provide no-cost screening to people who are uninsured or under-insured by call the Borough President's office throughout the month of March.

Mr. Richard Nelson, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, announced that Senator Hamilton is sponsoring Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow's Brownsville Career Bridge Program which is an eight-week intensive program for 18- to 24-year old Brownsville residents with job readiness.

Senator Hamilton will host his 3rd Annual Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Awards On March 17th, at the St. Francis De Sales School for the Deaf, located at 260 Eastern Parkway from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP with his office at (718) 284-4700 as seating is limited.

Mr. Devin Thorpe, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud, reported that they operate a "Mobile Office" as a way of bringing services from her physical office out to the community at a temporary location. Please call their office at (718) 649-7653.

Free legal assistance is offered through Senator Persaud's office. Their Legal Help Center will be available to provide free legal assistance on civil issues related to: housing, foreclosure, employment, and Superstorm Sandy. Appointments should be scheduled by contacting Senator Persaud's office at (718) 659-7653.

First Vice Chairperson Coleman recognized Ms. Cecilia Pilgrim of the St. Jude Treatment Center.

Ms. Pilgrim stated that she is the Director of the Center which has been located at the corner of Powell Street and Belmont Avenue since 1970. They primarily treat persons who are addicted to heroin. However, today, other opiates are also problematic and they treat them as well.

She is present this evening with their new Medical Director, Dr. Daniel Louis and they are here to introduce themselves to the Board. She has been with St. Jude Treatment Center, more commonly known as the Powell Street Center, for many years and has risen through the ranks to become Director. They are available to help people in the community with substance addictions to overcome those addictions.

Dr. Louis stated that they want to be a positive influence in the community and possibly be a resource through the workshops that they provide.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked Dr. Louis if the dispensing of methadone is their primary way of treating opiates?

Dr. Louis stated that it plays a part. They think of it as a band-aid. It is what their patients need in the short-term to help them lose their dependency. However, the real treatment is the counseling that they provide.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu stated that she is unfamiliar with the name St. Jude Medical Center. Were they known by a different name?

Ms. Pilgrim stated that they are an offshoot of St. Joseph's Medical Center in Westchester. Prior to that they were affiliated with the old St. Mary's Hospital and then the St. Vincent's Medical Center.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu asked that they keep communications with the Board ongoing, so that the Board can be aware of available resources.

First Vice Chairperson Coleman announced that the Van Dyke Stakeholders is seeking individuals to join their team. For additional information, call Jamel Evans at (718) 974-2798 or email him at jevans@courtinnovation.org. An information session will be held on Wednesday, February 28th at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue.

There being no further business to discuss, First Vice Chairperson Coleman requested that the audience keep Malcolm McDaniel, William Boone, Genese Morgan, and their families in prayer as they mourn their loved ones and adjourned the meeting.