

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 22, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander	Genese Morgan
Margaret Brewer	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (E)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Busayo Olupano (E)
Adrainer Coleman	Anita Pierce (E)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Marie Pierre
Kaseem Edwards (E)	Linda Rivera
Norman Frazier	Johnnymae Robinson (E)
Danny Goodine (A)	Keturah Suggs (E)
Sarah Hall	Richard Swinson
Balinda Harris	Eric Thompson (E)
Zalika Headey (E)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene
Mawuli Hormeku	Ernestine Turner
Michael Howard	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Lannetta Jeffries (E)	Deborah Williams (E)
Carl Joseph	Pat Winston
Maurice Joyner (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Eula Key (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Dr. Betty Kollock-Wallace (E)	Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Charles Ladson, Sr. (E)	Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Digna Layne (E)	Antonya Jeffrey for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Carolyn Lee (E)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
Kelly Lee-McVay	James Moultrie for Hon. Latrice Walker
Albion Liburd	Nicholas Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Deborah Mack (E)	Freida Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Yolanda Matthews	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
John McCadney, Jr.	Devin Thorpe for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Ronella Medica (A)	Henderson Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry
Melanie Mendonca	Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron
Shemene Minter (A)	Jason Salmon for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and requested a moment of silence in memory of the late Danny King who was a member of the Board and the late Rev. Thelma Martin, former Chair of the Board.

Chairperson Morgan requested that newly appointed members stand to be recognized.

Mr. Richard Swinson stood and made his presence known.

Chairperson Morgan, in behalf of the Board, congratulated Mr. Swinson on his appointment and welcomed him to the Board. She noted that members of the Board were invited to a Swearing in Ceremony at Borough Hall and a number of new appointees chose to attend that event and could not be here tonight.

A roll call of Board members was conducted with no quorum being present.

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

- CITY BEACHES - Memorial Day weekend marks the official start of beach season in the City. While lifeguards will be on duty, she cautions everyone to be careful along the surfs.
- CASH FOR GUNS PROGRAM - The City of New York offers \$200 to anyone who surrenders a gun. This program is part of an ongoing effort to encourage New Yorkers who own guns to turn them in anonymously. For additional information, please contact the 73rd Precinct. You do not have to identify yourself and you will not be asked any questions.

- Additionally, the report contains information about summer activities for youth, information on protecting one's self from the West Nile Virus, information on teen-only activities at the Met Museum on Friday, June 1st, and information several available grants.

Chairperson Morgan next recognized Ms. Scholanda Miller of Brownsville In, Violence Out.

Ms. Miller stated that Brownsville In, Violence Out (BIVO) is an anti-gun violence program under the umbrella of CAMBA as part of Mayor Bill di Blasio's efforts to prevent gun violence. As part of the CURE Violence network (There are 18 sites throughout the city with seven in Brooklyn.), BIVO works with young people in Brownsville who have been involved with or are at risk of becoming involved with gun violence and gangs. Their target age group is 16- to 24-years old, but they will work with youth of any age.

The program provides participants with a variety of supportive services, including job training programs and access to employment, legal and therapeutic services, conflict mediation, driver's-ed, health awareness and public safety seminars.

Based on the national Cure Violence model, BIVO works closely with community partners and individuals in Brownsville.

On Friday, June 1st, they will host their Hands Around the Catchment event to coincide with the start of National Anti-gun Violence Awareness Month.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Desiree Walker from S.H.A.R.E.

Ms. Walker stated that SHARE is a not-for-profit organization offering dedicated and experienced support for women facing breast and ovarian cancers. She is an Outreach Coordinator for the organization. She is present this evening because about five years ago, SHARE received funding for outreach into the Black and Latino communities and formed their Ambassador Program. Ambassadors are available to give presentations which last about an hour and discuss all aspects of breast and ovarian cancers.

While breast cancer in men is rare, it does exist. Richard Roundtree, the actor known for his role as the original Shaft in film, is currently touring the country to inform people about men's breast cancer issues. She also noted that you do not have to have a family history of breast cancer to have breast cancer yourself. Women have been diagnosed with the disease in their 20's and as late as their 90's, having acquired a certain age does not mean you can no longer get breast cancer.

Persons or organizations that wish to get additional information or have an Ambassador give presentation may reach out to her this evening.

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

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that his late arrival is due to his having delivered some "Ceasefire" letters. The Ceasefire program presents a unified front from law enforcement (including the New York City Police Department, King's Country District Attorney's Office, NYC Department of Probation, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision and others) that continued violence will be met with swift and certain consequences. The Police along with community leaders (including faith leaders, mothers of murdered children, ex-offenders, and others) visit people involved in street groups—gangs, and crews to let them know that the violence is unacceptable and must stop. They deliver letters to members of the groups to try to stop retaliation violence from taking place and let them know that help is available for those who want to change. Group members are notified about services that could help them turn their lives around—anything from GED classes to city ID cards to help finding a job. If the group member fails to comply, the weight of all the City agencies will come down on them. If the violence does not stop, prosecutors will use every means at their disposal to make consequences rain down—not just on the next person who pulls the trigger, but on his entire group. Those on probation or parole will find their conditions tightened. District attorneys will aggressively investigate minor complaints.

A few weeks ago, they experienced something that has not been seen in Brownsville in a long time; a drive-by shooting. Five individuals were shot in the shooting incident. This not

something that they cannot allow to continue happening. With the assistance of Chief Maddrey, former Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct and now Borough Chief, he has additional resources which he has deployed to help find the culprits and reassure the community of their safety. To that end, they have their Strategic Response Group working 24-hours a day. The Anti-crime Units from both the Borough and Citywide have been utilized. The Narcotics and Gang Units have also been used. Their efforts have been fruitful with 14 guns having been removed from the street from 14 separate incidents. One less gun on the street is one less gun available to potentially shoot someone.

There was a spike in assaults in the Precinct with stretch of violence in one week where they experienced 5 separate shooting incidents with 10 people shot and 2 dying from them being shot. This past weekend, there was another shooting death which occurred at 7:43 a.m. when they were not at full staff. Robberies are down 25% for the 28-day period and 7.4% year-to-date. Three juveniles in the midst of committing a robbery were arrested yesterday. They believe that these youths are also responsible for several other robberies in the area of Glenmore Avenue and Junius Street.

He is happy that they have been apprehended, while simultaneously saddened the youth were involved. Hopefully this will prevent further robberies in the area and get the youth the help they need. The Police Department's obvious goal is to stop crime. But beyond that, they want to work with their community partners to help those who are in situations wherein they commit robberies by getting to the root cause of the behavior. When they arrest youth, he brings them into his office and has an honest talk with them to try to find out what can be done to assist them. He offers resources to them to get them on the right path.

Ms. Linda Rivera asked what is the status on the shooting which took place on Decatur Street?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that the investigation is going well and they expect to have someone in custody for the crime soon.

Someone asked about the recent rise in K2 related incidents.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that in the past few weeks, over 50 individuals in the 73rd, 81, and 83rd Precinct have been overcome by smoking K2. In the 73rd Precinct, including an incident that occurred about an hour ago, there have been nine individuals adversely affected by the drug. It is not marijuana or synthetic marijuana, it is 100% poison. K2 is poisonous and there appear to be a batch out that is particularly hazardous to the health of users. Residents of the area's shelters, at 2402 Atlantic Avenue, 599 Ralph Avenue, and 1424 Herkimer Street, seem to be the most affected population.

They have a public awareness campaign going on to address the issue with a mobile unit disseminating information along Broadway and a public service announcement is airing on television warning people of the danger in using the drug.

On the investigative side, they are actively seeking the source and distribution network of the tainted batches of K2.

Someone asked what penalties do store owners face for selling K2?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that selling K2 over-the-counter is currently an administrative code violation with a summons issued. He does not know if the City Council will raise the penalty.

Someone asked if the increase in personnel has led to an increase in stops? He has a number of stops happen to him for no discernable reason.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that the Department has gone to extreme lengths to train officers on when and how to act during street encounters so that they leave both parties feeling satisfied. This, of course, does not mean they will always be successful. He knows that the Department is endeavoring to make every encounter courteous, professional, and respectful. He apologizes that this may not have occurred with the encounters that the questioner has experienced. However, their Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) complaints have been dropping year by year.

The level of supervision is increasing. Body-cams are being deployed and soon every officer will have and use them for all encounters. As Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct, he

wants to make sure that this is happening. However, in many instances, the negative encounters stem from misunderstandings. The public may not have full knowledge of certain police procedures. Sometimes, it is a rude officer and that is when he becomes greatly concerned. Any officer found to have acted contrary to those policies, will no longer work for him.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Deputy Inspector Mascol for his report and answers to questions raised this evening. She related a situation wherein she and another member of the Board observed several plain-clothed white officers get out of their car and approached a young man of color. They stopped and searched him. They apparently found no cause to hold him further and they and the young man went about their businesses with no further incident. The situation caused her discomfort, however, she does not know what the officers may have seen prior to that encounter. She also understands that the police are trained to observe and spot things that she is not in her profession, and vice versa. She will always give police officers the courtesy that they deserve, but it is not okay for them to stop and search our innocent young men without good reason. Walking down the street is never a crime.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that, at times, the public may see an encounter between police and a civilian and take it as being unreasonable without knowing what information the officer may have to cause them to act as they do. It is also important that officers, where possible, let the community know why someone is stopped. At the end of the day, no one wants to be stopped by the police. It is an intrusion into one's life, especially when one is innocent. He, a Commanding Officer of a precinct, feels anxious when he sees flashing lights behind him while driving.

Mr. Henderson Hutchison asked a question concerning the Precinct use of body cameras.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that they have not received body cameras. They are slated to be received sometime around July.

Someone asked what is the CCRB?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that it is an independent organization that is empowered to receive, investigate, prosecute, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action upon complaints filed against members of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) that allege the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. Members of the Board are all civilians and they are just one of many oversights of police. Aside from the CCRB, there is the Department's Internal Affairs Bureau, Borough Inspections, Local Inspections, and each precinct has its own Integrity Control Officers.

Someone stated that the CCRB's Liaison to the 73rd Precinct is Mr. Timothy Harrell who can be reached by calling (212) 912-7280 or (646) 923-1671.

Chairperson Morgan stated that he also attends Community Board #16's meeting at least once each quarter. She also encouraged the audience to participate in the Community Board's Public Safety Committee meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of each month and the 73rd Precinct Community Council meeting which are held on the third Thursday of each month. Attending these meetings will help in keeping you aware of laws and how they affect our community. Being well informed of your rights allows you to be less intimidated, should you become involved in a police encounter.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Khari Edwards, Vice President of External Affairs for Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center (Brookdale).

Mr. Edwards stated that on January 21, 2018, Governor Andrew Cuomo submitted a proposal to allocate \$650,000,000 to assist three hospitals, Brookdale, Interfaith Medical Center and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center merge into one system to be called One Brooklyn Health System.

Brookdale will be the anchor of the System. This means they will be doing more cancer research and treatment, and more neuro-science research and treatment. Recently, they were able to save the life of a 38-year old patient who had a full-on stroke on Thanksgiving Day, to a point that he was able to have his thanksgiving meal with his family two days later. They have a cardiac catheterization lab, a dental program, and are continuing to improve their infrastructure.

He thanks Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, Assemblyman Nick Perry, Senator Jesse Hamilton and Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel for all the work they have done to ensure that most of the funding came to this area where it badly needed.

As part of the Vital Brooklyn initiative, housing will be a component of this program and 140 units of housing will be constructed on Brookdale's campus at 98th Street and Hegeman Avenue. About 240 units will be built on Interfaith Medical Center's campus and 300 to 350 units on the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center campus.

In a study done by the Greater New York Health System, it was found that Brookdale's catchment area of East Flatbush, Brownsville, and East New York has income of over a billion dollars and can sustain the hospitals. They are there to save lives, but it is a business and plays a part in the local economy. The hospital is an important part of the community. If Brookdale was not operational, the next closest hospital is Kings County. Brookdale is one of only three trauma centers in Brooklyn; the others being Kings County, and the former Lutheran Hospital (now, NYU). The One Brooklyn hospitals are all safety net hospitals, accepting Medicare and Medicaid. Patients do not have to worry whether their insurance will be accepted or not.

Someone stated they recently had a heart attack and is very pleased with the care that was given to her at Brookdale. This has changed her perspective on how she looks at Brookdale and she now highly recommends them.

Mr. Edwards stated that some of the misconception about the service at Brookdale stems from emergency room visits. A person will come into the emergency room with a headache or a cough and wait for hours. Part of the reason this happens that they prioritize emergencies over urgencies. A person with a gunshot wound will be treated before someone with a headache even if he or she arrives after the patient with the headache. To help alleviate this pressure on the emergency room, they opened an urgent care center to deal with non-life-threatening issues.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if they treat individuals regardless of their ability to pay?

Mr. Edwards stated that under state statute and as a safety net hospital, their job is to save lives without consideration as to a patient's immigration status or ability to pay.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that her quarterly newsletter has gone out in the mail and highlights the work that she has been doing in her district since January. Her monthly newsletter has also been published and is distributed at her monthly Advisory Board meetings. A digital edition of the newsletter is available and will be sent to anyone who sends her an email at district41@council.nyc.gov.

She is the Chairperson of the Public Housing Committee of the City Council and they have had four oversight hearings with representatives from the New York City Housing Authority and have a fifth meeting which will be at Seth Low Houses on June 18, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. It is being held at Seth Low Houses because it seems to her that many people cannot make it to City Hall and why not have it in the community. At this meeting, they will be discussing development on NYCHA parking lots and infill areas. They will also be discussing the conversion of apartments to Section 8 apartments as well as senior housing. She encourages the audience to attend the meeting, even if they do not reside in NYCHA housing, as it does have an effect on all of us.

The City Council is currently going through their budget hearings. A major piece that has been submitted is the Executive Budget Plan in which the Council has responded to the mayor's executive budget. There are having daily hearings with all the City's agencies discussing the City's budget and its impact on the districts they serve. She encourages the audience to look at the proposed budget and provide comments to her.

Aside from being Chairperson of the Committee on Public Housing, she also sits on the Committee on Health, Committee on Education, Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, and the Committee on Criminal Justice. There are issues around criminal justice and Raise the Age which will affect our community with the transfer of minors from Riker's Island by October 2018. Because the Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center is in our community it will impact the community. There

are also discussions taking place about a transportation hub being placed in the community for the Department of Corrections.

Applications for the Habitat for Humanity housing units being built on Thomas S. Boyland Street and Park Place are expected to be distributed in the coming weeks. The Kreshma Inn, designated as a hotel on St. Mark's Avenue, has opened as a men's shelter. Currently, there is no requirement to inform the community or the City Council until 24-hours before a new shelter opens. They are working on policy to change this.

A lien sale workshop was recently held in this building providing information on avoiding and dealing with tax liens on properties. There are over 800 properties in her district which tax liens attached to them. If you or someone you know has a lien on their property, please contact her office. There are legal advisors and resources available to assist property owners.

Senator Jesse Hamilton stated that he was visiting a NYCHA building and noticed a number of people in wheelchairs waiting for the elevator and it troubled him to think about what would happen in a fire if this many people were on floors above the ground floor need to get out. Last year, he got legislation passed that requires that persons with mobility issues be given priority to lower floor apartments when they are available.

When he arrived in Albany, he became the Chair of the Mental Health Committee. He learned that Riker's Island houses more people with severe mental health issues than all the other mental health facilities in the state combined. New York was one of two states (South Carolina being the other) which still incarcerated 16- and 17-year-olds with adult populations. Leading them to come out of prison 36 more times likely to commit suicide. We pay \$75,000 per year to incarcerate the young boys and girls.

When he was young, his mother would constantly ask him what he wanted to be when he grew up? He would always respond "a doctor or a lawyer", but he did not know any doctors or lawyers in NYCHA. As he went on to college, he came to realize that the other students were not any smarter than he was. They were just better off than he was – they had more money. With this in mind, he brought the CAMPUS program to Howard Houses. The first of its kind in public housing throughout the nation. They are teaching children how to code and create apps. Young boys and girls with a high school diploma can earn \$80,000,000/year with these skills. The program is doing well and they had a coding competition at Medgar Evers College.

Sadly, when he asked the students who Medgar Evers was, only one Arab-American young lady could tell him. He is saddened that our youth are not being thought their history to bring up their self-esteem. Regarding Black history, youth are only being taught about Martin Luther King, Jr., slavery, Harriet Tubman, and Fredrick Douglass, Jr. We have done much more than this as Black people. Last year, he was able to have legislation pass unanimously in the Senate to have Black history taught from K to 12, all year long. About two weeks later, he started receiving letters asking why he wanted to have children learn Black history. He was called racial slurs and knows that we need to combat this with the education of our youth.

On June 8th at 7:00 p.m., he will sponsor a free screening of Marvel's Black Panther at 3rd Street and 7th Avenue.

With the recent revelations about NYCHA's failure to conduct thousands of lead paint inspections, he is offering free lead testing any child living in an apartment. Interested persons can call his office at (718) 284-4700.

Also passed last year was Brianna's Law which was in the legislature for 7 years. It was passed this year because of the death of a young man from Brownsville, Rysheen Ervin, who he saw die before his eyes. Mr. Ervin was shot outside of Howard Houses and the two police officers who responded to the incident did not know how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). When EMT's arrived, they placed him on their gurney and transported him to Brookdale Hospital where he died.

Senator Hamilton vowed then to never allow another person in this city to die because a police officer did not know how to perform CPR. He persevered to ensure that this time around Brianna's Law was passed and requires that members of the division of state police and of the City of New York Police Department complete training in CPR upon entry and every 2 years thereafter.

He is the first person of color in New York State history to Chair the Banking Committee. He is looking to bring change to the Brownsville community. Check cashing services should not be serving as our banks. The money exists in the community but they want to charge us more for fees. He is attempting to bring more banks into Brownsville. Banks where we can be served with courtesy and not a lot of fees. He has an objective to bring \$20,000,000 into Brownsville for business development.

Lastly, he will host a BBQ at 2:00 p.m. on June 2nd at 218 Rogers Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 11, 2018 and discussed names to place in nomination for Executive Officers of the Board from June 2018 to June 2019.

During their discussion, they considered the following criteria for nominations:

- 1) Number of years the member has served on the Board.
- 2) Is the member actively serving on at least one (1) committee of the Board?
- 3) Is the member in regular attendance at Community Board and committee meetings?

Having considered these criteria, the Committee recommends the following members to fill the Executive Offices:

- Chairperson - Genese Morgan
- 1st Vice Chairperson - Linda Rivera
- 2nd Vice Chairperson - Adrainer Coleman
- Secretary- Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu Treasurer-Sarah Hall
- Parliamentarian - Albion Liburd

The floor was opened for further nominations for the positions of Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

There being no quorum present, the matter was tabled.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on May 8, 2018 and had a presentation from the Department of City Planning on the M1 Hotel Text Amendment which will require a special permit for new hotels in M1 districts. A Public Hearing will be scheduled at next month's Community Board meeting where City Planning will make a presentation and a vote will be taken.

They also met with representatives from the Brownsville Culinary Center, located at 69 Belmont Avenue about personnel issues that came to our attention. After discussion, we found that there was a misunderstanding. Now that management of the Culinary Center is aware of the concerns, they will work with the trainees to resolve the issues.

The representatives of the Brownsville Culinary Center expressed that they're having difficulty recruiting males between the ages of 18 and 34 years old for the program which is a 40-week apprenticeship-based model that provides participants with skills to succeed in culinary careers.

For more details about the free culinary training program, contact Phillip Hoffman at (914) 397-7700.

The Work Group also met with the owner of Dusk Till Dawn Restaurant at 371 East 98th Street which is applying for a full liquor license and is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board.

The matter is tabled pending additional information from the owner and follow-up by the Work Group.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be on June 12, 2018.

Chairperson Morgan reported that on May 16, 2018, members of the Board, Assemblymember Latrice Walker, and Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuels met with representatives from the Mayor's Office for Criminal Justice, Administration for Children's Services, and the Department of Design and Construction regarding a plan to convert an existing City-owned vacant lot at 1505-1509 East New York Avenue (Block 1465, Lots 42, 43,44 and 29) into a Transportation Staging Hub for the Administration for Children's Services(ACS) to park 21 vehicles that they will use to transport young people in ACS's secure and non-secure facilities citywide.

During the discussion, it was discovered that the City Administration looked at a total of 74 sites citywide for the parking lot.

Because our community's need for other resources such as affordable housing for our residents is great, she strongly recommends that Community Board #16 oppose the plan to construct a parking lot at 1505-1509 East New York Avenue.

The following resolution is being submitted for the Board's consideration:

WHEREAS, available land for housing construction is diminishing in Community District #16 and the need to maximize the use of the limited number of vacant lots that remain under City ownership in Community District #16, and

WHEREAS, we have given thoughtful consideration as to the best use of the City-owned land at 1505-1509 East New York Avenue, and

WHEREAS, other locations throughout the City have been surveyed for the Transportation Staging Hub,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #16 opposes the plan to convert existing City-owned lots at 1505-1509 East New York Avenue (Block 1465, Lots 42,43,44 and 29) to a Transportation Staging Hub for the Administration for Children Services.

Chairperson Morgan requested that Dr. Cleopatra Brown come forward and read a resolution for the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee. In accordance to the bylaws of the Board, the resolution must be read aloud at three consecutive Board meetings before it can be voted upon for adoption. It was read initially, at last month's and will be read again tonight, and at the Board's June meeting and voted on at the June meeting.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown read the resolution for establishing the Committee:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Committee Chairpersons to work closely with the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board to review existing or proposed changes in the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Veterans Affairs Committee Chairperson and Committee members to work collaboratively on issues and projects in the District to advocate for the unique needs of Community District 16's veteran population, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that veterans are a disadvantaged group and are entitled to services, benefits, and preferences with the use of public resources, and

WHEREAS, it has been requested that a Veterans Affairs Committee be established at the start of Fiscal Year 2019 which begins on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Affairs Committee will become a part of the Community Resident Planning Work Group which includes the Youth Services Planning Committee, Women's Committee, Senior Citizen's Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, and

WHEREAS, forming a Veterans Affairs Committee will help to improve the overall quality of life for veterans living in Community District 16 which includes Ocean Hill and Brownsville, Brooklyn, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee requires an amendment to the Board's bylaws with a majority vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Brooklyn Community District 16 will amend its bylaws and include the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee to advocate and achieve the greatest outcomes for veteran residents of Community District 16 to become effective on July 1, 2018.

Chairperson Morgan reiterated that the resolution will be heard again at next month's meeting to ensure everyone has an opportunity to hear it prior to it being voted upon to amend the by-laws and becoming a part of the by-laws.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group held a teleconference on May 16, 2018 to finalize plans for a Voter Education Forum which was held on May 19, 2018. Stakeholders included Medgar Evers College, the DuBois-Bunche Center, East Kings County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center, National Association of University Women Brooklyn Branch, Coalition of Young Professionals of Ocean Hill Brownsville, and Young People 4 Young People.

Topics covered included:

- The 2020 Census and how it will affect redistricting.
- The Importance of Voting and how it affects our community,
- The Role of Government and how it impacts our community.

Professor John Flateau of Medgar Evers College stressed the importance of everyone being counted during the 2020 Census. An undercount will not only affect who represents us locally, but also the quality of life in our community whereby we can lose services.

Mr. Jamel Henderson spoke about the Importance of Voting and how it affects our community. He illustrated the importance of voting in a simple way by making us focus on the outcome as investments.

There was also a panel discussion with Assemblymember Latrice Walker, Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuels and Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblymember Charles Barron. The panelists answered questions relating to issues they confront in their respective offices.

Understanding that our elected officials had scheduling conflicts, we thank Sen. Jesse Hamilton and Sen. Roxanne Persaud for stopping by and offering a few remarks on what they are doing as our representatives. The Work Group extends its gratitude to Senator Velmanette Montgomery for the valuable literature she provided on the 2020 Census, the State Constitution, and why our votes count.

Although a greater response from the community was sought, a seed was planted and the Work Group will continue their effort at voter education. They will be conducting several sessions soon.

Chairperson Morgan commented that those who missed the event, missed a well-planned and stimulating discussion. Had a greater number of community members attended, they would be a force to recon with. She encourages the audience to register and encourage their friends and neighbor to register and vote.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 2, 2018 with Ms. Julie Taylor of the Brownsville Community Justice Center to review their program performance in our district. The Committee has not concluded the information session as they are awaiting additional information from Ms. Taylor. Once received, a complete report will be available for review and recommendations will be accepted.

The Work Group also finalized plans for their upcoming Public Safety forum. She encouraged the audience to please submit questions and comments to have discussed during the public forum.

The Committee wants to celebrate the young people in our District who take pride in being a positive influence in the community. She asks anyone interested in collaborating with the

Committee to attend next month's meeting, in order to organize and play a role in the celebration of one of our strengths.

She asked for a moment of silence dedicated to Mr. Danny King, who served as a member of the Public Safety Committee and thanked him for his service.

The Committee will next meet on June 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board's Office.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on May 9, 2018 with representatives from Rebuilding Together NYC, a nonprofit organization that provides free critical home repairs and accessibility modifications to income qualifying homeowners throughout New York City, and discussed the various home repair programs that are available to Brownsville homeowners and veterans.

To apply for home modifications and repairs, you must submit a complete application. Electronic and printable versions of the application can be found on Rebuilding's website at rebuildingtogethernyc.org/apply under the heading "Critical Home Repair/ Accessibility Modification". For further questions and to verify your income eligibility, please call (718) 488-8840, ext. 21.

The Health and Human Services Committee wishes to remind you that June is National Safety Month, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month, Men's Health Month and Cataract Awareness Month. Please be aware of your health concerns and be your own health and wellness advocate.

The Brownsville Health and Wellness Stakeholders Group met on May 4, 2018 and there were 33 in attendance.

The goal of the Stakeholders is to create a set standard for healthcare in our community and hold agencies and providers accountable while eliminating duplications and identifying gaps to ensure quality and health equity.

The Stakeholders were very concerned and discussed the obvious unavailability of complete and appropriate data for Brownsville youths and children mental health services. A six-member committee volunteered to work on the project and finally enable the committee to fulfill one of its 2018 goals to "create awareness and provision for youth and children mental health first aid services".

At the Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting on May 9, 2018, they met with Mr. Ifran Ahmed from the NYC Soccer Initiative. They have identified a second site at the Riverdale Avenue Community School, located at 76 Riverdale Avenue to construct a soccer field which will be open to Ocean Hill-Brownsville residents.

The work Group recommends that Community Board #16 provide a letter of support to construct a soccer field at the Riverdale Community School.

On May 8, 2018, he and Chairperson Morgan met with Ms. Newman, Principal of Brooklyn Collegiate High School to discuss the needs of the school. This School is in Renewal Status and was selected to be closed by the Department of Education (DOE). The Community rallied against the closure and we were able to get a one-year extension. The closure process can restart if the school does not achieve DOE's goals and standards. He and Ms. Morgan will follow up on the school's progress and offer community support to ensure that the school continues to be a viable institution in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The Youth Services Planning Committee met on May 14, 2018 and had a follow up teleconference on May 17, 2018 with members of the Youth Empowerment Conference Committee to discuss final plans for the Youth Conference which will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018, 10:00 a.m. at Brooklyn Collegiate High School, located at 2021 Bergen Street.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corp (CBEDC) continues to recruit middle school students for the SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial Program and the Youth Community Ambassador Program. They also have open enrollment for the GED program (ages 17 and over).

For further information, visit CBEDC on the 3rd floor at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street or call (718) 489-4513.

The Campus Afterschool Tech and Art Program, located at 85 Watkins Street, for middle school students has open enrollment. Call (718) 284-4700 for applications.

Persons interested in attending the Father and Mentors Program, may call William Rochford at (718) 240-3657 or (917) 428-0647 to obtain the date and time of meetings.

The Senior Citizens Affairs Committee met on May 16, 2018 at Mt. Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St. Mark Avenue.

Mr. Shelton Jones from the Office of District Attorney Eric Gonzalez had a conversation with seniors about four types of elder abuse: 1) Financial- involving money and property, 2) Physical- inflicting bodily harm, 3) Neglect- deny food, clothing, etc., and 4) Sexual- partner to partner.

Mr. Jones also made us aware of scams that have resulted in financial lose to seniors.

The next senior meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 12:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The next Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting will be on June 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. James Moultrie, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Mr. Moultrie stated that Assemblywoman Walker continues to champion the needs of the community in Albany. She hosts a joint Advisory Board meeting with Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 400 Rockaway Avenue and invite everyone attend the meetings.

Assemblywoman Walker's office can be reached by calling (718) 342-1256.

Ms. Antonya Jefferey, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that Congresswoman Clarke will host the Brooklyn Smart Cities Caucus Launch to showcase the best Brooklyn has to offer in a conversation with policymakers and industry leaders on what is currently happening as well as what the future holds in areas like infrastructure, mobility, renewability, and sustainability. Speakers will discuss their experience, challenges, resources needed, and potential legislation and regulation at the federal level. Brooklyn entrepreneurs, especially those involved with technology are strongly encouraged to attend.

Congresswoman Clarke is interested in hearing comments on legislation being proposed in Congress and wants to hear from the community. Anyone who has comments and/or concerns with legislation can reach out to Ms. Jeffrey at a Board meeting, by calling (718) 287-1142, or visiting their office at 222 Lenox Road.

Mr. Henderson L. Hutchinson, representing Assemblyman Nick Perry, reported that in addition to helping pass the budget proposal for funding One Brooklyn Health System, Assemblyman Perry has allocated \$620,000 towards the purchase of a new MRI machine for Brookdale.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has been allocated \$860,000,000 to update their infrastructure.

There may be a transportation fiasco next April with the closing of the Canarsie Tunnel. The Department of Transportation is continuing to work on ways to mitigate problems the tunnel closing will cause. The closing needs to be done because of the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy.

Part of the \$1.4 billion allocated to the Vital Brooklyn initiative which was mentioned earlier will go to an anti-gun program to help reduce gun violence in our communities.

Mr. Hutchinson warned the audience to be on the alert for IRS scams wherein people are called and asked to send money to IRS using money transfer cards and services. Remember, the IRS will never call you on the phone.

Considering the development going on in East Flatbush, Canarsie, and soon Brownsville, developers are constantly soliciting property owners and looking to buy their homes for a fraction of their worth. At next month's Board meeting, he will have placards that can be permanently displayed to let the developers know that the owner is not interested in selling. If they continue to try to solicit you, the police may be called and the solicitor charged with trespassing and harassment.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblyman Charles Barron and Councilmember Inez Barron, stated that Councilmember Barron has announced that persons 18 years and older can become poll workers and earn up to \$500 for working two elections and attending training.

They have called the New York City Department of Finance to meet with property owners in the auditorium of Thomas Jefferson High School on June 12, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to answer questions regarding property taxes.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., announced that Councilmember Espinal will host a free breast cancer screening event on Wednesday, May 30th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 2440 Fulton Street, near the Broadway Junction train station.

They have been receiving a rash of phone calls from immigrants and DACA recipients who have received letters asking them to show up for a court and are then arrested. Should you or anyone you know receive such a letter, please contact their office and legal assistance will be made available to you.

Councilmember Espinal's district office is located at 1945 Broadway, the telephone number is (718) 642-8664 and members of his staff are available to assist constituents with various issues.

Mr. Nicholas Perry, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported that a study was done on the effect of AirBnB on the New York City economy. The report shows that AirBnB has played a significant role in causing rent spikes across the city. It takes affordable housing units off the market limiting the supply and driving up rents for working New Yorkers.

To be clear, Comptroller Stringer is not disputing the right of owners and renters to lawfully rent their spaces and apartments. However, the lack of transparency and enforcement in this industry is resulting in abuses that are undeniably and measurably impacting affordability in our City.

The report contains some facts about the AirBnB effect on Brownsville. In 2016, there were 416 AirBnB units in Brownsville which cause an increase of approximately \$181.

Second report from the Comptroller deals with the New York State bill on marijuana regulation and taxation. From California to New Jersey, people are more supportive of the legalization of marijuana. In New York, legislation is working its way through Albany to make marijuana legal here. The report states that the legalization would add \$1.1 billion to the city's tax revenue.

Lastly, as part of his Caribbean American Heritage Month celebrations, Comptroller Stringer invites everyone to join him at a celebration at Tropical Paradise Ballroom on Utica Avenue, on June 16th at 6:00 p.m.

A representative from the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District announced their Summer Plaza events for June 10th, 17th, and 23rd.

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