

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 23, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander	John McCadney, Jr. (E)
Margaret Brewer	Ronella Medica (A)
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (E)	Melanie Mendonca
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Shemene Minter
Adrainer Coleman	Genese Morgan
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (E)
Norman Frazier (E)	Busayo Olupano (A)
Danny Goodine	Anita Pierce
Sarah Hall	Marie Pierre
Balinda Harris (E)	Linda Rivera
Zalika Headey	Johnnymae Robinson (A)
Kevin Henderson (E)	Keturah Suggs (A)
Mawuli Hormeku	Richard Swinson
Michael Howard	Eric Thompson
Lannetta Jeffries (A)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene
Carl Joseph (E)	Ernestine Turner
Maurice Joyner (A)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Eula Key	Deborah Williams (E)
Dr. Betty Kollock-Wallace	Pat Winston
Charles Ladson, Sr. (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Digna Layne	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Carolyn Lee	Cynthia Moices for Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Kelly Lee-McVay	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
Albion Liburd	Antonya Jeffrey for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Deborah Mack (E)	Shelton Jones for Hon. Eric Gonzalez
Yolanda Matthews	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., and an invocation was said Rev. David Damascus.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Alison Esposito, Executive Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Esposito stated that Halloween season is upon us and reminded everyone to be mindful of the kinds decorations and costumes displayed during the holiday.

She informed the audience of an arrest made in the killing of Oluwadurotimi “Timi” Oyebola and of recent crime statistics for the Precinct.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Commissioner Gregg Bishop of the New York City Department of Small Business Services.

Commissioner Bishop stated that there are a number of Workforce1 Centers throughout the City. They recently opened a center at 2619 Atlantic Avenue which was created through the input of this community. Their reports showed that the greatest number of users of their Bond Street Center came from this community, so they built the satellite center at 2619 Atlantic Avenue. If you or someone you know are seeking employment opportunities, he encourages the use of the Workforce1 Center. They have helped place 25,000 New Yorkers into jobs, varying from entry-level positions to positions in healthcare paying \$100,000. If you are seeking to change careers, they can also assist you with training opportunities.

Small Business Services (SBS) oversees the City’s 75 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). In this community, there is the Pitkin Avenue BID which they recently awarded a 3-year grant that allows them to hire a full-time program manager. The Pitkin Avenue BID will be conducting a resource assessment survey to determine what the merchants needs may be, in terms of retail attraction, etcetera. They will also be implementing a revitalization program to provide services for local businesses.

Working with the Community Board and local organizations, SBS wants to make sure that they are vested in this community. They want to ensure that their outreach teams are available, if needed. This team is available to go, literally, door-to-door to talk to business owners about the services that SBS offers. If you know of a corridor where businesses may not be familiar with SBS, he asks that you contact him by email at gbishop@sbs.nyc.gov. He wants to hear from the community about any issue concerning SBS.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if SBS offers startup grants?

Commissioner Bishop stated that they do not. However, they do work with the private sector and may be able to direct an entrepreneur to business competitions that offer funding.

Someone asked who can be contacted in regard to expansion funding for women-owned businesses?

Commissioner Bishop stated that one may email him, call 3-1-1, visit their website at nyc.gov/sbs, and specifically for women, they have a web portal at we.nyc. The portal has information on events taking place around the city, mentorship information, and other resources available to women entrepreneurs. The website women.nyc offers information available to women across the various city agencies.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Commissioner Bishop for coming to tonight's meeting. She stated that one of the items in tonight's public hearing on budget requests is a request for a Workforce1 Center located in Community District #16 which has been on the Board's budget request for at least 6 years. There is also a need for small business services in the District. A recent report showed that small businesses are opening at a much slower rate in Brownsville, as compared to other parts of the City. She asks that when considering these items, this year, the Commissioner consider different responses than those of the past.

Commissioner Bishop stated that his agency is committed to bringing resources to this community which is one of the reasons that he has invested in a mobile vehicle. Brick and mortar locations require funding. Much of the agency's funding is provided by the federal government. The current Administration has threatened major cuts to their funding. Although the cuts have not been implemented, he cannot consider brick and mortar items with the threats still looming. He is happy to bring services through the use of their mobile office to bring services to the community, but, unfortunately, he cannot commit to building a permanent office until the federal budget issue is resolved.

The roll was called and revealed that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Mr. Richard Swinson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to commence the public hearing.

Chairperson Genese Morgan, in behalf of Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, report that each year, the Community Board is required to submit its Statement of Community Needs and its capital and expense budget recommendations.

The capital budget allocates funds for physical improvements, land acquisition, and major equipment. Capital budget eligibility is defined as costing more than \$35,000 and lasting more than 5 years.

The Board can submit up to 40 capital budget requests

The expense budget allocates funds for the ongoing operation of the city. These include salaries, fringe benefits, and pensions for city employees, the interest and repayment of the city's debts, supplies, equipment, and energy cost, etc.

The Board may submit up to 25 expense budget requests.

In preparing the Statement of District Needs, we are asked to identify three most pressing issues overall. The following is submitted for the Board's approval: Youth and Education, Affordable Housing, and Health Care and Human Services.

The following requests have been submitted for the Capital budget:

<u>Priority No.</u>	<u>Request</u>
1	Reconstruct Floyd Patterson Field with synthetic turf for multi-purpose use such as baseball, football, soccer, and cricket.
2	Construct a comfort station at Powell Playground which will also service Houston Playground located across the street.
3	Install CCTV cameras at Howard Houses.
4	Upgrade student bathrooms, library, and auditorium at Kappa V.
5	Rehabilitate Osborn Playground to include new play equipment and safety surface, in addition to comfort station.
6	Renovate Brownsville Multi Service Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, to include bathrooms, elevator, heating and ventilation system.
7	Provide ongoing street repairs to prevent potholes and cave-ins.
8	Install elevator or escalator at the Rockaway Avenue IRT-3 station.
9	Install elevator or escalator at Sutter Avenue-Rutland Road IRT-3 station.
10	Install elevator or escalator at the Saratoga Avenue IRT-3 station.
11	Install elevator or escalator at the Sutter Avenue station on the “L” line.
12	Install elevator or escalator at the New Lots Avenue station on the “L” line.
13	Install elevator or escalator at the Livonia Avenue station on the “L” line.
14	Install elevator or escalator at the Junius Street IRT-3 station.
15	Upgrade lights along Livonia Avenue between Junius Street and East 98 th Street.
16	Improve handicap accessibility of the Broadway Junction station.
17	Install elevator or escalator at the Atlantic Avenue station on the “L” line.
18	Reconstruct Betsy Head ballfield and running track.
19	Reconstruct Chester Playground adjacent to P.S. 327.
20	Repair broken sidewalks and curbs, and install pedestrian ramps along Pitkin Avenue commercial strip.
21	Repair broken sidewalks and curbs, and install pedestrian ramps along Belmont Avenue commercial strip.
22	Construct comfort station to service Nehemiah Park and Floyd Paterson Field.
23	Renovate Livonia Park to include new benches, chess and checker tables.
24	Rehabilitate Fish Playground (adjacent to I.S. 271) to include new play equipment.
25	Install recyclable facilities at all NYCHA buildings in Community District #16.
26	Rehabilitate Dr. Richard Green Playground.
27	Upgrade play equipment at P.S. 125 Playground (adjacent to Brownsville Houses).
28	Renovate Saratoga Library branch to include heating and cooling system, and safety and security enhancements.

29	Repoint and rehabilitate limestone at Stone Avenue Library branch which also needs a new roof and side entry steps.
30	Reconstruct Newport playground.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor to further recommendations for Capital Budget items.

Someone suggested that a request be made for the installation of elevators at the Chauncey Street station of the “J” line.

Someone asked for the installation of a speed hump on Riverdale Avenue at Strauss Street.

Chairperson Morgan stated that is not something for the budget process and can be requested by speaking to the District Manager.

Additional requests were made for the renovation of the bathrooms at the Riverdale Middle School at 76 Riverdale Avenue, renovation of the pool house and swimming pool at Betsy Head Park, renovation of the bathrooms at P.S. 298, upgrades to electrical systems of district schools, upgrade lighting in and around the East New York Station of the Long Island Railroad, update restrooms at School District #23 Parent Resource Center and update a District 16 park to include a dome to allow year-round usage.

The following requests have been submitted for our Expense budget:

<u>Priority No.</u>	<u>Budget Requests</u>
1	Install air condition units in all School District 23 buildings
2	Provide more housing for extremely low and low-income households.
3	Provide more housing for medium income households.
4	Provide summer youth employment programs.
5	Provide a WorkForce1 Center in Community District #16.
6	Establish One-Stop small business center to include MWBE programs and technical assistance to support local businesses and entrepreneurs.
7	Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings.
8	Expand early care and education programs provided by day care and headstart centers.
9	Provide Career and Technical Education programs for high school students.
10	Continue funding for Cornerstone and Beacon programs.
11	Provide mental health, education and awareness services for victims of human trafficking.
12	Increase manpower to clean rain gardens.
13	Provide a Forcible Entry Door for Battalion 44 to enable ongoing training of firefighters in the method of opening locked doors during fires.
14	Provide technical upgrade for students at Brooklyn Collegiate High School and additional funding for STEM.
15	Create programs to de-stigmatize mental health problems and encourage treatment.
16	Create programs for education and awareness on nutrition, physical activity, etc. to reduce chronic diseases and conditions such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, strokes, heart disease, etc.
17	Increase transportation services for elderly residents.
18	Enhance home care services for elderly residents.
19	Continue funding homeless prevention programs.
20	Increase home delivered meals to low-income elderly residents.
21	Provide financial assistance for storefront and façade improvements along the Belmont Avenue commercial strip.

22	Provide financial assistance for storefront and façade improvements along the Pitkin Avenue commercial strip.
23	Provide ongoing cleaning of catch basins.
24	Provide ongoing street tree pruning.
25	Provide services for maternal and infant mortality, centering pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor to suggestions for the Expense Budget.

A request was made to change the language of Item 1 to reflect that air conditioning is needed in classrooms and kitchen.

A request was made to word Items 2 and 3 in a manner to reflect the actual financial needs of the community with regard to affordability.

A motion was made by Ms. Digna Layne, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Richard Swinson, and carried to accept minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted the following from her report:

- Brownsville Library Branch - There will be a Community Dinner and Visioning Session for the Brownsville Library Branch on Friday, November 2, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 61 Glenmore Avenue.
- On November 6th all polling places in New York will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on November 6, 2018. In addition to voting for federal and state candidates, there will be three propositions on the ballots.
- Garden Apprentice Program - The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is now accepting applications for the Garden Apprentice Program. Apprentices learn about careers in public gardens, science, the environment, and education through hands on or work placement in the Garden. Apprentices are eligible for community service credit and earn a monetary award upon successful completion of the program. Students in grades 8 to 11 are eligible to apply.

There will be an information session on November 3, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. An RSVP is required. To register for the information session and apply for the Garden Apprenticeship Program, go online to www.bbg.org/gap. The deadline for applications is November 28, 2018.

The report also contains information on: Teens Take Heart CPR Program a customized CPR training program targeting high school students throughout the City, E-Waste Removal, and the City's Urban Fellows Program.

Additionally, the report contains information about various available grants and complaints received by the office during the month.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the District Manager.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group held a meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

The members of the group met with managers from Popular Bank, formerly Banco Popular located at 1670 Pitkin Avenue. The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss and present updates on the Banking Development District Application which will establish a Banking Development District for all of Brooklyn Community District 16.

The application is being submitted by Popular Bank in collaboration with the Brooklyn Borough President and Brooklyn Community Board 16 to the New York State Department of Financial Services.

The purpose of establishing the Banking Development District is to help address historical inequalities to financial resources in the community such as unemployment, lack of retail diversity, lack of access to banks; and prepare residents of Brooklyn Community District 16 for opportunities that will result from planned community development over the next 5 years as a result of the Brownsville Plan and Vital Brooklyn. Some of the expected outcomes are:

- Increased financial literacy education
- Increased access to credit builder products
- Increase access to individual and business checking and savings accounts
- Increased access to small business capital
- Increased opportunities for employment through small business development
- Increase access to homeownership loans, home equity loans and other community support.

Currently, approximately 28% of the community is un-banked, 13.5% is unemployed and 32% live below the poverty line. Consequently, economic stability is a social determinant of health, and Ocean Hill – Brownsville has some of the highest rates of chronic illness in New York City. Therefore, by improving the economic conditions of residents the overall health of the community will also organically improve.

She asked Mr. Juan Rodriguez and Ms. Margaret Rivera from Popular Bank come forward to elaborate on the Application.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the purpose of the Banking Development District is to provide financial education to the community. They look forward to working with the community in bringing that information to them.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if Popular Bank offered any programs wherein they interact with schools in the community?

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they can offer tours of the bank.

Several audience members made comments and suggestions concerning youth and banking. Many suggested programs wherein the bank could bring banking services to the schools. Questions regarding requirements and fees were asked.

Ms. Margaret Rivera stated that they do not have any programs where they bring banking to schools, but they would accommodate bringing the children to the bank. Parental consent is required for minors to open and maintain accounts. They have youth accounts in which fees are waived. The accounts require the child's social security numbers and birth certificate.

Ms. Zalika Headley asked if the bank offers first-time homebuyer education?

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they can provide seminars for groups or do one-on-one sessions.

He stated that they are also looking to have senior banking days to help the seniors with their specific issues.

The Equity Planning Work Group recommends that the Board supports this application. The item is now turned over to the Board for a vote.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board unanimously elected to support the Banking Development District Application of the Popular Bank.

Additionally, the Work Group reviewed one renewal liquor license application for Party Life Lounge.

The business is a bar lounge/event hall located at 31 Truxton Street corner of Mother Gaston Boulevard; Brooklyn, NY 11233 and is owned and operated by Mr. William Marcellin.

The initial application was supported by the Board in November 2013 and a renewal application was supported by the Board in May 2016. The establishment continues to operate as originally presented in 2013 and there have been no incidents recorded; however, the 73rd Precinct has suggested that the business owner be reminded that all activities be contained to the inside of the business premises to be neighborly and avoid the perception of disturbance.

- (a) The business is not located within 200 feet of a place of worship
- (b) The business is not located within 500 feet of a school house
- (c) The business has submitted to a tour of business

The Equity Planning Work Group recommends that the board supports this application.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board unanimously elected to support the Liquor License Application of Party Life Lounge.

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

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on October 10, 2018 with a representative from the NYC Health and Hospital Immigration Unit. The Representative informed us that everyone is eligible for care despite their immigration status. If there are any concerns regarding immigration and medical care issues, the individual can always call 311 for information. Also discussed was a free Health Insurance 101 Workshop, which will be held on November 13, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235. Light refreshments will be served.

The workshop will include:

- Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D
- Medicaid Basics
- Preventive Services
- Enrollment Assistance & resources for the uninsured
- What's new for 2019, and beyond.

For any further information, please call (212) 788-3450. To register visit: coneyhealth101.eventbrite.com. The deadline to register for workshop is November 6, 2018

The Community Resident Work Group also met with the Director of Reborn for New Life LLC, Licensed by NYS OASAS Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program, currently located at 400 Liberty Avenue, Brooklyn. This Outpatient program has a myriad of services both social and emotional, to ensure that the patient is able to complete the program with success and dignity. The program director is seeking to expand to 1709 Eastern Parkway in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, to broaden the scope and participants of her program. She is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board.

He asked Ms. Elizabeth Torres, Director of Reborn for Life LLC, to come forward to make a brief presentation.

Ms. Torres stated that Reborn for Life is an outpatient a dual diagnosis drug and alcohol addiction treatment program. They provide treatment for substance abuse, relapse prevention, domestic violence counseling, and parenting skills classes. Research shows that substance abuse often coincides with poor parenting skills and anger management issues. They collaborate with the Brooklyn Treatment Courts, Community Supervision (a/k/a Parole), the Administration for Children's Services, and Good Sheppard Service.

The grant would allow them to offer substance abuse education and workshops as well as provide outreach to veterans who may not be aware of services available. She, herself, was caught in the situation where she did make enough to afford services; but, made too much to qualify for assistance after being honorably discharged from the Army and becoming a alcohol abuser. She knows first-hand that with the right guidance people can turn their lives around and become productive individuals.

She feels compelled to give back to the community and opening the new site will allow them to provide 13 to 15 new jobs in the community. Services will include job readiness – dress for success, utilizing life experience on resumes and interviews, assisting veterans with housing, and education services for youth all with the mission of teaching clients skills they need to have a sustainable life free from substance abuse.

The Work Group is devising a Mental Health Intake and Evaluation Survey to identify the mental health needs of children 18 years old and under. Most surveys include the entire family, but do not specify the individual child receiving services although the adults receive mental health services. This survey will serve the youth and their family in many ways 1) Identify the child's condition, 2) locate community services for the child, and create programs in the community to address the child's needs. The Health and Human Services Committee would like to ensure that the children suffering mental health issues can be addressed as soon as possible so they can live a productive life in school and beyond.

The Senior Citizen Affairs Committee held their Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on October 18, 2018 at Betsy Head Park. The Walk was attended by approximately 100 individuals.

The Veterans Affairs Committee held its Inaugural Event on September 27, 2018 at 444 Thomas Boyland Street. The veterans had a chance to meet community-based organizations dedicated to servicing veterans from mental health services to finance and other benefits. A follow up event will take place on October 24, 2018 at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, to identify what services the veterans need and connect them to the appropriate provider/program.

The Youth Services Planning Committee discussed several concerns that will be addressed in the coming session.

- Making all schools ADA compliant
 - Status of air conditioning units for all classrooms in District 23
 - The committee will review the reading and math scores which were recently received and offer support and assistance to Pre-K -12th grade students to ensure the schools are receiving appropriate tools so that the students can maintain their accurate grade levels in a timely manner by making recommendations.
- Central Brooklyn has open enrollment for the following programs:
 - SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial Programs for student attending middle schools
 - Youth Community Ambassador Program for middle/high school students
 - GED Program ages 17 and up. Both programs are located at 444 Thomas Boyland on the 3rd Floor – telephone number (718) 498-4513

The CAMPUS Afterschool Tech & Arts Program for Middle School Students is open at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street, has open enrollment. To enroll, call (718) 284-4700 for applications

Fathers and mentors are now meeting. If you are interested in the Fathers and Mentors Program call Mr. William Rochford at (718) 240-3657 or (917) 428-0647, to obtain the date and time of the meetings.

Please feel free to join or attend any of the committees to inform us of your concerns and feedback. We are all in this together. The Community Resident Work Group will meet on November 14th.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, 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 met on October 16th and the legislative agenda discussed voter education and reviewed the ballot proposals that we are asked to vote on this year.

On voter education, the Work Group exchanged ideas as to how we can do better at outreach, what are the groups we would like to target, which topics should we prioritize, and what we can do to make the forums or sessions more interesting. They will continue this discussion at the

next meeting and ask everyone for their input. Please feel free to give the Work Group your ideas by forwarding your suggestions to the Fiscal and Policy Work group at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

On November 6th, there will be three propositions on the ballot.

The first one deals with Campaign Finance. A proposal to amend the City Charter to lower the amount a candidate for city elected office may accept in contributions, and also making public funding available earlier in the election year to participating candidates who can demonstrate need for funds. The amendments would apply to participating candidates who choose to have the amendments apply to their campaigns beginning with the 2021 primary election, and then apply to all candidates beginning 2022.

The next proposal deals with establishing a Civic Engagement Commission. The proposal would amend the City Charter to create a Civic Engagement Commission that would be implemented no later than the City Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020. This will require the Commission to partner with community-based organizations and civic leaders as other City agencies to support and encourage civic engagement. It will also require the Commission to establish a program to provide language interpreters at City poll sites, to be implemented for general election in 2020. It would permit the mayor to assign relevant powers and duties of certain other City agencies to the Commission. The Commission would comprise of 15 members, 8 members appointed by the Mayor, 2, by the City Council Speaker and 1 from each Borough President and provide one of the Mayor's appointees to be the Commission Chair, with duties to employ and direct the Commission.

The Final ballot proposition to amend the City Charter to impose term limits of a maximum of four consecutive full two-year term for community board members. It will require the Borough President to seek out persons of diverse, backgrounds in making appointments to community boards.

This is just a forum to alert you on the proposals. Every voting citizen should have received a voter's guide in the mail and in that booklet the pros and cons were laid out. I urge everyone to take the time to read it and be prepared to make your decision on November 6th and offer a word of encouragement to especially the youth these decisions will have an effect, one way or the other, on your future. Please take the time to go out and vote.

The next Fiscal and Policy Work Group committee meeting will be held on November 13, 2010 in the Community Board's office.

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

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of Public Safety Committee, reported that on October 3, 2018, the Committee met to discuss the following:

Safe travels - affixing reflector tape to non-motorized vehicles in the District to improve their night-time visibility. The Committee is submitting the Safe in the City grant application to make this possible.

Guidance for Vigils in the District - The issue of the size and maintenance of vigils/shrines in public places was brought to the Committee.

Let's begin with definitions 1) *Vigil* - A period of keeping awake during the time usually spent asleep, especially to keep watch or pray. 2) *Shrine* - A shrine is a holy or sacred place, which is dedicated to a specific deity, ancestor, hero, martyr, saint, daemon, or similar figure of awe and respect, at which they are venerated or worshiped. The Committee thoroughly discussed the issue and suggests the following; creating a standard process for having the displays detailing the suggested dimensions. (48x36x24) and asking that the family of the deceased please respectfully maintain the site.

Community Emergency Contact Bank - I planned to have the contact list completed by November, as having such a tool is vital. This was not accomplished. I will continue to work on this. Volunteers are welcome.

CERT and Civilian Police Academy -New York City Community Emergency Response Teams (NYC CERT) are groups of dedicated volunteers who help to prepare their neighbors and communities for different types of disasters.

NYC CERT members undergo an 11-week training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

The Citizens Police Academy is an accelerated civilian training program, established to provide members of the community with a background and understanding of NYPD policies and activities, as well as the structure and limit of police power. The 10-week program replicates and condenses the NYPD recruit training regimen, allowing civilian New Yorkers to gain a finer understanding of skills and abilities that police officers bring to a community partnership. Since its inception in 1993, the program has trained thousands of New Yorkers in the very same concepts and content as taught to NYPD recruits.

If you are interested in either trainings, please contact the Community Board office at (718) 385-0323.

On October 10th, I met with Ms. Gabrielle Taylor, from BMS, CASAC Counselor, who has offered counseling services outside of BMS. If you have a group of 3 or more people and are interested in additional support, this can be arranged in your own space. There is an array of services for grassroot groups. Please reach out to Ms. Taylor at (718)345-5000 ext. 2283.

On October 31st, the 73rd Precinct will be giving out treats along with toothbrushes from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in front of the Precinct.

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

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Cynthia Moises, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

Ms. Moises announced that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel will be attending the City Council's Public Housing Committee oversight hearing on preparing for the winter: heat and hot water in NYCHA developments, tomorrow, October 24, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. where the Committee expects to hear testimony from officials of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) regarding what steps it has taken to maintain its boilers and prevent heating outages and what contingency plans are in place, in light of the collapse of NYCHA's heating infrastructure last winter.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel, in collaboration with PSA 2, will host a Halloween party for children at the Brownsville Recreation Center on October 31st. There will be a costume contest as well.

Additionally, copies of Councilmember Alicka-Samuel's monthly newsletter can be found on tonight's distribution table with information about some of the things being done by her in her district.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated that election day will be on November 6th and ballots will be somewhat unusual. Along with candidates for elected offices, there will be three ballot proposals that will be on two separate pages that will each be printed on both sides. He will make sample ballots available to the Board's office.

He stated that persons who have been arrested for a crime, but not been convicted continue to have the right to vote and may do so via absentee ballot. Furthermore, in the state of New York, persons who were convicted of a crime and have completed their sentences are also eligible to vote.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., reported that they have seen an alarming increase in reports of senior citizens being targeted by their landlords in what amounts to tenant harassment. In one case, the landlord has accused the tenant of non-payment of rent and the tenant has stated that they paid in cash and were not given receipts. Because the tenant cannot prove payment they end up being evicted from their rent-controlled apartment. Councilmember Espinal's office is asking the community to contact them if they or anyone they know are being harassed by landlords. The Councilmember's office is located at 1945 Broadway and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

There have also been reports of homeowners having allegations of violations brought on their properties by developers. If the home is found to be in violation when inspected and the owner is unable to make repairs (as is often the case with seniors who are on fixed incomes) a lien may be placed on the property and cause the owner to lose it.

There are solutions that may be available to the homeowners and tenants. They encourage anyone who may be caught in situations such as these to meet with attorneys from the Brooklyn Legal Services at Councilmember Espinal's office at no cost.

Regarding the question asked earlier about community gardens, Councilmember Espinal has allocated funding to the Citizens Committee for New York City which provides grants of up to \$3,000 for community improvement projects. He encourages the community to take advantage of the grants, least they go to waste. Please contact Mr. Shawn Whitehorn at (212) 822-9563, for more information.

Ms. Antonya Jeffrey, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, reported that Congresswoman Clarke is opposed to the expansion of a rule that allows government officials to deny visas or legal status to immigrants if they have received public assistance. This would include SNAP, SSI, or even Section 8 benefits. She has written a letter to President Donald Trump and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen opposing the change to the Public Charge Rule and has drafted legislation that would deny funding for the implementation of this rule.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is a youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. Congresswoman Clarke is encouraging New York youth who are in middle or high school to apply.

Congresswoman Clarke has teamed up with the American Red Cross to provide emergency preparedness training to local residents this Sunday, October 28, 2018 at the Shalom Senior Center in Crown Heights. The American Red Cross urges everyone to make sure they are prepared for a disaster and not wait until an emergency occurs and it's too late.

Central Brooklyn neighborhoods are filled with old, historic buildings which are more susceptible to disasters due to poor ventilation and lack of emergency access points among other things. American Red Cross' emergency preparedness training will equip families with knowledge to plan, respond, and recover from potential disasters. Everyone is encouraged to engage in this important conversation.

At this event, the Red Cross will also make appointments to install up to 4 smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home, if needed.

Congresswoman Clarke's office may be reached by calling (718) 287-1142.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Program Coordinator for the Program which operates out of 210 Chester Street.

He announced that they were scheduled to visit some colleges in Atlanta, Georgia, but because of bad weather conditions the trip was postponed for a future date.

He thanks the community for their support in helping them raise a significant amount of money for cancer research at this past Sunday's Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.

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