

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – DECEMBER 18, 2018

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., and an invocation was said by Ms. Sarah Hall.

The roll was called and failed to yield a quorum.

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

1) Brooklyn residents can now request electronics pick up from the Department of Sanitation. To schedule a pick up, go online to nyc.gov/electronics or call “3-1-1”.

Electronics that can be picked up are: televisions, monitors, computers, laptops, printers and scanners, fax machines, keyboards, mice, VCRs, DVRs, and DVD players, small servers, hard drives (for security, drive data should be wiped before disposing), set-top boxes, tablets and e-readers, mobile phones, MP3 players, and video game consoles.

2) In observance of Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, there will be no garbage or recycling on Tuesday, December 25th and Tuesday, January 1st.

Residents who normally receive Tuesday recycling collection should not place their materials out at curbside until Tuesday, January 1st after 4:00 p.m. for collection on Wednesday, January 2nd because of the consecutive Tuesday holidays.

Residents who normally receive Tuesday refuse collection should place their materials out at curbside Tuesday evening after 4:00 p.m. Most residents will have their refuse collected a day or two after the holiday, however, some residents may not receive service until their next scheduled collection day.

3) You can register with the City as a temporary snow laborer during major snow events at any Sanitation Garage (locally, at 922 Georgia Avenue) from Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except on City holidays).

In order to register, you must be:

- At least 18 years of age.
- Eligible to work in the United States.
- Able to perform heavy physical labor.

3) The New York City Department of Small Business Services invites minority and woman business owners to gain the knowledge and experience you need to run a successful business with the Strategic Steps for Growth for Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises. Applications are due by January 11th, and classes will begin in late January. Learn more and apply at www.nyc.gov/strategicsteps.

4) Free fitness classes - Opus A.R.I.S.E. Beacon Program, located at the Thelma J. Hamilton Campus at 985 Rockaway Avenue is offering free fitness classes. For more information, call (718) 342-0103.

5) The Girl Scouts Access Program is an initiative that offers free membership to girls and adults who live in public housing or attend Title 1 schools and wish to start a new Girl Scouts Troop. To learn more about the Access Program, contact Judith Rivera at (646) 629-2300 or email jrivera@girlscoutsnyc.org.

6) The New York City Housing Authority is hiring Temporary Snow Removal Workers to remove snow and ice at NYCHA properties throughout the city.

To register, visit the NYCHA Human Resources Department, located at 90 Church Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York on Fridays only, January 4, 11, and 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

7) Residential building owners in New York City are legally required to provide heat and hot water to their tenants. You can make a complaint about a residential building that does not have enough heat or hot water by calling 3-1-1.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents can report a heat or hot water problem to NYCHA's Customer Contact Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by calling (718)-707-7771.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Hunter Scott of the Black Census Project.

Ms. Scott stated that she is a member of the Brooklyn Movement Center which is a Black-led social and business organization, located at 375 Stuyvesant Avenue. They are comprised of residents of Central Brooklyn neighborhoods and work on campaigns such as anti-gentrification, police accountability, anti-street harassment, and environmental justice.

They are working on a project called the Black Census Project which is a national survey seeking to develop Black political power by surveying a minimum 200,000 Black people across the nation. They know the issues that are affecting the Black community, but do not have the political clout to act on those issues.

The survey comes out of the Black Lives Matter Movement and is taking place in twenty states. They are seeking to collect responses from 1,000 individuals from Central Brooklyn by December 31, 2018. She has tablets with her on which the audience can complete the survey this evening. It may also be completed by visiting blkcns.us/bymc.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Jahai Rose of the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Mr. Rose stated that he is an Outreach Coordinator with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB).

He stated that function of New York City police officers is to maintain order in our communities, enforce the laws of the city, provide us with a sense of security, keep us safe, and provide aid to the community. They are guided by rules and regulations which may be found in the New York City Police Officer Patrol Guide. When police officers are not in compliance with the Patrol Guide, CCRB can take action.

CCRB is a City agency that is independent of the New York City Police Department (NYPD). It is their duty to investigate, mediate, and sometimes prosecute NYPD officers who are alleged to have misconduct. The misconduct covers any incident within the Agency's jurisdiction that falls

into one or more of four categories of misconduct specified by the New York City Charter: Force, Abuse of Authority, Discourtesy, and Offensive Language, collectively known as “FADO”: 1) Force – typically the use of unnecessary or excessive force, i.e.: the unnecessary use of an impact weapon or a Taser, punching, kicking, or slapping someone, or drawing their weapon unnecessarily can be investigated, 2) Abuse of Authority – includes unauthorized searches and seizures, inappropriate entry onto property, refusal to provide name and shield number, etc., 3) Discourtesy – using foul language, acting in a rude and unprofessional manner, flashing rude and offensive gestures, etc., and 4) Offensive Language – includes slurs based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender, and/or perceived disability.

To file a complaint, you may call 3-1-1 or (800) 341-2272, visit their office at 100 Church Street in Manhattan, or file online by completing a form at nyc.gov/site/ccrb/complaints/file-online.page. Upon filing a complaint to the agency, the first person who you will be placed in contact with will be an intake specialist who will determine if the complaint meets at least one of the FADO criteria. Should it not qualify, they do not simply discard it; the complaint would be forwarded to an agency with jurisdiction.

In cases where CCRB does have jurisdiction, each FADO allegation is investigated individually. As an example, someone purports to have had an interaction with a police officer wherein they allege that the officer used excessive force, punched them, had no reason to stop them, and called a derogatory name. Each of the allegations will be investigated independently. In the above scenario, they would investigate for excessive force, abuse of power, and disrespect or use of offensive language.

Their agents have subpoena powers and are thus able to obtain body cam footage, 9-1-1 calls, dashcam footage, are footage from videos at local shops, in order to seek out the truth. They cannot hold officers accountable for either things that they have not done or things that cannot be proved.

When an investigation is finished, the entire case file, along with a closing report prepared by the investigator, is given to a panel comprised of three Board members who review the investigator’s closing report and evaluates evidence gathered during the course of the investigation. A unanimous vote or two-to-one vote by the panel results in the following possible outcomes.

Findings on the Merits reflect the Board’s determination on whether or not an officer’s actions are misconduct.

Substantiated: means there is sufficient credible evidence to believe that the subject officer committed the alleged act without legal justification. Substantiated cases are sent to the police department with a disciplinary recommendation.

Unsubstantiated: means the available evidence is insufficient to determine whether the officer did or did not commit misconduct.

Unfounded: means there is sufficient credible evidence to believe that the subject officer did not commit the alleged act.

Exonerated: means the subject officer was found to have committed the act alleged, but the officer’s actions were determined to be lawful.

After you file a complaint, your case is assigned to a CCRB investigator. The investigator will offer you the chance to participate in mediation. Mediation lets you resolve a complaint by talking with the officer face-to-face, rather than seeking an investigation. It is a process that does not lead to discipline for the officer, but can often result in mutual understanding between the civilian and the officer. Approximately 90% of mediation sessions are successful. Participation in mediation is voluntary and the mediation session is confidential.

In a mediation, you and the officer sit down as equals, in a comfortable, quiet, and private space to talk about what happened. You are not alone; the discussion is guided by a trained, experienced, and independent mediator. The goal of the mediation session is to come to an understanding. The mediator helps you and the officer to speak openly and respectfully, and to listen to each other. A mediation is successful when you and the officer agree that the issues raised by the incident and the complaint have been resolved.

Mediation gives you control over the resolution of your complaint. It gives you the satisfaction of telling the officer how his or her actions or words affected you. This often educates officers and helps them see the incident from your point of view. Plus, you get to ask the officer questions, which can help you understand his or her perspective. Post-mediation surveys show an overwhelming majority of people who participate in CCRB mediations are satisfied with the process and outcome.

Using the information they gathered, they were able to push forward the Right to Know Act.

The Right to Know Act, in effect as of October 19, 2018, is made up of two components. The first outlines New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers' obligation to identify themselves, including by providing their name, rank, command, and shield number to civilians at the beginning of certain interactions. The law also requires officers to have business cards that contain this information. These business cards direct civilians to where they can comment or complain about an encounter with an officer and where they may request any body-worn camera footage of their interaction. Under the Right to Know Act, civilians may always ask an officer for this business card but officers are only required to offer the card in certain circumstances, such as during a frisk, searches of your person, property, vehicle, or home, or at sobriety checkpoints.

Level 1 – Request for Information: If an officer has an objective credible basis to approach you, the officer may ask for information (e.g., “Where are you going?” “Where are you coming from?” “Where do you live?”) or request your identification. The officer may not restrict your freedom of movement, detain, search or frisk you. You are free to leave. If you are not sure if you are being detained, you may ask, "Am I free to leave?"

The officer does not have to tell you why you are being asked information. The officer does not have to offer you a business card. However, you have a right to request a business card.

Level 2 – Common Law Right of Inquiry: If an officer has a founded suspicion of criminal activity happening, the officer may ask accusatory questions (e.g., A baby is missing; they do not just get up and walk away. Therefore, someone must have taken the baby. An Officer might ask “Have you seen this baby?” The officer is not permitted to restrict your freedom of movement. You are free to walk away.

Now, under the Right -to-Know Act, Officers should identify themselves and give an explanation for the encounter and must inform you that they may only conduct a search if you consent to the search of your person, property, vehicle, or home. They should also offer you a business card at the end of the encounter with their name and shield number on it.

Level 3 – Reasonable Suspicion to Stop: If an officer has reasonable suspicion that you have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a crime (“You have the baby. We need to find where this baby is at; we know you have the baby.”), the officer can restrict your freedom of movement, detain, and pursue you. You are not free to leave. If the officer believes you are armed, the officer may frisk you, and potentially search you.

The second component of the law addresses situations in which officers seek to perform a search and do not have legal justification to do so without a person's consent. In these circumstances, the Right to Know Act requires that officers explain that searches will not be conducted if a person refuses to provide consent to the search. In addition, the law requires officers to document these requests. As is required in all encounters, including when seeking consent for a search, officers are instructed to use language interpretation services pursuant to the NYPD's language access plan prior to the search.

During Level 2 or Level 3 stops, frisks, searches, checkpoint stops, home searches, and investigatory questioning of victims and witnesses, officers should identify themselves; explain the purpose of the interaction; and at the end offer you a business card.

If an officer is seeking consent to search your person, property, vehicle, or home, officers must ask whether they can perform a search and inform you that they may only conduct a search if the person consents. Officers who are equipped with a body-worn camera must record the search on their camera and otherwise document the request for consent.

During a stop, if an officer reasonably believes you have a weapon, he or she is permitted to pat down (frisk) your outer clothing. If an officer feels an object and reasonably believes that it

could be a weapon, the officer is allowed to reach inside your clothing and grasp the object to determine whether or not it is a weapon.

(You may request documentation of your encounter, including video footage if the officer was wearing a body-worn camera at www.nyc.gov/police-encounters.)

Chairperson Morgan thanked Mr. Rose for his presentation and stated that the Civilian Complaint Review Board does a great in making their rounds and visits the Board two or three times per year.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

Congressman Jeffries stated that Friday, December 21st is the deadline to fund the federal government. If an agreement is not reached, there will be a partial government shutdown. The Administration is seeking to spend five billion dollars of taxpayer money to fund the building of a border wall which he believes is just a political ploy that will not make the nation any safer. He is opposed to this, particularly since all through his election campaign, President Trump promised that such a wall would be paid for by Mexico. Do not ask the American people to lose funds for affordable health care, affordable housing, senior housing, headstart programs, Medicare and Medicaid, social security, and all the other benefits that help everyday American in order to pay for a wall meant to please President Trump's xenophobic base.

He, Congressman Jeffries, believes that the President will likely back off on the shutdown, in order that he can maintain his holiday vacation plans.

When the new Congress convenes on January 3, 2019, one of the things that will likely be visited is an infrastructure plan. He insisted that Senators Schumer and Gillibrand include public housing as part of infrastructure. If we are going to repair the nation's crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, mass transportation systems, and ports – all of which are important, we must also take care of our public housing that have been suffering from decades of neglect. The New York City Housing Authority has twenty billion dollars in unmet capital needs.

He expects that the First Step Act bill will be voted on and passed in the Senate today, sent back to the House for their vote shortly thereafter. The legislation, which he co-authored with Conservative Republican Doug Collins, will propel formerly-incarcerated individuals toward success when they return home, while enacting targeted reforms that would improve public safety and reduce recidivism. It authorizes \$350 million over five years to develop new programs, including education, vocational training and mental health counseling. Consequently, newly-released individuals will be positioned to successfully re-enter society.

With respect to sentencing reform, the First Step Act will increase public safety and engineer much-needed changes to draconian sentencing laws connected to the failed war on drugs. It modifies the three strikes law to make it more humane, increases judicial discretion to reduce sentences for low-level nonviolent drug offenders and provides retroactive relief for thousands unjustly sentenced during the crack-cocaine era. It prohibits the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women. It also expands Good Time Credit which increases opportunities for inmates to have their sentences reduced based upon their productive behavior during their incarceration.

This is all designed to reduce the epidemic of mass incarceration afflicting the nation, including the communities he represents. When the War on Drugs began in 1971, there were less than 350,000 people incarcerated in the United States. Today, there are 2.2 million people in prison, more than any other nation in the world. The population of the United States represents 5% of the world's population, but we have 25% of the world's population of inmates.

Crack and cocaine are identical on a molecular level, but people who are charged with possession of just 1 gram of crack are given the same sentence as those found in possession of 18 grams of cocaine. This 18:1 sentencing disparity is actually an improvement from the previous sentencing gap of 100:1, thanks to the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, but research shows that the disparity unfairly targets crack users, who are more likely to be black, and low-income.

Last year the Smarter Sentencing Act, which would reduce minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders, made it to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, but the bill was held back by then Senator Jeff Sessions.

The First Step Act will help currently incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society, reduce the rate of recidivism and thereby dramatically reduce cost. The legislation includes changes to federal sentencing laws. One would shorten mandatory minimum sentences for some nonviolent drug offenses, including lowering the mandatory “three strikes” penalty from life in prison to 25 years. Another would provide judges greater liberty to use so-called safety valves to go around mandatory minimums in some cases. The bill would also clarify that the so-called stacking mechanism making it a federal crime to possess a firearm while committing another crime, like a drug offense, should apply only to individuals who have previously been convicted.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the early releases apply to individuals with felony charges?

Congressman Jeffries stated that most people serving time in federal prisons are there on felony charges. There are some poison pill amendments to the First Step Act which would limit eligibility to participate in sentence reduction programs to persons who were convicted of low level white-collar crimes. This would disproportionately affect communities of color negatively. He feels that those who have been convicted of mid-level and some with high-level crimes are the ones who are most in need and should be incentivized to participate. Persons who were convicted of low-level crimes on Wall Street are often able to re-enter society easily.

Mr. Alexander stated that he is thinking along the lines of the rights of the former convicts to vote in elections.

Congressman Jeffries stated that the right of former convicts to vote is on a state by state basis. In New York, once their sentence has been completed, their right to vote is completely restored. In other states, especially in the Deep South, a felony conviction amounts to a permanent loss of your right to vote. This a form of voter suppression. In the next legislative session, H.R. 1 will seek to address the restoration of former felons’ right to vote on a federal level.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca asked if Congressman Jeffries continues to sit on the Education Committee?

Congressman Jeffries stated that he used to sit on the Committee. He is currently a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Budget Committee.

Ms. Mendonca stated that she is concerned about a decision, made earlier today, by Secretary Betsy DeVos' recommendation to strip students of Obama era civil rights protections, which seek to prevent racial disparities in student discipline.

Congressman Jeffries stated that he is unaware of this, however, it does not seem out of character for the Secretary who he sees as someone who is fraudulently impersonating an educator. In the new session they will have the ability to call on some members of the Trump administration to come before Congress and explain to the People of the United States about some of thing happening behind the scenes.

Ms. Digna Layne asked what will be in place to help communities assimilate those re-entering to them?

Congressman Jeffries stated that even though the vast majority of inmates are held in state facilities, the states follow the actions of the federal facilities. Unfortunately, it will take more than a single piece of legislation to undo the effect of mass incarceration which began in 1971. The First Step Act is just that – a first step. When the bi-partisan Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 was passed into law, there were 900,000 people incarcerated in the nation; we now have 2,000,000. The Act provided \$10 billion in funding for construction of prisons, if the states passed so-called tough on crime laws such as Three-Strikes You’re Out and mandatory sentencing. Since Congress was responsible for the escalation of the prison population, they should also play part in the de-escalation process. Inmates will need to be educated, have job training, and access to housing when they get out.

Mr. Norman Frazier asked Congressman Jeffries if he has signed onto the Green New Deal?

Congressman Jeffries stated that the Green New Deal is a conversation that is taking place in support of the effort to deal with climate change and rebuilding our infrastructure in a sustainable manner. The particulars of a bill have not been introduced, at this time. He does expect to see a bill in the upcoming Congressional Session. He supports the concept, but he must see the legislation.

Chairperson Morgan stated that over 2,500 new homes will be built in this community over the next three to five years. Affordability of these homes for residents of the District is dependent upon the Area Median Income (AMI) which rises each year because of nearby affluent communities such as Westchester County. What is being done in Congress to address how affordable housing guidelines are set in low-income communities?

Congressman Jeffries stated that he is in support of AMI reforms. He expects that the issue will be raised in the upcoming session and that members of the New York City Congressional Delegation are all in favor of AMI reform. As stated, part of the challenge is that Brownsville's AMI incorporates incomes that include not only Brownsville, but Manhattan, and Westchester County, along with some affluent towns in Connecticut which results in an inflated number. He believes that communities would be better served if the AMIs were based on incomes at the community board or zip code level. He expects that changing the standard will be a fight, but one that we must take on.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this community is ready to fight alongside him and asks that the Community Board be kept informed.

She then recognized Detective Maryann Petrizzo and Police Officer Shirma Daniel-Spiers from the 73rd Precinct Community Affairs Unit.

Detective Petrizzo stated that they are in the process of preparing for the Department's Christmas Toy Give-Away to benefit children of the community. Their Sleigh Ride was originally scheduled to take place on this coming Friday, however, due to the forecast of inclement weather it has been moved to Saturday. Unfortunately, the location of the give-away has also changed and has not been finalized. You may call them at (718) 495-5422, to receive updates.

Inspector Rafael Mascol and Captain Alison Esposito regret their absence and ask that the community be made aware of an increase in robberies around Junius Street and Livonia Avenue. They request that everyone stay vigilant.

As you go about your holiday shopping, be cognizant that thieves are looking for people to prey upon. Don't make it easy for them by leaving items in your vehicle that are visible as they pass by. She recommends moving your vehicle to a different location after shopping.

The Department also recommends that arrangements be made for packages that are delivered to your home to avoid having them stolen while no one is home.

Three-card Monte scams also rise during the holiday season and they caution everyone not to engage with the players. While it may seem that there are winners that are random players, it only made to look that way so that they can con you into playing and losing your money.

Check whitewashing is still being done and the audience is encouraged to use direct deposit.

Ms. Shemene Minter offered her thanks to Neighborhood Coordination Officers Troci Grid and Michael Esposito for their follow-up on burglaries at and around Prospect Plaza.

Detective Petrizzo extended her gratitude to Ms. Minter's daughter for providing information to help them follow-up on the crimes.

Officer Grid stated that when these crimes are not reported to the police, they do not know about them or discern patterns that may be at play. They will not know that resources need to be placed. He encourages everyone to report crimes and encourage their neighbors to do the same.

Neighborhood Coordination Officer Jaime Ramirez elaborated on the issue regarding the Sleigh Ride Give-Away, the contingencies being made for the weather and suggested that interested person follow them on social media to be kept informed on changes.

Chairperson Morgan encouraged those who are unfamiliar with the event to watch the Facebook video stream as it goes through the precincts of Brooklyn North. It is amazing to see the joy of the children as the trucks make their way through the route.

Detective Petrizzo informed the audience of the capture of a suspect in the rape which took place last month at the Betsy Head Park.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson, Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that on November 13, 2018, the Equity Planning Work Group met with Daniel Murphy and Jesse Gerick from the Pitkin Avenue BID who informed us that in cooperation with the Department of Small Business Services they are doing a Brownsville Commercial District Needs Assessment along the commercial corridors of Pitkin Avenue, Belmont Avenue, Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard. In July, they began gathering and evaluating information to diagnose the economic health and needs of the commercial district. At the conclusion of the Commercial District Needs Assessment, they will meet with the Department of Small Business Services in January and analyze the data collected which will be used to develop services and programming.

On December 11, 2018, the Equity Planning Work Group met with representatives from the Bridge Street Development Corporation, the United Christian Assembly Church and residents of Jardine Place regarding a proposal to develop supportive housing, comprising 64 units in a 10-story building at 2401 Atlantic Avenue, for homeless seniors and veterans.

Hearing concerns of residents of Jardine Place as to how the building will impact their quality of life, the Work Group recommended that representatives from Bridge Street Development Corporation and the United Christian Church meet with representatives of Jardine Place and Sackman Street to discuss the proposal and come to a satisfactory agreement about the project.

No action was taken by the Equity Planning Work Group on a request by the Bridge Street Development Corporation for a letter of support from Community Board #16 for the project.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on December 13, 2018, the Community Resident Planning Work Group met with community-based organizations to discuss the upcoming 3rd Annual Youth Conference. The Work Group decided to involve all school levels to participate in the event. The elementary school will have a carnival setting and the upper grades will partake in workshops based on their input. If you are interested in taking part in this event, please attend the next meeting on January 9, 2019, at 444 Thomas Boyland Street, at 6:00 p.m. Your ideas to make this a successful event for our children are truly welcomed.

The Deputy Superintendent is scheduled to meet with the Work Group at the next meeting to discuss the math and English test scores, and how the scores impact on moving the student to the next level. Also, the committee will discuss with the Deputy Superintendent the Department of Education's role with the upcoming youth conference.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation 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 on the 3rd Floor of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street – 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. The meetings are held at 1784 Park Place.

The Work Group decided to delay formulating a survey exclusively for children and youth with mental health issues living in Community Board #16 area. The Health and Human Services Committee is awaiting new data regarding this matter.

Ms. Zalika Headley, Chairperson, Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the City Service Planning Work Group met on December 13, 2018 and discussed the update on the parks/playground survey that is being done by our Intern, Emily Oppenheimer, who will also prepare maps for each of our parks/playground. The maps will provide information about how well the amenities satisfy the playground equipment safety guidelines developed by the Parks Department. Ms. Oppenheimer is also preparing a survey to be disseminated to residents to gather data on who uses the park/playground, activities they engage in, condition of the

park/playground, etc. Data from the survey will be used to make recommendations about the changing needs of our community.

On December 4, 2018, members of the Work Group participated in a visioning session that the Department of Parks held for Osborn Playground. Some of the suggestions were adding lights to improve safety, installing a water fountain, senior fitness equipment, turf for track and field, and soccer, benches, and fencing. If you have additional suggestions, please visit the Department's website at www.nyc.gov/parks or call (718) 965-6991.

They also discussed the update on the L-train which will be shut down for 15 months of construction beginning on April 27, 2019. During the shutdown period, the L-train service will still operate in Brooklyn between the Rockaway Parkway stop in Canarsie and the Bedford Avenue stop in Williamsburg. However, the service on this line will be severely reduced with a reduction of 88 trains per weekday thus increasing the wait for each train. In addition to the train, the MTA has also implemented changes to the bus. The MTA will be adding six new bus routes during the shutdown. The L1, L2, L3, and L4 bus routes will run from stops in Williamsburg train stops to lower Manhattan. The L5 bus will run with limited service from Canarsie to the Utica Avenue stop in Crown Heights. The bus changes will go into effect on April 21, 2019, six days before the shutdown of the L-train.

More details on the closure can be found at: web.mta.info/sandy/rebuildingCanarsieTunnel.html

The Department of Transportation has notified the Community Board of the installation of signage at the intersection of Linden Blvd and East 98th Street to restrict the southbound left turn. The decision was made after a motorcycle operator was killed in June of 2018 by a vehicle attempting a southbound left turn onto East 98th Street. Motorists will be able to make southbound left turns at Rockaway Parkway and Thomas S. Boyland Street which are both equipped with turn bays.

She thanked everyone who participates in the City Service Planning Work Group meetings which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The City Service Planning Work Group would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday.

Mr. David Alexander stated that there are two subway stations on Utica Avenue. Will both stations be serviced by the L5?

Ms. Headley stated that the bus will service the IRT station at Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of Public Safety Committee, reported that Due to our scheduled speaker having a scheduling conflict, the Public Safety Committee did not meet on December 5, 2018. They will reschedule for a later date.

In the meantime, she has printed an article with adequate information that will help us understand how human trafficking "commonly works" here. She encourages you to read the article and discuss the contents with young people in your lives, so they can better recognize predators and make "good" decisions that will increase their chances of success.

The Committee is handing out toys from the Toys for Tots Program to three day care centers in the community. The mission of Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the U.S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas.

On December 27th, the Committee will host the Resident Association Presidents of NYCHA for a year end recognition, celebration and to forge new partnerships. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on January 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Jahai Rose of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, who we heard earlier today, has been invited to speak at their February meeting.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, stated that on tonight's distribution table are copies of an article about property owners in Nassau having sued and won a fight over being over charged on their property taxes. It has long been the contention of he and Assemblyman Barron that property owners in Brownsville and East New York were paying a rate that is higher than those of more affluent

neighborhoods in the city. It is their intent to have the Department of Finance’s commissioner meet with them and explain how the taxes are calculated. He believes that refunds will be due to property owners in this community. They are seeking to have the meeting in February 2019 and as details are confirmed, he will inform the community.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Pam Greeley of Brooklyn Community Services.

Ms. Greeley stated that they work with non-custodial fathers 18- to 45-years old to help strengthen their connection to their children. They offer workshops to the dads in supporting their children economically, socially, and emotionally. They work with the fathers over a period of three months and continue to monitor them for an additional three months.

They now have offices located at 1835 Sterling Place and their telephone number is (718) 643-9093.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Kenya Miller of the Higher Learning Foundation.

Ms. Miller stated that she owns the Higher Learning Daycare Center, at 1677 St. John’s Place. They have been there for about three years.

Prior to opening the daycare center, she was a teacher at Achievement First Brownsville Charter School on Bergen Street, as well as a charter school in neighboring East New York.

She is here, this evening, to ask for input from the community on what they would like to see out of charter schools serving the community. Not what people from outside the community want, but rather what the community wants for themselves.

They are looking to do something different with their STEAM (science, technology, engineering, and math) based curriculum. They want to address the fact that 40% of students miss 20 or more days of school which impacts their level of education.

Some charter schools do what is called “creaming” where if a child has behavioral issues they hold one or two meetings, suspend the child, and ultimately expel them from the school. They are collaborating with the Restorative Justice Initiative, a Partner Project of the Fund for the City of New York dedicated to promoting restorative principles, practices and programs throughout New York City. Restorative justice is a theory of justice that can be employed both re-actively, in response to conflict and/or crime, and proactively to strengthen community by fostering communication and empathy.

They will also provide financial literacy to their students. While college is a wonderful idea and worthwhile goal, options such as entrepreneurship and trade schools should not be dismissed out-of-hand.

She introduced members of her team who were distributing the survey.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Brother Ken Johnson of Kings Church of God who stated that the church is currently located at 1371 Rogers Avenue. Beginning January 6th, their new place of worship will be at 361 Rockaway Avenue and they invite everyone to join them for the inaugural service at 11:30 a.m.

At their Rogers Avenue location, they featured vacation Bible study, health fairs, social services, Narcotics/Alcoholic Anonymous meetings, spiritual counseling, meditation, and youth service programs and hope to continue offering these services to this community.

Next, Ms. Digna Layne stated that she is with Good Shepperd Services and they recently trained a group of youth in barbershop arts. The youth are now available to cut hair free of charge at your next church, school, or shelter event. The youth are paid through Good Shepperd Services. For additional information, please call her at (646) 398-4145.

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