

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – DECEMBER 17, 2019

### Attendance

David Alexander	Yolanda Matthews (E)
Cynthia Bannister (E)	John McCadney, Jr. (E)
Margaret Brewer (E)	Andrew McCoy
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (A)	Melanie Mendonca (E)
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (A)	Shemene Minter
Adrainer Coleman	Genese Morgan
Norman Frazier	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)
Danny Goodine (A)	Busayo Olupano (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Ariel Perry-DeCamp (A)
Sarah Hall (E)	Anita Pierce (E)
Balinda Harris	Marie Pierre (E)
Zalika Headey	Linda Rivera
Michael Howard (E)	JoAnn Sexton
Gabriel Jamison (E)	Keturah Suggs
Lannetta Jeffers (A)	Richard Swinson (A)
Carl Joseph (E)	Rev. Eric Thompson (A)
Maurice Joyner (A)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene (E)
Eula Key (E)	Christopher Toomer (E)
Gwendolyn King (E)	Ernestine Turner (A)
Leticia Knowles (A)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Dr. Betty Kollock-Wallace (A)	Deborah Williams
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)	Pat Winston (E)
Digna Layne (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Kelly Lee-McVay	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Albion Liburd (E)	Berenice Navarrete-Perez for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Deborah Mack (E)	Ronald Baez for Hon. Zellnor Myrie

### PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE

MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 7:07 p.m., and an invocation was said by Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

A roll call of the membership was done and failed to yield a quorum.

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

- Applications are now being accepted for 20 newly constructed units at 212 Hegeman Avenue.

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect). To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Hegeman c/o Shinda Management Corporation, 221-10 Jamaica Avenue – 3rd Floor, Queens Village, New York, 11428. Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than February 10, 2020. Late applications will not be considered.

- The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office offers high school, college and legal internships throughout the year. The High School Internship is a hands-on experience that pairs students with Assistant District Attorneys, offering an insider's view of the inner working of one of the largest DA's offices in the country. Selected students will be assigned to a unit within the DA's office and will support the work of Assistant District Attorneys and other members of the DA's staff.
- The New York Fire Foundation reminds New Yorkers that nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

The report contains information on things you can do to help prevent fires in your home.

- In observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day, there will be no garbage or recycling on Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Residents who

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

Additionally, the report contains information about various available grants.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Kelly Lam and Ms. Dorothy Lee from the Department of Sanitation's Zero Waste Communication Corp.

Ms. Lam and Lee introduced themselves as Americorps members working for the Zero Waste Communications Team at New York City Department of Sanitation. They are present this evening to inform the community about the upcoming plastic bag ban in New York State, and how the Department of Sanitation will be implementing the bag ban in New York City and answer questions about the bag ban, recycling in New York City, and to provide recycling resources to the community. They have brought with them reusable bags which are currently being distributed to residents to prepare them for the upcoming bag ban. Recycling decals to stick on to your recycling bins, information about apartment programs, and coloring books are available on tonight's distribution table. Feel free to grab them after this presentation or on your way out.

Ms. Lam announced that beginning March 1, 2020, New York State will prohibit the distribution of single-use plastic carryout bags, with limited exceptions. New York City will be charging five cents for paper bags. Those on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the SNAP program for Women, Infant, Children (WIC) will not have to pay the five-cent fee for paper bags. The city encourages everyone to use reusable bags and paper bags only if necessary. With a reusable bag you will save money and reduce waste.

The exceptions to bags are garbage bags, food storage bags, bags used to wrap produce, meat or poultry. Although they are single use plastic bags, bags for food takeout and delivery, bags can still be used. As can bags provided by a pharmacy for prescription drugs, dry-cleaning bags, and newspaper delivery bags.

Using reusable bags helps reduce the amount of waste we send to landfills and helps keep bags out of our trees, streets and oceans. Plastic, made from crude oil, does not breakdown easily. Plastic bag usage effects both our communities and environment. Plastic bags can be seen stuck in trees, as litter in our neighborhoods, and floating in our waterways. From the significant recycling and disposal issues they pose to the harm they can do to wildlife; the negative impacts of plastic bags are easily seen.

New Yorkers use more than 10 billion single-use carryout bags every year and it costs the City more than \$12 million annually to dispose of these bags.

New York is behind, when it comes to banning single use plastic bags. Other states and cities that have bans in place include: California (the first state to do so, in 2014), Washington D.C., Boston, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island, and Seattle, Washington. Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, and Vermont are among those which enacted regulations banning single use plastic bags this year. Each have paper bag fees ranging from five to ten cents.

Retailers who collect New York State sales tax will begin collecting a five-cent fee on paper carryout bags. Two cents of the fee will go to the Department of Sanitation which will be used to partially fund the city's recycling programs, and three cents goes to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. This fee will not apply to any customers using SNAP or WIC.

You can avoid paying the five-cent fee by keeping reusable bags in your car, or clip folding reusable bags onto your commuting bag or purse, so you always have them handy. If you store them near the door or coat closet, you will be more likely to remember them on the way out. Remember that every time you use a reusable bag, you are doing your part to prevent litter and waste. Using reusable bags makes sense and is the right thing to do. You can also remind your family, friends, and neighbors to bring their reusable bags whenever they shop. For additional information about the bags, you may visit [nyc.gov/bags](http://nyc.gov/bags) or call 3-1-1.

Someone asked if the ban applies to clothing retailers?

Ms. Lam stated that it does include clothing retailers.

Someone asked where can the free reusable bags be found?

Ms. Lam stated that there will be tabling events where they will be given out, along with giveaways at subway stations. Information can be found on the website. They are also available to present to neighborhood groups and organizations and distribute bags.

Chairperson Morgan asked what the average cost for a heavy-duty reusable bag is?

Ms. Lam stated that they vary from one retailer to another.

Chairperson Morgan asked if any coordination is being done with the Department of Consumer Affairs to reduce conflicts that may occur with retailers who have mandatory bag check policies?

Ms. Lam stated that they do not work with the Department Consumer Affairs but will look into this and get back to the Board.

Ms. Deidre Williams asked what will happen to retailers' inventory of single use plastic bags?

Ms. Lam stated that that it will be up to the individual retailer. They can do what they want to do with them except distribute them to customers. Ms. Lee added that they also have until March 1, 2020 to deplete their inventory.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil asked if retailers who currently offer free paper bags will charge the fee beginning in March?

Ms. Lam stated that they will in New York City.

Someone asked who will monitor the quality of the paper bag that are sold?

Ms. Lam stated that it is at the discretion of the retailer.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this is an issue. The consumer should have some say on what they are buying. The price is the same from merchant to merchant there should be some standard.

Someone asked what happens if they, as a consumer, bring their own plastic bag to carry home purchases?

Ms. Lam stated that consumers will not be fined or charged if they use their own bags of any type.

District Manager Greene-Walker asked if consideration will be given to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients?

Ms. Lam stated that persons receiving SNAP benefits will not have to pay the five-cent fee.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the presenters for the information they provided and stated they will likely be invited for another presentation in the near future.

She stated that fliers were placed on everyone's seat inviting them to participate in a Vision Board / Kwanzaa party to take place on Saturday, December 28, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Popular Bank on Pitkin Avenue.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met with representatives from Love Fellowship Church and their development team which is proposing to develop affordable housing on a vacant lot that the church owns at 2435 Pacific Street. The development team will present their proposal at the Community Board meeting on January 28, 2020.

Applications are now being accepted for rental units at 212 Hegeman Avenue. You may apply online at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect). The application deadline is February 10, 2010.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be on January 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on December 11, 2019, the Work Group met to discuss proposed upcoming events: The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth and Family Empowerment Conference, periodic youth workshops, the development of a youth support group and a possible parade for our youth. Several community-based organizations, CAMBA, OPUS/ARISE, Medgar Evers Beacon Program, Boys and Girls Club, as well as the Department of Education's School District 23, the Community Education Council (CEC), and Executive Superintendents Karen Watts and Ari Sussman from School District North, are on board with the development of these undertakings. Seven (7) schools have been identified as possible host for the event which will take place on June 6, 2020. The Work Group is seeking volunteers to participate in all the above projects. Students (the Youth Government Council) are most definitely welcomed to contribute their ideas to all endeavors. The Youth Support Group Pilot Program is due to open in the early months of 2020, after the development and formation have been finalized. The periodic workshops are based on current and ongoing community issues that can affect our youth, is under strategic design. All the projects are works in progress.

The Veterans Affairs Committee is working on the implementation of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), a federal program sponsored by the United States Armed Forces in high schools and in some middle schools across the United States and United States military bases around the world. This too, is a work in progress.

The following programs are open for enrollment:

- SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial Programs for students attending middle schools
- Youth Community Ambassador Program recruiting middle/high school students
- Open Enrollment for 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 – at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street. To enroll call (718) 284-4700 for applications.
- Fathers and mentors are now meeting. If you are interested in the Fathers and Mentors Program call Mr. William Rochford at (718) 240-3657/(917) 428-0647, to obtain the date and time of the meetings because the meeting moves from location to location.

The Community Resident Planning Group will next meet on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone from the Medgar Evers College-Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that their Director could not be present this evening but looks forward to meeting the Community Board in the near future. He is, however, here this evening with another colleague.

Mr. Thomas Butler introduced himself as the Summer Youth Employment Director for the Van Dyke Cornerstone Program and an Outreach Coordinator with Oasis Beacon Program. They had a great summer season wherein they were able to offer many employment opportunities to Brownsville youth. It was a very positive experience and he is looking forward to doing it again this coming summer. They are currently forming partnerships with local businesses and organizations to create opportunities for our youth. Most recently, they have been in conversations with Digital Girl, Inc. regarding their software coding program.

His primary purpose for attending tonight's meeting is to meet the members and form opportunities for the youth of the community.

Mr. Boone invited the audience to join their advisory board and stated that he can be reached by calling (917) 627-9243.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on Monday, December 9, 2019 and convened a 2020 Complete Count Committee meeting and discussed steps that can be taken to increase awareness about being counted and to continue the conversation on the benefits of being counted. The consensus was that the Committee should plan to do door knocking in those areas that have been hard to count. Research has shown that a large percentage of the residents of New York City Housing Authority buildings in Community District #16 were undercounted during the 2010 census and

are unaware of the benefits of being counted. There are many negative thoughts surrounding the census, so the Committee has come up with an initial plan to volunteer their time to reach out to those residents. Saturday, January 18, 2020 has earmarked as the first Saturday that they will reach out to the residents.

They will finalize plans very soon. In the meantime, they are asking Community Board members and residents to join the team. Anyone interested in joining the team is asked to give their name to District Manager Greene-Walker by January 3, 2020.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Bernice Navarrete-Perez, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr.

Ms. Navarrete-Perez announced that Councilmember Espinal will host a 2020 Census Job Fair on January 24, 2020 at his District Office, located at 1945 Broadway. Applicants need not have a high school diploma or resume. Flexible hours are available making the positions suitable as second jobs.

Councilmember Espinal is also collaborating with the Citizens Committee for New York City on neighborhood improvement grant opportunities. They invite everyone to an information session at Councilmember Espinal's District Office on January 9, 2020, 6:30 p.m. regarding the Citizens Committee's grants of up to \$3,000 dollars for community- and school-based projects carried out by resident-led volunteer groups.

Councilmember Espinal's office can be reached by calling (718) 642-8664.

Someone asked if the job fair will have employers other than the Census Bureau?

Ms. Navarrete-Perez stated that it will be for census jobs.

Mr. Ronald Baez, representing the Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie, reported that they are continuing to accept new and unwrapped toys at their District Office. If you cannot make it to their office, he may be able to make arrangements for the toys to be picked up.

Their office still has rain barrels that are available for distribution to anyone who wants one.

Mr. Baez stated that assistance is available to anyone applying for insurance through the New York State of Health. Senator Myrie's District Office is located at 1077 Nostrand Avenue. The telephone number is (718) 284-4700.

Copies of Senator Myrie monthly newsletter are available on tonight's distribution table. He encourages everyone to pick up a copy and read it. It contains highlights of legislation supported by Senator Myrie and information on what he and his colleagues will be discussing in the coming year, as well as a calendar of events.

In collaboration with Grow Brooklyn, Senator Myrie will sponsor free tax preparation services in the District Office every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning in January.

Chairperson Morgan asked if fliers are available for the tax preparation services?

Mr. Baez stated that he will forward them once they are produced.

Mr. David Alexander asked if there will be limits on the income for the free tax preparation?

Mr. Baez stated that the information he has states that it will be for low-income persons. He does not know what the limits are at this time but will get back to community with that information.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. JoAnn Sexton who announced that the Brooklyn Tabernacle is inviting everyone to come enjoy their Broadway caliber "Joy to the World" holiday show. The tickets are free and there are several shows between now and Sunday.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the audience for their attendance and participation in tonight's meeting.

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