

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 7:03 p.m., and an invocation was said by Ms. Sarah Hall.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this public hearing is to receive comments regarding the response from City agencies to the Board's Capital and Expense Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2020.

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

Mr. Howard stated that this public hearing is to receive comments regarding the response from City agencies to the Board's Capital and Expense Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2020. He began to read aloud the agencies' responses to each item.

Mr. Howard stated that regarding Item #7, a request to renovate the Brownsville Multi Service Center, the Human Resources Administration responded that there is no funding in the Capital Budget for the project, however, a meeting is being planned to further discuss the issues.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if the responses are acceptable to the Board?

Chairperson Morgan stated that some of the responses are not acceptable to the Board. Where responses are not acceptable, the Board will follow-up with the respective agencies. Regarding Item #8, a request for roadway maintenance, while she believes that the smoothness of the roads in Brownsville is amongst the best in the city, we want to continue to prioritize their maintenance and are supportive of an effort to provide each borough with dedicated road maintenance crews.

Items #9 through 18 are requests to improve accessibility of all the train stations within the District. The Board has been making these requests for a number of years and the response to the requests is "For information regarding the status of the request, contact the Transit Authority directly.". However, the Board was informed that the Junius Street station is scheduled to have

an elevator installed during 2019, as part of the Brownsville Plan. The Board will call for meeting with the Transit Authority to follow-up on the timeline of the installation as well as discuss the installation of elevators at the other stations in the District. The Broadway Junction Station, without question, needs to have elevators installed.

Regarding Item #20, a request to rehabilitate Chester Playground, the Department of Parks and Recreation responded that funds are insufficient for the project and they recommend the project be brought to the attention of our elected officials.

Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel stated that she attended a meeting where Mayor de Blasio addressed the Nigerian delegation and stated that he would place money in his budget to fund the renovation of Chester Playground.

Chairperson Morgan stated that it is at this point where the community needs to follow-up and inform the agency that the response is not correct. Funding for the project was promised by the Mayor.

Chairperson Morgan continued to read the Board's Capital Budget request and agency responses.

Regarding Item #40, a request to upgrade electrical wiring to allow safe operation of ever-increasing electrical devices within schools, the Department of Education gave an incorrect response stating that they are unable to prioritize funding for this project at this time, when in -fact, the School Construction Authority has already committed to upgrading all public schools within New York City. The Board will follow-up on this response.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the Board's Capital Budget requests?

Someone stated that they are seeing renovations being done to the former P.S. 125 school building at Rockaway Avenue and Blake Avenue, however, he sees nothing happening at playground. When will the park be renovated?

Chairperson Morgan stated that the former school building is privately-owned and currently undergoing renovation by the private owner. The playground has been earmarked for renovation, however, a contract has not been issued at this time. We can expect the renovation to take place within a year or two.

There being no further questions or comments regarding the Capital Expense Requests, Chairperson Morgan read the Board's Expense Budget Requests and agency responses.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there were any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the Board's Expense Budget Requests? None were heard.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Craig Edelman, the newly appointed Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Edelman stated that he has met many neighborhood residents in his first six weeks as Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct and he is happy to be here.

Tonight, he will go over some of the crime trends that they are experiencing in the 73rd Precinct. Overall, crime is down for the year. They are experiencing an increase in shootings, three versus one, year-to-year, with the most recent one taking place late Saturday night at Pitkin Avenue and Osborn Street. In that incident, a 32-year old man was shot non-fatally in the leg.

None of the three shootings that have occurred appear to be related. This is a good thing, as they do not appear to be retaliatory in nature.

Additionally, they are seeing an increase in rapes citywide this year. They believe that, in part, this is due to rape being one of the most under-reported crimes. They will continue to encourage victims to report sexual assault.

They are down in robberies, however, he sees a disturbing trend involving social media sites such as Craigslist, Facebook, and Letgo. People are being lured by postings of someone claiming to have an item for sale who only seeks to rob them when they rendezvous or vice-versa. In collaboration with his NCOs, he has setup Safe Zones. They are posting on the

Precinct's social media pages locations where buyers and sellers can go to safely complete their transactions. There is one in every sector of the 73rd Precinct. He encourages the community to come and complete the transaction at the Precinct where it is doubtful that anyone will try to rob you. Additional locations are the Daily Press Café at 38 Somers Street, the BMS-Family Health Center at 592 Rockaway Avenue, Triple D's at 1377 East New York Avenue, and His Majesty International Church at 399 Rockaway Avenue.

They continue to see grand larcenies occurring because people are failing to secure items in their cars from the view of prying eyes; creating an environment for a crime of opportunity. He asks the community to take their items with them when leaving their cars or at least place them out of view.

As tax season arrives, he warns everyone to beware of scams by those claiming to be from the IRS. The IRS will never call you on the telephone to collect taxes due. They may send you a letter via snail-mail but will not call you or send email. If you receive such a call, simply hang up.

Also, if you receive a phone call from someone offering to sell you a gift card, do not accept the offer. They will promise to give you valid card numbers, but chances are they will not.

Someone asked Captain Edelman for his opinion of the Citizens App.

Captain Edelman stated that it works fairly well.

He encouraged members of the audience to engage with their NCOs (Neighborhood Coordinating Officers) and relinquished the floor to them.

Police Officer Sean Dolan stated that he and his partner (Police Officer Christopher Ferreira) are assigned to Sector A which covers the area north of Herkimer Street, and north of East New York Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Van Sinderen Avenue.

Their next Build the Block meeting will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2019, 5:00 p.m. at the Daily Press Café, located at 38 Somers Street (corner of Rockaway Avenue). If you are unsure if this is your Sector or want to know where your Sector is located, visit buildtheblock.nyc and enter your address to find the next Build the Block meeting and the names of the officers for that sector. Build the Block meetings are held quarterly. Within the 73rd Precinct, information about Build the Block meetings and officers can be found on their social media webpages.

Detective Grid Troci stated that he is assigned to Sector B which is bordered by the east side of Ralph Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Pitkin Avenue, the south of Atlantic Avenue between Ralph Avenue and Saratoga Avenue, the east side of Saratoga Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Herkimer Street, the south side of Herkimer Street from Saratoga Avenue to Rockaway Avenue, the west side of Rockaway Avenue from Herkimer Street to Blake Avenue, the north side of Blake Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and East 98th Street, the east side of East 98th Street between Blake Avenue and Pitkin Avenue, and the south side of Pitkin Avenue between East 98th Street and Ralph Avenue. The next Sector B Build the Block meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the Prospect Plaza Community Center, located at 1835 Sterling Place between Howard Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

He encourages everyone in the sector to attend and voice their concerns regarding policing on their block. He is also available to attend block association and other meetings.

Police Officer Guy Randel stated that he is assigned to Sector D and that his partner, Police Officer Jaime Ramirez, was recently transferred to the 75th Precinct. Sector D is bordered by East 98th Street to the west, Blake Avenue between East 98th Street and Rockaway Avenue, Rockaway Avenue between Blake Avenue and Newport Street, Newport Street to Van Sinderen Avenue, Van Sinderen Avenue to Avenue D, and Avenue D to East 98th Street.

One of the things that NCOs do is work with the community in resolving complaints. These can be complaints of excessive noise, drug dealing, gang activity, parking, derelict vehicle, etcetera. However, to be effective, they need the assistance of the community.

He recently hosted the Sector D build the Block meeting and had a turnout of about 35 persons which kept the meeting intimate which he prefers to larger crowds. It allows him to focus on the individual issues affecting attendees.

They will be hosting a basketball league which will play against other precincts in Brooklyn North.

Detective Gary Allen stated that he is the Coordinator for all the sectors and mostly deals with the schools in the Precinct. He visits all 46 schools in the Precinct and speaks about bullying, social media, and other subjects. He sometimes brings in special guest to speak on specific topics.

They also have a new program known as “Options” - a virtual reality program designed to help teenagers deal with real life on the street. It began two-weeks ago and will be in P.S. 284, Fredrick Douglass Academy, and Teachers Prep next week. The program puts youth through computer simulations - complete with virtual-reality goggles and uses real-life scenarios - to help the youths in avoiding potentially dangerous encounters. This is a pilot program in the Precinct where they are getting good feedback from and look forward to seeing it throughout the city.

Someone asked where do the scenarios come from that are used in the program?

Detective Allen stated that the scenarios are designed by the kids themselves. Some were given by youth living in the Van Dyke Houses. Participants put on their headset as officers guide them through the decision-making process.

Someone asked what metrics are used to determine how well a program is working?

Detective Allen stated that they have received positive feedback from parents whose children have spoken positively about the programs.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if there are workshops available for parents to help them recognize indicators that their child may be involved in gang activities?

Captain Edelman stated that he is a former Commanding Officer of the Brooklyn North Gang Unit. He can say that without a doubt the greatest problem facing the 73rd Precinct is gangs. It's not a problem that can be resolved solely by the Police Department; It is an issue that requires the entire community to resolve. He will work with any idea that anyone has to deter even one child from becoming gang affiliated. He encourages everyone to show up at their meetings or meet him in his office to discuss any idea to curb violence. Only a small percentage of youth are gang involved but they make life dangerous for others. There are many ways to figure out if your child is involved in a gang. Having a 14-year old himself, he understands the challenge. But things like monitoring their social media accounts can help. He will advise his officers of how it can be done and will not turn away anyone seeking the information.

Dr. Brown stated that she specifically wants to know of programs for parents.

Captain Edelman stated that he can make them available.

Someone stated that there is a need for additional centers in the community. There are territories delineated by gangs which keep youth from traveling to ones that exist away from their particular housing complex.

Captain Edelman stated that he agrees that there should be more centers, however, the Police Department does not create recreation centers. They can advocate for them along with the community. What the Police Department does have are programs such as the Explorers which can help youth learn to work together. He would to see a greater participation in the Explorers by youth in the community.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the audience for their participation in the discussion about policing in our community and reminds everyone that the Precinct Community Council meets on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at the Elliot Graham Houses, located at 633 Howard Avenue. The Precinct Council meetings are an excellent venue for in depth discussions on policing.

Next, she recognized Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel reported that the City is in the middle of the budget season. Last month, Mayor de Blasio issued his preliminary budget which sets forth \$92.2 billion in spending

for the City of New York for Fiscal Year 2020. Within the budget is a savings goal of \$750 million wherein he is seeking city agencies to do their part to make those savings. The previous year's budget was \$89 billion. Even with the \$3 billion increase, there is a shortfall.

Even with the shortfall, the Mayor's preliminary budget has an increase of \$23 million for pre-k. She is a mother and an advocate for early learning, however, when she met with the Mayor and asked him about the \$23 million increase for Pre-k for All (Known to be a pet project of the Mayor.) when there are Daycare Workers who are members of DC Local 1707, who are educating our children and earning just \$15.00/hour, his response was that we should look at what he has done for team already. He spoke about paid-vacation leave and they had a back and forth discussion.

The workers are asking her what is going on with their salaries. They are seeing other people arguing for and winning their fights for pay equity and salary parity. These are individuals who have bachelor's degrees, work every day educating our children, and are making minimum wage.

She brings this up to illustrate some of things the public does not see that happen behind the scenes at City Hall. Over the next month and a-half budget hearings will be taking place with agencies discussing what their plans will be to address the shortfalls. While she likes the goals of programs such as ThriveNYC, it is a bit unfair to see them get increases of millions of dollars to their budget while other programs suffer shortfalls.

The window of opportunity to apply for funding through councilmember's discretionary funds closed on February 19th. She received 1,245 applications for the 41st Council District as compared to 1,096 in the previous year. She and her staff will be reviewing the applications and doing their best to fund programs that do work in our community.

Tomorrow, she will be hosting a Homeowners and Landlord Fair at P.S. 5, located at 820 Hancock Street near Ralph Avenue. The Fair is being held to offer information to the community to reduce the number homes being lost through lien sales and deed thefts.

She reported that the Habitat for Humanity 25-unit project being constructed on Thomas S. Boyland Street and Park Place is 80% complete. They learned, today, that eight of the units are in closing and that seven of the eight are for applicants from this community.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked what is being done to freeze rents for senior citizens?

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that programs are already in place to freeze rents for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. She invited anyone who thinks they may qualify to visit her office for assistance. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 953-3097 and they are located on the First Floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue.

Someone asked what will the increase to Pre-k for All budget be allocated to?

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel stated that it is slated to provide additional seats at non-traditional Department of Education spaces.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on February 6, 2019, Mr. Jahi Rose from the Civilian Complaint Review Board made a full presentation to the Committee and they thank him for the informing presentation.

She will also continue to work closely with Mr. Rose, in informing as many of our residents as possible.

On February 7th, she attended a Valentine's event hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation at the Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC) for area seniors. The event was well attended and very well rounded. There were food, music, beautiful people, and useful information.

She thanks the BRC for keeping our seniors in mind. While at BRC, she collected contact information for outreach and plans to call those on the list in the event of serious weather to conduct a wellness check. In the event a response is needed, Community Affairs Officers from the 73rd Precinct will respond.

Anyone who would like to be on the outreach list or know someone who should be, please forward the contact information to District Manager Greene-Walker and it will be added to the current database.

She announced that Police Officer Angel Rodriguez has been transferred to the Community Affairs team and looks forward to working with him.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on March 6th, at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Room 103.

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

- 1) Applications are now being accepted for 3-bedroom units at 1547 East New York Avenue and 1- and 2-bedroom units at 1543 East New York Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and St. Mark's Avenue.

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: 1543/7 East New York Apartments C/O Re Tax Service LLC, 670 Myrtle Ave #260, Brooklyn, NY 11205 or email 421@retaxservice.com. The application deadline is March 11, 2019.

- 2) Kingsborough Community College offers individuals 60 years or older a great opportunity to attend college tuition free. New York State residents 60 years of age or older are qualified to attend classes as matriculating or non-matriculating students.

For further information or an application, call (718) 368-5079 or visit www.kbcc.cuny.edu/myturn.

- 3) The Brooklyn Public Library invites you to enter the Power Up Business Plan Competition and win seed money to start your own business. Attend classes, meet with a business counselor and learn to write a business plan.

To apply, bring your laptop, tablet or mobile device to one of the mandatory orientations. The next orientation will be at the Central Library at 10 Grand Army Plaza, on Wednesday, February 27th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The District manager's report contains information on additional dates and times

To participate, you must register for an orientation at bklynlib.org/business.

- 4) The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office is offering a five-week internship to high school students during the summer. To apply, visit apply.brooklynda.org. The application deadline is March 25, 2019.

The Office of Comptroller Scott Stringer seeks interns with an interest in public service. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree program for the fall 2019 semester. To apply, visit comptroller.nyc.gov/jobs/summer-internship-program. Application deadline is March 8, 2019.

- 5) NYPD Traffic Enforcement Bureau is accepting applications for Traffic Enforcement Agents.

You can take the NYPD Traffic Exam at a DCAS Computerized Testing Center. For more information, visit nyc.gov/nypd or call (212) RECRUIT.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, stated that Community Board #16 is amongst the first to try do something to ensure a good census count of our community in 2020. To help accomplish this, letters were sent to block associations, religious organizations, and other organizations within the District asking them to contact the Board with contact information for a representative from the group who would join them in helping to educate the community on the importance of a full count.

Unfortunately, only two responses were received. She is now appealing once more to the audience to join the Committee in undertaking this very important task. We often complain that funding is not coming to the District to do what needs to be done. This is a way to get involved and help get the funds into the community.

The next meeting of the Fiscal and Policy Workgroup will be on March 19th and she hopes that the organizations she mentioned can send one or two persons to gather information to spread through the community.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, Vice Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, stated that on February 13, 2019, the Community Resident Planning Group met with Mr. De Costa Headley, Community Outreach Liaison and Specialist, and Ms. Alexa Sokolov, Addictions Specialist, from Substance Abuse Provider Services (SAPS). They conducted a presentation concerning their program. Their organization is in Coney Island and Downtown Brooklyn, where their patients are serviced. They plan to form an alliance with the health care providers in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, who have patients in need of Substance Abuse Treatment Services. SAPS is also interested in installing a satellite location within Ocean Hill-Brownsville. The Work Group members asked what made their program better than the programs in Ocean Hill-Brownsville? Their response was that their treatment plan did not rely on substances such as methadone (another addictive drug) to treat the patient. A Non-medical approach utilizing counseling and or therapy is preferred. They offer a myriad of service from Ancillary withdrawal services/ambulatory detox to psycho educational groups for support. SAPS has to present the Work Group with statistics that state that there is a need for SAPS services in the community. No information has been provided yet. They are requesting a letter of support from the Board to open an office in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The Work Group also met with Wayne Clark, Resident Director at 585 Bristol Street. They have been in operation for nearly a year, unbeknownst to the Community Board. They are funded by OASAS, and other city funding. There are 12 to 16 residents at a time at the location. All services are provided at the facility, and 24-hour security is in place. The residents' stay in this temporary residence is from 6-months to a year, and there have not been any complaints lodged against the residents. Their permanent housing placement rate is very good according to the director. The purpose of this meeting was to announce their existence.

Also attending this meeting was the principal, Ms. Carmen Simon from Teacher's Preparatory High School, located on Bristol Street. The school shares space with the Frederick Douglass Academy VII where Ms. Tameka Matheson is the principal. Ms. Simon informed the Work Group that there were 220 students attending the school from grades 8-12, and the school was in good standing. Next semester the school will reduce the grade level from 8th -12th grade to 9th - 12th grade. Teachers Prep will collaborate with the Bronx Community School Program, which will give the students and teachers in the school a myriad of services to promote academic success. Originally, the school was designed to create teachers who would work in the school once they graduated, but over the years the structure collapsed, but now with the additional help from the above program, the school will initiate the practice again.

On January 28th, and February 11th, there were meetings for the 3rd Annual Youth and Family Conference Committee. The Committee has decided to house the event at KAPPA V on June 1, 2019. The Youth Services Planning Committee, in collaboration with School District 23 and the Community Education Council (CEC), two schools, and four community-based organizations have signed onto the event. If you are interested in participating or join in this community event, or have any suggestions, please contact Ms. Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or e-mail her at bk16@cb.nyc.gov to give her the information.

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 next meeting of the Community Resident Planning Work Group will be on Wednesday, March 13th, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, And Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on February 12, 2019 with representatives from the Pitkin Avenue BID who informed us that they received an Avenue NYC grant to prepare a Commercial District Needs Assessment for the area encompassing Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard, Rockaway Avenue between East New York Avenue and Sutter Avenue, Mother Gaston Boulevard between Pitkin Avenue and Sutter Avenue, and Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard. Within this area are 380 storefronts, 314 are occupied. and there are 7 vacant lots. Forty-three percent of the storefronts are in average condition, 41% are poor or very poor, and 16% are good or in excellent condition.

A merchants' survey was conducted between October and December 2018. One hundred and four surveys were collected. In the last year, sales decreased 43%. Seventy-six percent of businesses rent and 21% own their property. Crime and safety are the biggest challenges.

They also did a consumer/resident survey and collected over 300 responses. Sixty-seven percent responded that they feel safe shopping in the district during the day and 34% responded that they feel safe at night.

Shoppers have a desire to see more sit-down restaurants, coffee shops and bakeries, "Big Box" or anchor stores, healthy food, and banks or financial institutions.

The Pitkin Avenue BID plans to develop a customer loyalty saving card to encourage local shopping, programs to incentivize storefront improvements, and support community events that highlight Brownsville's culture and history.

The Work Group was also informed that the Pitkin Avenue Merchants Association was awarded a Main Street grant in the amount of \$250,000 which will be used to assist storeowners to improve their facades

The Equity Planning Work Group also met with the developers for the Brownsville RFP – Site B, located at 97 Glenmore Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Christopher Avenue. They are proposing to construct 240 units of housing that will be 100% affordable to community residents and 20,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. As the plan develops, they will share information with the community.

The next Equity Planning Work Group meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00 pm.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on Thursday, February 14, 2019, the City Service Planning Work Group met with the Betsy Head Cardio Dance Group which is run by Instructors Carolyn and Sue. They have been in existence since 2009. This low-impact/ cardio dance, aerobic/toning program is free for adults and seniors at Betsy Head Gymnasium, located at 694 Thomas Boyland Street between Livonia and Dumont Avenues, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This group is looking for space for stationary bikes.

Chairperson Genese Morgan gave some insight on how space may be obtained. The Work Group is willing to work with them as much as possible to help them obtain space.

Parks surveys were discussed and given out. Surveys are also available tonight. Please fill them out and return them to the Community Board at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street or Parks and Recreation Chairperson, Deborah Williams.

Ms. Zalika Headley, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that she attended a public hearing conducted by the NYC Transit Authority where suggestions were made for new accessible subway stations. The Junius Street-Livonia Avenue station and Broadway Junction were on the list of stations in the next round to receive elevators.

Transit Authority representatives will be present at our March 26th Community Board meeting to give an update on the L-train reconstruction project.

The next City Services Planning Work Group meeting will be on March 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Rev. Eddie Karim, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Rev. Karim announced that Assemblywoman Walker's next Advisory Board Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16, 2019 and someone will be there to speak about the upcoming 2020 census and its importance to our community.

On April 11th, Assemblywoman Walker will present a Budget Wrap-up to give the community a full explanation of the state budget. The venue has not been verified, he will have that information available at next month's meeting and asks that you save the date to attend the meeting.

Thus far this year, 19 bills have been signed into law; ranging from early voting to reproductive rights. He expressed hope that everyone voted in today's special election for Public Advocate and reminds everyone that primary elections have been moved from September to June 25th. Persons who ran in today's special election will have to run again in June if they wish to be Public Advocate in 2020.

Chairperson Morgan asked if candidates who ran in today's election will have to petition to be placed on June's ballot?

Rev. Karim stated that they do, and the petition process begins anew tomorrow.

Mr. Godfre Bayalama, representing the Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie, stated that Senator Myrie is the Chairperson of Committee on Elections and one of the first things that he did in Albany is to put forward an early voting bill which has passed into law.

They have office hours at 400 Rockaway Avenue on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or issues they would like assistance with to visit the office.

Mr. Matthew D'Onofrio, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud, reported that they had the New York Legal Assistance Group's Mobile Legal Help Center at Senator Persaud's office today to provide legal assistance to constituents. If you were not able to attend, there is still availability for the next dates: Tuesday, April 16, Wednesday, June 5 and Wednesday, August 14. Please call (718) 649-7653, to be scheduled.

Senator Roxanne Persaud invites families to Senate District 19's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Canarsie Park. The free event will take place on Saturday, April 13th.

Courtesy of the New York City Fire Department, their office will be giving out free smoke detector batteries, while supplies last.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone who stated that he is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Medgar Evers/Oasis Beacon Program, located at 210 Chester Street. They operate Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. On this coming Friday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m., the youth will be presenting a Black History Month program and he invites everyone come join them.

Ms. Digna Layne announced that Good Shepherd Services has begun a new cohort of barber training classes. There are no entrants from Brownsville, however, if you know someone from the community with interest, or have a group who are interested in having the hair cut for free, please call her at (646) 398-4145.

Chairperson Morgan announced that Community Board #16 now has an application process for developers to help answer the hard questions regarding community benefits at the committee level and have better answers when they come before the full Board. She thanks the Economic Development Committee Chairperson, Mr. Albion Liburd for making this happen.

We need continued participation in Committee meetings. Please consider joining a committee. If you are interested in applying for the Community Board, please submit an application through the Borough President's website.

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