

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MARCH 26, 2019**

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., and an invocation was said by Ms. Sarah Hall.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Abraham Sanabria, Executive Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Regarding overall crimes, they are down 20%. Assaults are down significantly, as well as robberies. Grand larceny continues to be high, mainly because of various scams being perpetrated. He warned the audience to be wary of telephone calls from persons claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and threatening you with being arrested if you fail to pay owed taxes. Be aware that the IRS will never call or email you unsolicited regarding your taxes. He also warned against allowing persons claiming to be from Con Edison or other companies into your home without first verifying that they are indeed from the company by calling the company directly.

He encouraged anyone who uses Twitter to follow the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct's Twitter feed and get valuable tips on avoiding scams and to pass that information on to family and friends to keep them safe from scams as well.

He also encouraged the community to engage with their Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs). If you are experiencing quality of life issues on your block, call your NCO and leave a message if you do not reach them. They might not pick up right away, but they will respond.

Someone stated that there are a number of "unclean" vehicles that are parked in the area of Sutter Avenue and Union Street. Is the Police Department doing anything to remove them?

Captain Sanabria stated that they do patrol for unregistered vehicles and depending on whether the car is derelict or not they will remove it or refer it to the Department of Sanitation. The speaker stated that she is referring to vehicles that are involved in drug transactions.

Captain Sanabria stated that they act on tips concerning drug trafficking and it is helpful when the information is not from anonymous sources, as that will allow them to get complete details and remedy the situation properly.

Mr. Richard Lee complained that there are commercial vehicles that are parked on his block for extended periods. One has been at the same location since January.

Police Officer Angel Rodriguez stated that he will take the information and look into the issue.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Captain Sanabria for his report and urged the audience to report abandoned and derelict vehicles to 3-1-1, the District Manager, or the Precinct and the Board will see that the appropriate agency acts on the issue.

A roll call was performed by District Manager Greene-Walker and failed to yield a quorum of the membership.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Andrew Ingelsby of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

Mr. Ingelsby stated that he is the Assistant Director for Governmental and Community Relations at New York City Transit. He and his colleagues from MTA Capital Construction and New York City Transit Authority are present this evening to give an update on the L- Line Project. They have been here several times over the past three years to present on the project. Tonight, they will be presenting a change of plan on the project.

Ms. Kaitlin McCready, Director of Special Projects at New York City Transit, stated that the biggest change to the project is that they will not be completely shutting down the Canarsie Tube. Service (with some modifications) will now be available throughout the repairs.

During the weekdays from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., trains will run as normal. On weekends and evenings, there will be reduced service as they perform work on one side.

Some of the things that they have done since the new plan was announced in January are:

- Developing a new service plan in line with revised approach for L tunnel rehabilitation
- Coordinating with NYC DOT, NYPD and other government partners
- Continuing to attend meetings and collecting input from elected officials, advocates and customers via a new webpage, newsletter and meetings
- Having MTA Capital Construction leading the tunnel rehabilitation work with an independent consultant reporting directly to the MTA Board throughout the project.

Mr. Joe O'Donnell, Director of Public Affairs for MTA Capital Construction (MTACCC), stated that MTACC is charged with overseeing the work, that is essentially between Third Avenue and Bedford Avenue. There will be additional station work which will include installation of elevators at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, station circulation improvements at Court Square, additional turnstile capacity at Nassau Street on the G, new stairways, elevators, and an expanded mezzanine at the Bedford Avenue Station, new stairways and a new Avenue A entrance at the First Avenue Station, a new stairway; additional turnstile capacity at the Metropolitan(G)/Lorimer (L) Station, station component repairs at the Morgan Avenue, DeKalb Avenue, Halsey Street, and Bushwick Avenue Stations, A new stairway at Broadway Junction, widened stairway and platform at Marcy Avenue, and reopened entrances at Hewes Street and Flushing Avenue Stations.

Infrastructure upgrades include track and switch renewals, tunnel pump room rehabilitation, and the construction of three new substations (two in Brooklyn, one in Manhattan) will provide the power needed to run more trains on the line. Track renewal is underway and on schedule. Work in tunnels and other locations along the line include the replacement of rails and ties making for a smoother ride and improved reliability. New, more efficient third rail are also being installed.

Utility lines are being moved to allow for tunnel repair work to go forward. Under the new plan, they will not be demolishing as much of the benchwall as they had originally anticipated. Instead, they will reinforce, replace and stabilize the benchwall in areas that need it.

A dust control and monitoring plan is in place and is designed to protect workers, customers and the general public from dust including silica that occurs during construction. Dust and silica control is performed on every MTA construction project. The revised plan involves less demolition and will result in less dust generated, but they will have in place dust control measures will be in place whenever construction occurs. They will use shrouds to contain the dust and hepa-vacs to filter the dust that does occur. Monitoring will occur within the work zone, areas immediately outside work zone, and continuously in public space. Multiple layers of monitoring for public and worker safety are in place.

On the resiliency aspect of things, they have completed sealing all possible street-level vents along 14<sup>th</sup> Street, protecting fans on both sides of the river. They continue work on increasing pump capacity in the tunnel, relocating pump controls out of flood zones. Next steps include: finalizing a schedule and negotiation for the revised approach, and finalize logistics for tunnel rehabilitation and other construction projects.

They will begin major tunnel rehabilitation work on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dan Jankowski, Rail Service Planner in the Operations Division of NYCTA, restated that weekday service on the L Line will be as normal. On weekends and evenings, only one track will be used between Lorimer Street and Eight Avenue Stations. They will use switches to allow service along both tracks in Brooklyn. Service will be reduced twenty-minute intervals between trains. Free Metrocard transfers will be available during the duration of the project. Two circulator buses will run between Williamsburg and Manhattan, along with added service on the M14 A route. Cars will be added to the G Line to accommodate additional riders. M Line service will go to 96<sup>th</sup> Street on Second Avenue on weekends (as it does during the week).

They will continue working with the Police Department, federal partners and New York City Department of Transportation to ensure the safety of riders, as well as, share new service plan with customers at community board meetings, open houses, platform and train car chats. They will also continue planning to make service and operational adjustments in real-time, as need be.

Mr. Ingelsby provided additional updates on making stations within Community District #16 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. As he has been reporting to the Community Board for the past two to three years, by the year 2020, they will be completing the 100 Key Station Accessibility project which did not include any stations within Community District #16. Current MTA President, Andrew Byford is working on a plan in which they will make an additional 50 stations ADA accessible in next ten years, if they receive the appropriate funding. Of these fifty, there is a short list of twenty stations which include the Junius Street Station on the IRT #3, the Livonia Avenue Station on the L, and the Broadway Junction A, C, J/Z, and L lines that are prioritized.

Last week, an article ran in the New York Daily News ascribing that the MTA relegates their oldest buses to Brooklyn's poorest neighborhoods. The MTA categorically denies the allegation. Furthermore, their plans already call for the MTA to eliminate all of their older buses by May 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. This includes buses that operate out the East New York Depot, as well as those operating out of the Flatbush Depot.

Mr. John McCadney asked if the newer buses run on diesel fuel?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that they will be high efficiency diesel fueled buses.

Someone asked why no stations in the community are part of the original 100 and can the Metrocard transfer at Junius Street/Livonia Avenue be made permanent?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that they have yet to make a determination as to whether the free transfer will be permanent.

In [1994], local law required the MTA to make 100 specific "key stations" accessible by the year 2020. These stations were agreed upon by a committee consisting of the Federal Transit Administration, members of the disabled community, and the New York City Transit Authority and did not included any stations in Community District #16.

Mr. McCadney requested that the Rockaway Avenue and Sutter Avenue Stations be considered as priorities, as they allow for transfers to bus lines used by area residents.

Ms. Joy Simmons of the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron stated that the community has been fighting for the free transfer between the IRT and Canarsie Line at Junius Street and Livonia Avenue for years. To make the transfer temporary is unacceptable.

Ms. McCready stated that it is revenue-based decision that MTA will make at a later date.

Ms. Simmons stated that it must be made permanent. Anything less is unacceptable to the community.

Ms. McCready stated that she and Mr. Ingelsby have advocated for the transfer to be made permanent but have received pushback from the agency.

Chairperson Morgan stated that she understands Ms. Simmons concern and it was addressed at last month's meeting and the Board will follow-up on the issue.

Someone asked if they know what particulates are in the dust that is being made and if they have a plan to monitor the health effects of the particulates?

Mr. O'Donnell stated that they are using federal guidelines for miners who work full shifts as a baseline. However, their workers and the public will only be subjected to the particles for brief period and therefore be well below limits allowed.

The questioner asked if asbestos abatement will be done?

Mr. O'Donnell stated that asbestos is treated in a completely different manner. In the event that asbestos is identified, they will follow those protocols as well.

Ms. Cynthia Moices, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, asked that arrangements be made with Councilmember Ampry-Samuel's office to discuss how non-diesel buses can be placed in the community.

Chairperson Morgan asked if these buses are only sent to Brownsville or are they used throughout the city?

Ms. McCready stated that they do not have the expertise on the subject but can make arrangements to have a presentation made by their colleagues with that expertise.

Someone asked if the Board can be given information on how the initial "100 key stations" were decided upon (the several on the Upper East Side but none in Brownsville). Secondly, is the agency building preventive measures to safeguard the system from climate events such as Sandy and other climate related forces.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that they are. They have upgraded pumping systems, moved the pumps out of flood plains, and have sealed grade level gratings to prevent flooding. They have developed plans that take into consideration 500-year flood plans.

Mr. McCadney asked if the Flatbush or East New York Depots have the capability of fueling the new CNG (compressed natural gas) buses?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that he would get back to the Board with that information.

Chairperson Morgan stated that as part of the Brownsville Plan, the Junius Street and Livonia Avenue Stations were to receive elevators and a permanent free transfer. Was he a participant in those discussions with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development?

Mr. Ingelsby stated that they did participate in some of the discussions and will follow-up on the issues.

Chairperson Morgan stated that this presentation was wonderful if you live in Williamsburg. However, for Brownsville residents, there is little beyond free transfers for 18 months. She finds it insulting to hear that the community cannot get elevators because of revenue. Is it our job to pay for elevators in Williamsburg? While residents of Williamsburg are getting conversions, transfers, and buses, Brownsville residents are being told that they will likely have seating available and free transfers while conveniences are being provide for Williamsburg.

Mr. Ingelsby stated that they are adding elevators at the first stops on both sides of the river as part of the initial 100 stations.

Chairperson Morgan stated that at the time the initial 100 stations were being decided upon, in the 1980's and 1990's, no one was thinking of Williamsburg. They were added at the detriment of the Brownsville community.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil stated that he also finds it unfair that whenever the agency needs to put in place something to make it convenient for them to do work that they want or need to do, they make the needed changes. As soon as they no longer need that same change, it becomes something that no longer capable of being done. Case in point, when work needed to be done at the East New York Station of the Long Island Railroad, a ramp was installed adjacent to the westbound platform to bring material and crew to the platform. Upon completion of the work, instead of making the ramp a permanent part of the station it was removed with request for re-installation falling of deaf ears. Today, we are being told that the free transfer slated for the Junius Street and Livonia Avenue Stations will only be while the L-Line project is taking place, when in this very venue it was stated that it would be a permanent free transfer.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Curtis Reed of Brownsville Jobs Plus.

Mr. Reed stated that he is the new Community Engagement Coordinator for Brownsville Jobs Plus. He is present this evening to formally introduce himself to the Board.

The "Plus" in Jobs Plus is to let people know that they do not just focus on employment. They participate at community events (they held an OSHA training at one recent event).

Their direct constituents are residents of Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses. To be placed in employment, one must live in one of those complexes. They offer referrals to persons who are not residents of those complexes. They collaborate with agencies such as WorkForce 1 on Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street.

He wants to expand and solidify partnerships with the community. When events or trainings allow for participation by persons who are not residents, he welcomes everyone to participate.

Someone asked if they offer training in some of the higher-paying jobs such nursing, plumbing, and the tech industry which are experiencing labor shortages?

Mr. Reed stated that they do.

Ms. Anita Pierce asked if a survey was done to determine the needs of the community regarding the type of training to be done? Also, are there any trainings done for the veteran community?

Mr. Reed stated that there has not been any survey done during his tenure, except for one done for young adults who make up about 40% of their 2,000 plus membership. They do not have any programs that specifically target veterans but will certainly work with them.

Ms. Pierce asked if they work with people who have criminal records?

Mr. Reed stated that have relationships with organizations such as Legal Hand that can assist persons who are having employment issues because of their record.

They have access to a swath of resources that can assist persons who are faced with any type of job discrimination.

Someone asked where are they located?

Mr. Reed stated that they are located at 330 Powell Street at the corner of Blake Avenue.

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

### **SUMMER STAGE AT BETSY HEAD PARK**

New York City Parks Foundation is proud to announce the 2019 season of the Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage with nearly 100 free and benefit performances in 18

parks across NYC - including three shows in Betsy Head Park before that section closes for construction.

The SummerStage schedule for Betsy Head Park is as follows:

- Boot Camp BBQ: Black Moon and Smif-N-Wessun, Thursday, June 27 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Artist To Be Announced, Friday, June 28 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Young M.A. / Funk Flex, Saturday, June 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **FREE TUTORING**

Brooklyn Community Services is offering free tutoring services at its new Prospect Plaza Community Center location, 1835 Sterling Place. Assistance is available to students in grades 3 to 7 in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) on Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For additional information, please contact Diamond Derival at (718) 643-9039- extension 7018 or via email [dderival@wearebcs.org](mailto:dderival@wearebcs.org).

### **OCEAN HILL PLAYGROUND**

The Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a Scope Meeting for Ocean Hill Playground on Thursday, May 2, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss the community's ideas for the future skate park, basketball courts, and multi-purpose play area.

Prior to the meeting, there will be basketball clinics and skate demos with live DJ, tabling, and more, beginning at 4:00 p.m.. Come join the fun and information event.

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Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on March 6, 2019, the Committee met to discuss the following:

Safe Travel: The application has been submitted and is being reviewed. The prospective dates and locations are as follows:

April 6 and April 20 at 73rd Precinct, Betsy Head Pool House and the BRC. Coordination will be done once application is approved.

The Committee will also hand out literature regarding the importance of moving to the right making way for emergency service vehicles in traffic. This will be done when traffic is stopped at the light during the events. All of this is in cooperation with Vision Zero. As of today, the grant has not been awarded.

Census 2020 - The Committee has committed to becoming well informed and mobile to communicate the importance of participation, dispel the stigmas of cooperating with the count, and inform the community about available positions. Please note about the positions: part-time positions are in high demand; full-time positions are ample.

Quality of Life Complaints - Several months ago, I mentioned reviewing Quality of Life issues. Since then, we have identified the top 7 complaints in our neighborhood. Once identified, the Committee sought out remedies that would 1) Discourage the behavior, 2) Strengthen the community, and 3) Maximize on our resources (not exhausting the resources)

The recommendations can be found in her report which is on file at the Community Board Office.

The Public Safety Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, she attended a Build the Block meeting held at 399 Rockaway Avenue, the officers are really doing a good job engaging with the community, there is a growing positive energy in the community which is knocking down barriers. If you would like to have the NCOs

make a Safety Presentation or to hear your concerns, please reach out to the Committee and they will be there.

Ms. Anita Pierce, in behalf of the Equity Planning Work Group, reported that Work Group met on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 with Mr. Michael James, Attorney for Soul Foods, LLC at 2258 Atlantic Avenue which applied to the State Liquor Authority for a Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider license.

The establishment is seeking the Board's support of their application for a full liquor license.

Mr. James and the owner of Soul Foods were asked to come forward.

Mr. James stated that Soul Foods is a Caribbean restaurant located at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Rockaway Avenue. They have been at the location since July 2018 and are applying for a full liquor license. Their hours of operation are Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Thursdays to Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. There will be security on-premises and there is ample lighting and cameras at the location.

Someone asked why the owner was not present?

Mr. James stated that she is backed-up at the restaurant and could not leave.

Someone asked why is the establishment seeking a liquor license?

Mr. James stated that it is economics. A key revenue driver for restaurants is liquor. It carries the largest margins in the business. Expenses are rising and she wants the business to be profitable.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the location is near a house of worship or a school?

Mr. James stated that it is not within 500 feet of either.

Ms. Pierce stated that the site is relatively small. Will there be any monitoring of alcohol consumption?

Mr. James stated that there are security cameras, security personnel, and will be serving alcohol in glass cups that informs them that client is drinking liquor as opposed to disposable cups used for soft drinks that they allow clients to leave with.

Someone asked if they are installing a bar or simply adding liquor to the menu?

Mr. James stated that they are adding liquor to the menu. It will only be served to diners, you cannot walk up and order liquor.

Chairperson Morgan asked if the backyard of the business will be used to serve drinks?

Mr. James stated that it will not, drinks will only be served indoors.

Chairperson Morgan asked if there is a particular model that they are seeking to replicate in their operations?

Mr. James stated that in his business, he sees restaurant operate in all types of spaces. They make do with the space that they have available.

Chairperson Morgan stated that while Mr. James did a wonderful job representing his client, she thinks that the Board wants the opportunity to meet her and hear in her own words what is she looking to accomplish in serving liquor. Considering that a quorum is not present this evening, it gives her another chance to come before the Board at the next meeting.

Ms. Pierce stated that it is important that community participates in the committee meetings where the issues are discussed in depth. What you hear at the Board meeting are summaries. The Equity Planning Work Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. They want the input of community before it is time to vote on items with much time to review.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on Thursday, March 14, 2019 the City Service Planning Work Group met with Michael Reiser, Outreach Coordinator for Grow NYC and Teresa Cunningham Community Affairs Liaison, NYC Department of Sanitation. Mr. Reiser informed us about recycling in NYCHA with the Zero Waste program. This program has provided NYCHA residents with recycle bins, clear bags, and resources to get rid of electronics. They also educate residents about how to make waste reduction easy for all. They encourage you to come to their public events to learn as much as possible because by reusing items too good to toss out and adopting new habits reduce waste and recycle more.

They also had a presentation from Eric Thomann, Outreach Coordinator for Operation GreenThumb which is the largest gardening program in the nation. Their mission is to educate and support community gardens across the five boroughs while preserving open space. There are 29 gardens in Community District #16. GreenThumb supports our gardens in Ocean Hill-Brownsville by providing free garden materials, education workshops, and seasonal programs that help strengthen communities. For more information, go to [www.playfair.nyc](http://www.playfair.nyc)

On March 4, 2019, she attended a meeting of Play Fair NY4P at Borough Hall where the budget for the Parks Department was discussed. Play Fair is a multi-year advocacy campaign for parks leading up to the mayoral election in 2021. The Play Fair Campaign focuses on an increase of \$100 million to the expense budget for the Parks Department which means investing in park staffing, maintenance, and programming. For more information, visit the website at [www.playfair.nyc](http://www.playfair.nyc).

On March 19, 2019, we had the official groundbreaking for Phase 2 of the Imagination Playground at Betsy Head. Construction is scheduled to be completed by spring 2020.

Update on Train Station Accessibility: Community Board 16's submission of the Fiscal Year 2020 Statement of Community District Needs included an opening statement regarding the lack of accessible subway stations for persons with physical disabilities.

The Board not only listed the specific issues, but also provided a path forward to resolve the issue. However, the responses received in February were inadequate and inconsistent with previous conversation with the city agencies. The Committee will submit a letter to MTA regarding a response to our community issues.

L Train Open House Update: In January 2019, Gov. Cuomo announced significant changes to the L train project. One of the major changes to the plan, affecting residents of our community, was the cancellation of the bus between the Rockaway Parkway L train stop and the 3,4, and 5 at Utica Avenue. This bus line was cancelled since the L train will still operate as normal during weekday hours.

As the project moves forward, we will continue to provide monthly updates.

Ms. Harris attended a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Board on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall. Free electronic waste recycling service is available to residential apartment buildings with 10 or more units. The building manager or residents in apartment buildings can enroll at [nyc.gov/recycle](http://nyc.gov/recycle).

Apartment buildings can also enroll in free Clothing and Textile Recycling at [nyc.gov/refashion](http://nyc.gov/refashion).

Residents are encouraged to join a community conversation about food waste in New York City on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street.

The next City Service Planning Work Group meeting will be April 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas Boyland Street.

District Manager Greene-Walker read the report of the Community Resident Planning Work Group which met on March 13, 2019. Dr. Cleopatra Brown informed us that our Veterans Affairs Committee continues to work with the Veterans Affairs Committee at Community Board #3 to sponsor a Veterans Day Parade on November 9, 2019.

The Veterans Affairs Committee is working with staff at the Volunteers of America SRO to provide resources and honor veterans in May.

The Work Group met with Ms. Judith Rivera, Girls Scouts of Greater New York Brooklyn Recruitment Specialist, who gave the Committee an overview of the benefits of having the Girls Scouts in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The 3rd Annual Youth and Family Empowerment Conference is proceeding as planned. The event will be held on June 1st, at KAPPA V, located at 985 Rockaway Avenue. The program begins at 9:00 am. It will be a very active event with a multitude of community-based organizations, community services, and The Department of Education as co-sponsor to the event.

Also, after the death of Timi Oyebola last August in Brownsville, Timi's father, Alowale Oyebola, developed a program in his honor: Timi Project Reveal, Ewaoluwa L'Fierce – Director. Their telephone number is (862) 246-6954. The Timi Project Reveal Program will also be a participant in the event. The Timi Project will have a Basketball Tournament at P.S. 327, where the shooting took place. The school has approved the sports event, which is on June 1st beginning at 2:00 pm. A "Peaceful March Against Violence" is being considered as the student leave KAPPA V to attend the tournament at P.S. 327. The Committee plans to honor other fallen hero's killed by gun violence over the years as well. Please come and partake in the Youth and Family Empowerment Conference.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation continues to have open enrollment for:

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, April 10th, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 20, 2019 and heard a presentation by Camille Adolphe, representing The Center for Law and Social Justice, of the Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York.

Ms. Adolphe informed us about the effort to count everyone in communities such as Ocean Hill-Brownsville which had a low count during the 2010 census. Men and children under 4 years of age were undercounted.

She emphasized that the census count determines how much money communities get for services such as transportation, health care, and housing. An undercount might cause us to lose a Congressional seat.

To get the word out about the importance of the 2020 census, the Legislative Committee has established the 2020 Census Count Committee for Community District #16. She thanks those who committed to serve and encourages anyone who is a member of a block association, civic group, or religious group to join the 2020 Census Count Committee by calling the Community Board Office at (718) 385-0323 or emailing [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov). This will give you the opportunity to receive information about the 2020 census, and notices about forums and training sessions.

The Legislative Committee reviewed legislation that was passed by the New York State Assembly and Senate regarding property tax exemption for all veterans, including Cold War veterans. The Fiscal and Policy Work Group will be working with other community boards and councilmembers to get similar legislation passed in the City Council.

They also reviewed legislation introduced by Senator Persaud and passed in the New York

State Senate to establish the Small Business Crime Prevention Services Program which assists small businesses in preventing crimes against them.

The next Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16th, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Board office.

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

Ms. Moices reported that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel is for the first-time involved in the Participatory Budget process and they are approaching voting week. She suggests that those who have made budget request, reach out to them soon.

Voting for proposals can be done at several locations throughout her district and online beginning March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Godfre Bayalama, representing the Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie, reported that the state budget is due on April 1, 2019 and Senator Myrie is working hard to ensure that our community receives its fair share of funding including funding for Census 2020. He is also fighting for MTA capital projects such as what was heard this evening.

In terms of community updates, they are having a Tax Forum on April 4<sup>th</sup> where constituents can come discuss issues concerning their taxes.

Rev. Eddie Karim, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, reported that Assemblywoman Walker is also in Albany fighting for a fair share of the state budget for her district and ask that the community keep her in prayer.

She recently hosted two forums, one regarding bail reform and another regarding voters' rights. Assemblywoman Walker and Councilmember Ampry-Samuel will hold their Monthly Advisory Board Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., instead of the usual third Saturday because of the Easter holiday. It will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at Saratoga Square Park at 1:00 p.m. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, she will host her Annual Peace March at Howard Houses.

He encourages persons who have concerns or issues that they would like Assemblywoman Walker address to call their office at (718) 342-1256.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing the Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzales, reported that District Attorney Gonzales recently held a Justice 2020 Summit, where he brought together former inmates, criminal justice experts and community leaders to take a look at what they think justice should look like in 2020.

District Attorney Gonzales believes that his job is to keep Brooklyn safe and strengthen communities by creating trust and bringing equal justice to all. That is the core mission of Justice 2020 which sits on four pillars: reducing incarceration, engaging communities, focusing on drivers of crime, and investing in our people. They do not want to be an office that just locks people up and throw away the key. However, they will be an office that keeps people safe. They will not look to put people in jail for every little crime. They have already stopped prosecuting people for possession of low levels of marijuana. Last year, the District Attorney had the record of 1,444 individuals convicted of possession of low levels of marijuana expunged.

This does not mean that you can come to Brooklyn and commit heinous crimes. Violent crimes are off the table, when it comes to Justice 2020. The entire Justice 2020 report is available on their website at [www.brooklynda.org](http://www.brooklynda.org) and summaries are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Barbara Chaney of My Auntie's House who announced the formation of a Girl Scout Troop at the Gregory Jackson Community Center (519 Rockaway Avenue). They will have a registration event on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Girls who are kindergarten age and up may register.

She further stated that My Auntie's House distributes meals, on a first-come, first-served basis on Thursdays and Fridays between 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., at the medical building on Rockaway Avenue and Pitkin Avenue. They also provide training for first aid, CPR, and opioid intervention. She can be reached by calling (347) 210-8112.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Paul Rothblatt who stated that he is assisting the family of the late Major Owens in having a portion of Eastern Parkway co-named in his honor. He will meet with the Board's Transportation Committee next month and is seeking anecdotes about Major Owens, anyone with stories may reach him by calling (646) 498-6093.

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