

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 6:40 p.m., and an invocation was said by Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

- I. IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by Bridge Rockaway Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 17d:
  1. changing from an M1-1 District to an M1-4/R6A District at property bounded by a line 100 feet southerly of Riverdale Avenue, Thatford Avenue, Newport Street, and a line 100 feet westerly of Thatford Avenue;
  2. changing from an M1-1 District to an M1-4/R7A District property bounded by a line 100 feet southerly of Riverdale Avenue, a line 100 feet westerly of Thatford Avenue, Newport Street, Rockaway Avenue and its southerly and northerly centerline prolongations; and
  3. establishing a Special Mixed Use District (MX-I9) bounded by a line 100 feet southerly of Riverdale Avenue, Thatford Avenue, Newport Street, Rockaway Avenue and its southerly and northerly centerline prolongations;

Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated February 3, 2020, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-561.

The proposed actions would facilitate the development of a 7-story mixed-use building, containing 174 units of supportive and affordable housing, 39,000 square feet of ground floor light manufacturing and 2,200 square feet of ground floor community facility at 803 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn.

Developers of the Bridge Project displayed schematics and made a presentation of their proposal to construct affordable housing and manufacturing space at 803 Rockaway Avenue. The floor was opened for questions.

Mr. Bill Wilkins, Manager of the East Brooklyn BID, stated that they have been around for 40 years and have been advocating to protect and preserve manufacturing districts. He is pleased to hear about this project.

Ms. Balinda Harris expressed concern about the mixed population in the building.

Ms. Susan Wiviott spoke at length about the resources that will be provided to residents to ensure their ability to live independently in permanent housing.

Other members of the audience expressed their concern about the units being affordable to residents, there being no parking, and the proposal to house persons with mental illness in the building.

There being no further questions, the public hearing was adjourned.

A roll call of the membership yielded a quorum.

Deputy Inspector Craig Edelman reported that last year the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct had record lows in crimes. There were 34 shootings. The relationships built between the community and the Police Department have been very effective. There has been a decrease in all crime categories this year. However, there have been reports of robberies in the vicinity of the train stations at Livonia and Saratoga Avenues, and at Livonia Avenue and Junius Street.

Under Commissioner Shea, a new program called Youth Coordination Officers is being rolled out. They will be reaching out to youths in an effort to prevent youth crimes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on February 11, 2020 with the developers of the project heard at tonight's public hearing. The Work Group recommends that the Community Board vote in support of the ULURP application for 803 Rockaway Avenue.

On January 28, 2020, the Board was informed by a telephone call from our liaison at the Department of Social Services (DSS) that 100 homeless men were being housed at Kings Hotel, located at 2416 Atlantic Avenue. We requested a meeting with DSS to express our opposition to additional shelter sitings in Community District #16. On last evening, members of the Community Board met with representatives of DSS and were informed that this a temporary shelter for one year. After which, the building will be renovated to provide permanent housing. The DSS representative stated that a letter documenting the commitment will be sent to the Community Board.

On February 19, 2020, representatives from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development provided a semi-annual update on the Brownsville Plan which can be accessed at [www.nyc.gov/brownsville](http://www.nyc.gov/brownsville).

A roll call vote was taken on the public hearing item: 2-in favor, 17-against, and 4-abstentions.

Ms. Nila Rosario from the Brooklyn Public Library reported that the Brownsville Library will undergo rehabilitation in 2021. She introduced representatives from the Department of Design and Construction who presented a schematic plan for the renovation of the Library which has been serving the community for over 100 years.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the project will be presented to the Public Design Commission and the Community Board is being asked to submit a recommendation.

A roll call vote was taken on the design for the Brownsville Public Library: 22-in favor, 0-against, and 1-abstention.

Principal Kristin Greer and staff from New Visions A.I.M. Charter School presented a short video showing their students' accomplishments at the school which is located at 1150 East New York Avenue. They are support high school which services students across a very unique background – students who have had experience with the criminal justice system, homelessness, and failed or been held back from grades. One hundred percent of their students experience

trauma. They are a school of transformation and work with their students to receive a high school diploma and move towards post-secondary school.

There will be an open house at the school on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. For additional information about the school, call (347) 988-4573.

Mr. Khari Edwards, Vice President of Brookdale Hospital, stated that they are ranked #5 in the State of New York for cardiac care. They also ranked #5 in stroke care.

To get better services in the community, it is imperative that everyone in the community fill out the census form. The Hospital will assist you in filling out the census. At the next Community Board meeting, he will have staff with iPads who will assist anyone with filling out the census.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that the plastic bag ban will go into effect on March 1, 2020. If you wish to get a free reusable bag, you may visit [www.nyc.gov/bags](http://www.nyc.gov/bags) or call 3-1-1. Stores will offer paper bags for a fee of 5 cents.

Ebenezer Plaza, which is under construction on Hegeman Avenue between Powell Street and Mother Gaston Boulevard, will have a total of 541 units when completed. Applications for Phase I rental are now available. You can apply at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect). The deadline for applications is March 23, 2020.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on February 12, 2020 with representatives of the BMS Family Health and Wellness Center who presented a new Health Education Initiative for young adolescents, ages 11 to 13.

She also reported on: 1) Building a Healthy Brownsville, an interactive event hosted by Power of Two on March 3, 2020, 2) a free technology course for a 2020 Generation for Microsoft Word on March 17, 2020, 3) Mental Health First Aid being offered on March 18, 2020, 4) ongoing planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth and Family Empowerment Conference, 5) a proposal by Smoove Production for a community talent show, 6) programs being offered by Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, 7) the Campus Afterschool Tech and Arts Program for middle school students at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School, and 8) the Fathers and Mentors Program. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

A motion to accept the January 28, 2020 Board minutes was made by Margaret Brewer, seconded by Linda Rivera and carried.

A motion was made by Linda Rivera, seconded by Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

A motion was made by Margaret Brewer, seconded by Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept Equity Planning Work Group report.

A motion was made by Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Linda Rivera and carried to accept the Community Resident Planning Work Group report.

Ms. Zalika Headley reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on February 13, 2020 with representatives from the Inner City Green Team regarding a pilot recycling program at Brownsville Houses. Construction of the comfort station at Betsy Head Imagination Playground began during the week of February 17<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the Department of Transportation reported on the Van Sinderen project which is a streetscape improvement plan for the blocks between East New York Avenue and Riverdale Avenue. Representatives from the MTA reported on the Utica Avenue Transit Study and the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign. Ms. Headley reported that she will conduct a walk-through of the East New York station with representatives of the Long Island Railroad on March 9<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Linda Rivers, seconded by Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept the City Services Work Group report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker reported that the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee met on February 19<sup>th</sup> with a representative of from the United States Census Bureau. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Linda Rivera, seconded by Zalika Headley and carried to accept the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee report.

Ms. Marie Pierre reported that the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee canvassed the Langston Houses on February 22, 2020 and informed the residents of the importance of being counted in the 2020 census. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Linda Rivera, seconded by Melanie Mendonca and carried to accept the report from the Fiscal and Policy Work Group.

Reports were given by representatives from the Offices of Senator Zellnor Myrie, Assemblymember Charles Barron, Public Advocate Jumanne Williams, and Borough President Eric Adams.

A motion was made by Melanie Mendonca, seconded by Linda Rivera and carried to adjourn the meeting.