

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – April 28, 2020

Attendance

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

PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and the roll was called.

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

Alternate Side Parking regulations are suspended and because of this suspension, cars are not moving; therefore, the mechanical brooms are not able to sweep along the curb areas. She asks for everyone's cooperation. She especially requests that property owners clear litter from the curb area in front of their property.

The Department of Sanitation has announced that they will be suspending curbside composting beginning May 4th. During this suspension, residents should place food scraps and yard waste out with their regular garbage. The suspension is currently planned through June 30, 2021.

She reminds everyone that playgrounds are closed and urges everyone to please observe signs.

COVID-19 has prevented the Parks Department from keeping the equipment clean on any regular basis. To avoid any danger to people, especially the young children using the equipment, you are asked not to allow your children to play on the equipment.

She tries to keep everyone up to date by email with information that may be helpful while the office is closed due to the coronavirus and urges everyone to read the information.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach the office by email at bk16@cb.nyc.gov or calling (718) 385-0323 and leaving a voice message.

Chairperson Morgan stated that prior to the COVID-19 crisis, there was a skatefest event that served as a visioning event for Ocean Hill Playground. The design for the Ocean Hill Playground is now ready, and the design team is present with us tonight. She recognized the

representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation who will present on the Ocean Hill Playground.

Mr. Paul Kidonakis, Landscape Architect and Project Manager with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, stated that they are here tonight to discuss the Ocean Hill Playground. He is joined by their design staff, Chris Surette and Dennis Flynn, Davey Ives of the Brooklyn Commissioner's office, and their design consultants are also on the line from Nancy Owen Studio who designed this project – Nancy Owens and Amy Somers.

The project has gone through the standard approval process at the Parks Department. The project was reviewed by their in-house design staff, including the chief of design, the Brooklyn Commissioner's office, and Commissioner Mitchell Silver.

Along with the approvals, they gave a presentation a week and a half ago to Community Board #16's Parks and Recreation Committee who had a few questions.

He believes they answered them and now they are here to get the approval of the full Board in order to move this project forward. They have also received conceptual approval by the Public Design Commission.

A slide presentation was displayed, showing the children's playground they rehabbed a few years back which opened in 2017. The design for the multi-purpose playground is being done by their consultants: Nancy Owens Studio with a budget of 5.4 million dollars and covers 1.4 acres.

The goals are to create a destination park and community gathering space to provide the state-of-the-art skate park, provide active recreation with full size basketball courts, and a multipurpose synthetic turf area to create an inclusive and fully ADA accessible park.

It is very important that every member of the community, regardless of ability, can use the park. This park is multi-leveled and presented a bit of a challenge that has been worked out.

The park is also a jointly operated playground with the Department of Education and has a building next door which houses an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school. The design needs to accommodate a wide range of age groups, and of course add environmental amenities to the site, like trees and shrubs to make it look like a park.

A community input meeting with a skatefest was held in September 2019 hosted by Brooklyn Commissioner Marty Maher. It was well attended and a lot of great ideas came out of this. Skating was a big part of this, but there was also a lot of emphasis on the school. Members of the community with a desire to have this be a great community space, listed as the top three things that they want are a skate park, basketball courts, and a multipurpose synthetic turf field. Other interests were lighting and trees.

They also had a meeting with the school and the things that came out of that were a real emphasis on the basketball courts, and lots of different areas for the kids to sit whether it's during lunch, during recess, or after schools for studying.

They also had a meeting with skaters from the community and the skate park designer so that they could make sure that they were getting all of the great skate park elements.

A slide of the upper playground that was done in 2017 was shown in relation to the lower portion which is basically a big asphalt area where most of the delineating marks have weathered. Photographs of the site with its unique design were shown.

Conditions happening in the park include places where the coping is crumbling and the ramp is not quite ADA compliant. The pavement can be changed and the grades adjusted ever so slightly and it will become compliant which is great because they do not have to redo the entire ramp, which would be a lot of money.

After the community meetings, they were asked for a lot of program, three basketball courts, a synthetic turf field, the big skate park, and a picnic and seating area. This is a lot to put in this space. Their consultant, Nancy Owens Studio, did a wonderful job bringing in all of those elements into the design.

Renderings of the design for the rehabilitation of the park were displayed and Mr. Kidonakis stated that he hopes that they have met the needs of the community and asked for questions and comments.

Ms. Anita Pierce asked to be shown where the comfort station is located on the plan.

Mr. Kidonakis placed his cursor at a location near the center of the plan (also in proximity to the ramps) underneath the upper playground.

Ms. Kelly Lee McVay stated that there is a smaller basketball court that could be in use while school is in session. Is she to understand that this park is generally for use by the school until after school hours?

Mr. Kidonakis stated that this is a jointly operated park which means that they make it so that the school can have use of it during school hours and the public can have use of it when school is not in session.

Chairperson Morgan asked what are the hours for the school regulations?

Mr. Davey Ives from the Operations Division at the Parks Department stated that this is a jointly operated playground as Mr. Kidonakis stated which means that during school hours, probably from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. The school has control of the lower section. He will check to see if they also have control of the upper section.

He can check, but they have control of the grounds. They can operate it safely with their discretion. After 4:00 p.m. until the park is closed which he believes for this site is 10:00 p.m., the whole site would be open to the public and this site would be open to the public all weekend.

Someone in chat asked about the timeline for completion.

Mr. Kidonakis stated that they should be getting the design finished by the end of September. Once that happens, they go through their procurement process, and then go into about a year's worth of construction.

Mr. Ives added that if all goes as expected, construction will begin in the fall of 2021 and be completed in the fall of 2022.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the trees being placed in the playground area are capable of withstanding the seasonal changes?

Mr. Kidonakis stated yes. They select the trees carefully to ensure that they are put in large planting areas that are beneficial to the trees. Any additional watering that the community may want to do will always help our trees. All these trees should be fine in this location.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the representatives from the Parks Department for their presentation.

She next read her report which stated that the by-laws of Community Board #16 stipulates that, during the April meeting of each year, the Chairperson shall select a Nominating Committee to recommend board members to fill the positions of chairperson, first vice chairperson, second vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian.

The following members have been appointed to serve as the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year: Linda Rivera, Patricia Winston, Dr. Cleopatra Brown, John McCadney, Jr., and Marie Pierre.

The Committee will meet during the month of May 2020 and report on recommendations for executive offices at our May 2020 virtual meeting.

Chairperson Morgan reported that Community District #16's Health and Wellness Stakeholders group was established in December 2018. The group has been convening on a weekly basis to coordinate efforts around health and wellness in the community. There are a number of stakeholder organizations in the community that participate on a weekly basis.

The meetings take place on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. and have been occurring for the past 2 ½ years. When the pandemic was declared, they immediately converted to a local COVID

response group, which consists of our elected officials, members of Community Board #16, members from our healthcare organizations, members from the Department of Health's Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Team, stakeholders who provide food resources, stakeholders that provide wellness resources such as fitness activities, social services, early childhood intervention services, the New York City Department of Veterans Affairs, some of our managed care companies, cure violence groups, and senior groups such as Wayside Outreach Development balance the team.

They have committed themselves and meet to work on a coordinated effort around local response to the pandemic.

Community Board #16 is sharing the information and you probably have received emails from the District Manager with regard to resources in the community. The Board also has a social media on Facebook page (www.facebook.com/communityboard16) and use that space to update the community. Individuals who may not be on the Board's email distribution list, or who use social media more frequently will find it informative. The page is updated with as many resources that the Board is aware of with regards to this pandemic and other information at this present time.

There are three locations in our community that are doing COVID-19 testing: Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, the parking lot of BMS Family Medical Center's main building, and at the East New York Gotham Health Center. A little further out in Brooklyn, testing is being done at the Sears & Roebuck parking lot, which is at 2307 Beverly Road. At each of those sites, testing is done by appointments. You cannot just walk up. People who have called have been getting appointments and the testing has been done.

Our elected officials have been working to advocate on behalf of the community to make sure that there is continued access to testing. There have been announcements from the federal government to work with the state to continuously make testing available to the local community

Our community is one of the hardest hit communities that is affected by the pandemic. This is largely due to the number of chronic illnesses that we already suffered going into this crisis. It is really important that you get tested if you have any of the symptoms to find out if you should be isolating.

Symptoms include shortness of breath, fever, loss of your sense of smell, or redness around the eyes. Recently, there have been some individuals who have complained that they've experience rashes as a result of COVID-19, and so those are all the things that you should be aware for you and your family.

Additionally, BMS Family Health Center is open for walk in services, but it is not necessary for you to walk in. Telehealth services are available. BMS patients can still access their clinicians via telehealth. Dental services are being provided on an emergency basis, because the American Dental Association has asked that dental services be postponed until after the pandemic.

There are many rule changes around healthcare. Nursing homes have changed their policies and do not allow visitors. During the pandemic, except in an extreme emergency, no visitors are allowed to be at the hospital.

The Health and Wellness Stakeholders Group has also been working on social distancing language. Many in the group feel that the language around "social distancing" is not culturally appropriate to the community and may not be understood, which is why you still see some people gathering in groups on the street. There's not a clear understanding that social distancing means physical distance and not touching, hugging or kissing individuals as we normally greet each other when we come together. They are working with the Department of Health to come up with some signage to place around the community to make sure that people have a number of different ways to understand what it means to "social distance".

Additionally, Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order mandating that everyone should be wearing a mask when outside their homes. NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) residents received a distribution of face masks and hand sanitizers through their tenant association presidents. New York City's Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health have websites where those who are interested in learning more about the data and where the infections are, can track that information.

The Stakeholder's group is asking for feedback from the city around any increases to child welfare cases. Are there any children in our community who have been left without a parent as a result of COVID-19? This is data that we want to know at every level how this pandemic is affecting our community. The Stakeholder's Group has asked the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to join their weekly meetings and provide an update. They can also provide updates on conditions at the Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center.

The Department for the Aging has also joined the meetings and given updates around senior services. The Meals-on-Wheels programs being provided to local seniors through Wayside Outreach Development is also doing wellness checks, virtual services, and helping seniors to complete their Census. Get Food NYC is a program that the city started to replace the grab and go that the senior centers no longer have the capacity to provide to ensure that seniors are receiving access to meals. She encourages you or a senior you may know have need to please reach out to them.

She also encourages you to reach out to seniors who are your neighbors to do wellness checks. If you are going to the grocery store, find out if they need anything, and help them out so that they are not going out and have someone to check in on them.

There have been reports of several seniors that have perished in their homes. It is important that we engage them as much as possible, monitor their wellness, and help when needed.

Schools are engaged in distance learning and Mr. Alexander will give a short update on the education component.

Our response rate to the 2020 Census, as a community is about 35% which is very low. The community is already considered one of the hardest to count communities and the COVID-19 pandemic has left us needing even more resources.

It is important that we reach out to our neighbors, use our social media, use our cell phones to text our neighbors and ask them to please complete the census because we really need those resources.

Mr. David Alexander reported that schools have converted to at home learning and there have been some concerns around the distribution of the learning devices that are provided by the Department of Education. Beginning April 30th, there will be an application that can be completed to request the tablets. It has also been reported that the Department of Homeless Services was having trouble providing wi-fi services at certain locations. He believes that has been addressed and service is now available allowing the students to use the devices that DOE is providing.

The United Federation of Teachers has a number to call if you or your children are going through an emotional crisis due to the pandemic. He will make that information available as soon as possible.

Chairperson Morgan stated that there have been some incidents in the community wherein some individuals were shot, there have been some incidents around burglaries in the community and social distancing is still an issue.

The 73rd Precinct has been trying not to make any arrests related to social distancing. However, gathering is still a problem in the community.

There are increases in incidents of violence and burglary she believes it is a result of this pandemic. A store along Pitkin Avenue was burglarized a few weeks ago. She does not have the specifics of every other store that may have experienced burglaries. Unfortunately, there are some individuals who are not sheltering in and are still out breaking the law.

She next shared information regarding workforce development. The city has had to engage in a number of different budget cuts. Following this crisis, the Summer Youth Employment Program has been suspended for the summer of 2020.

Chairperson Morgan asked Ms. Joy Simmons, representing the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron, to inform the audience of the impact of the budget cuts brought about through the pandemic.

Ms. Simmons stated that the Summer Youth Employment Program cuts have been proposed. There are organizations, community groups and individual councilmembers who are fighting back and advocating to find a way to keep the program funded.

Although the program may not be able to go on as usual, Councilmember Barron and others have been advocating to find a way to have a unique program so that our young people can still be employed. The budget is not typically passed until June 30th and now is the time when different budget items are being considered. Now is the time for people to be very alert about what is going on and about what budget items maybe on a chopping block and what items people can advocate to keep.

She also wanted to bring attention to complaints about contracts being canceled by the Department of Education. There are some nonprofit organizations reporting programs that they have been working on such as afterschool programs are being canceled.

Councilmember Barron is looking into that as well. They want to try to keep as many programs as possible and also make sure that this time is not being utilized to serve other agendas because of the COVID-19 crisis and encourage everyone to stay alert for changes to budgets. They are fighting to make sure that we have fairness and equity and that our needs are addressed and not forgotten, particularly in low income, Black and Latino neighborhoods.

Chairperson Morgan stated that there was already a need for additional mental health resources, and being in this crisis, is now a greater need. There are individuals who may not have needed resources prior to the pandemic but as a result of anxiety brought on by the COVID-19 crisis many of us are now searching for outlets to help cope with the current crises.

The Stakeholders Group has compiled a list of different online resources, some of which have been posted to Community Board #16's Facebook webpage. If you are looking for mental health resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for information.

New York State has a COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline (Project Hope). The telephone number for that a hotline is (844) 863-9314.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Action Network has virtual uplifting community gatherings on Thursdays. We Run Brownsville holds remote exercise classes, and there are many other therapeutic outlets that are happening along social media.

Many communities have created access to new sources to things, such as music, to try to help people to get through this critical time. She encourages everyone to utilize all available resources. If you find that the community needs something, feel free to reach out to our elected officials and other community-based organizations. In this way, we can all work through how we can best serve the community.

In this time, it is important that we communicate. If we do not know what people need, then we cannot advocate for any gaps in services. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regarding food resources, the Campaign Against Hunger is a large food pantry in our community. They are open daily providing food to the community. There is also a coordinated effort among local providers such as the Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance, a garden operated by Ms. Brenda Duchene who is already working diligently to address the additional need that is going to exist around food in the coming months.

BMS Family Health Center, along with the Brownsville Culinary Center, Collective Fair, Universe City, Goya, Teens for Food Justice, and City Harvest are collaborating to have weekly food distributions on Wednesdays at Van Dyke and on Fridays at Howard Houses and Glenmore Plaza. Information about these distributions were emailed to the community and is also available on Community Board #16's Facebook page as well as information about how to apply for stimulus checks. If you have not received a stimulus check and you think you are eligible for one, there is information posted. There is also information on how you can apply for unemployment if you lost your job due to the pandemic.

There is an updated website that was established by the state and some people had trouble accessing the site. If you have trouble applying, please try again.

Mr. Alexander mentioned the issue around technology and the fact that many households do not have access to the internet. Schools were also providing devices that are enabled with wi-fi capability for internet access. Power of Two, which is an early intervention program here in the community, has a partnership with T-Mobile to help provide individuals who need access to internet. Contact Power of Two or District Manager Greene-Walker for more information.

The Pitkin Avenue BID is supporting more businesses in the community with applying for the Payroll Protection Program. Funding for the first round ran out. Another was issued for small and midsize businesses, and hospitals and other health care providers.

Chairperson Morgan asked Mr. Daniel Murphy, Director of the Pitkin Avenue BID to give a brief update.

Mr. Murphy stated that they have been struck by the pandemic and are feeling its economic effect. The first thing they did is phase the mission immediately to public health and get as much information about what to do. In March, it became very clear that small businesses were going to suffer immeasurably from the pandemic and just about all the businesses on Pitkin Avenue are small businesses. They have been trying to play catch up with the Small Business Administration on low interest loans and things like that in an effort to keep our businesses afloat.

They have been checking in regularly with the Police Department to make sure that patrols continue along Pitkin Avenue even though stores are closed because the sense of order and that people care about the Avenue needs to continue.

Looking forward, their events which is a big part of what they do, were canceled at least through June.

They are looking to continue to conduct triage for hurting businesses. It is helpful to them, if there is information that anyone in the community can bring to them that they do not have. He speaks to many of the businesses but not all. If you have information about a particular store in need of assistance, forward it to them and they will act to get the business all the help it needs.

Going forward, they can work with their partner to keep things afloat on Pitkin Avenue and look to see what we can do to come out of this crisis stronger. There will be some vacancies. They would like to try to build from the ground up with some entrepreneurship. If that can be done, then it will look good.

They are suffering like everybody else and trying to help any small business. If the Community Board has any feedback it will be much appreciated. As a not-for-profit within the neighborhood, they can join forces with others to make sure that as budget cuts happen, Brownsville does not get left out.

The fabric stores along Rockaway Avenue are open. If you're making fabric masks or are doing anything creative to address the pandemic, please let the BID know and they will at least make a public acknowledgement of your work. If they can do more, they will do that as well. If you know of someone who is finding a way to respond in a creative commercial way, please let the BID know.

Someone asked what specific service does the BID provide to businesses?

Mr. Murphy stated that they help them with applying for a loan through the various available programs for most small businesses such as the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, and the Payroll Protection Program.

The Economic Injury Disaster program is a standing program with the Small Business Administration and usually opens when there is a tornado, a hurricane or some other disaster in your town. This is a disaster that has ripped through the entire continent. Money for that dried up quickly.

The Payroll Protection Program is to keep people on the payroll. Unfortunately, it has been hard to get money for that, especially for smaller businesses. Congress added funding to the program last week and an application period opened yesterday. The businesses who signed up for the program within the BID are waiting for the money. He is there to guide them through and

hopefully get that money. However, it is very, very difficult because they are in competition with everybody else in the nation.

They are depending on elected officials, like Representatives Jefferies and Clarke to advocate for us.

Chairperson Morgan stated that Popular Bank can submit an application on behalf of small businesses. They are participating in the Payroll Protection Program. The Board posted the information on its social media accounts.

Additionally, there is information on a number of economic resources-grants that are available which the Board has shared. The Robin Hood Foundation has been supporting the community. They have helped with food resources, and are helping to develop a COVID-19 website which will be launching soon with a central place on a parallel track with the community board for people to go and identify resources that they might need.

There is a wealth of resources available and the Board is doing its best to collect that information so that our community knows what is available and are not the last ones to ask for assistance in those areas. If you have any information, please let the Board know so that they can share that information with the community.

Assemblymember Latrice Walker stated that Chairperson Morgan gave a very thorough report and has been having weekly organizing around healthcare, food distribution and access to resources, small businesses, et cetera. She commends her and District Manager Greene-Walker on what they have done thus far to keep Ocean Hill-Brownsville moving forward.

Fortunately, there are three testing sites within our community and testing is also taking place within Brevoort Houses in a door-to-door testing campaign. She represents 29 New York City Housing Authority complexes and will be doing more of the door-to-door testing campaigns.

They have also disseminated nearly 28,000 masks within the 55th Assembly District, along with hand sanitizer. There is still a lot more of that to be distributed. They are looking for volunteers.

Her office is virtually open and they conducted constituent contacts via Zoom earlier today. People can wait in the lobby and they are able to have one-on-one meetings and conversations for which she is grateful.

The State's budget will close on or about April 1st this budget year. They have experienced a number of short falls. However, twenty-five million dollars was put into the budget to help out with a number of food resources and help be a support network to a number of our healthcare facilities. The former Saint Mary's Hospital was brought on to be a release mechanism for ICU patients who were experiencing COVID complications. She was proud to be able to have people from Brookdale Hospital and the other neighboring hospitals be able to use the state-of-the-art facility to help us as we move through this crisis. We are not in the clear yet.

There were several people from the Parks Department who have expressed concerns about people congregating in the parks; not respecting physical (social) distancing. We need to recognize that we are not in the clear yet and to the extent that you can talk to your neighbors, your friends, and let them know that they have to abide by these rules for the public health and safety of the people around them. She has also been notified that there is going to be police enforcement of social distancing rules in the parks.

While everyone wants to get masks, you can do face covering in a number of different ways. It is at your disposal as to what you use to cover your face. The requirement is not a face mask but a face covering.

The presidential primary has been canceled in the State of New York, however, there are several important races.

This year, we have a quasi-vote by mail system. Every registered voter will receive an application for an absentee ballot. When you receive that application, you must first complete it and send it back using the pre-paid postage envelope it came with. You will need to sign said envelope or packaging with the signature that you use. This will technically serve as

identification to validate your mail-in ballot. She wants to make sure that people are not disenfranchised.

The census is out and people should be responding to the census. Our healthcare, access to resources, the SBA loans, all of that, directly link the census. It is the currency of government. Your vote and census. In order for you to increase your currency and your access to power, technically, is by you exercising, your power with respect to the census. She encourages everyone to complete the census.

Her telephone number is (718) 342-1256. This week she will be having a town hall with Senator Schumer who will be discussing the second round of the Small Business Cares Act that came out that was signed into law last week with the small business loans going out this week. She was proud to bring the Banking District to Pitkin Avenue through the work of Popular Bank and Community Board #16. She encourages eligible parties to visit Popular Bank to apply. Nonprofits are eligible because they are considered small businesses as well as churches.

She offered her condolences and care to all of the individuals who were affected by this crisis. We are mourning together, we are healing together, and will rejoice together.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Borough President Eric Adams, reported that Borough President Adams has visited a number of NYCHA complexes and distributed needed supplies. If you live in a non-NYCHA building and need supplies, please visit their website to make a request.

The Borough President is encouraging everyone to wash their hands and social distance. Many people are treating this crisis as if it is a hoax, but people are dying. They are also learning that people are improperly using chemicals or using them in improperly ventilated space. He encourages everyone to read labels of chemical containers and use chemicals properly.

Mr. Nicholas Perry, representing the Office of New York City, reported that the Comptroller wants to send his greetings to Community Board #16. The COVID-19 hits very close to home for the Comptroller because his mother passed away two weeks ago.

In the meantime, the Comptroller has been very busy. He has taken several actions to help protect New Yorkers as we fight this pandemic. He has been actively issuing reports analyzing budget and pension impact, expediting contracts, drafting letters to government agencies and calling on public companies to protect workers and consumers.

Comptroller Stringer's office has launched a dedicated COVID-19 Resource Center which includes a comprehensive set of resources to support New Yorkers through this public health crisis and that can be accessed on the Comptroller's website.

They also launched a bi-weekly webinar session to help small business and minority women, business owners navigate available resources.

He can be reached directly by calling (646) 499-0749.

Mr. Ronald Baez, representing the Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie, stated that they have been holding virtual town halls to provide resources to constituents.

Ms. Shana Melius, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, provided information on the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act for small businesses. They have also been hosting virtual town halls.

Ms. Faith Henderson, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, announced that they are working aggressively to resolve complaints about price gouging. She reminded everyone to fill out their census form.

Ms. LaMeane Isaac, Regional Director for the Brooklyn Public Library, announced various virtual programs such as business and career, job readiness, creative aging, programs for families and youth. Additional information about the programs can be found on the Library's website.

Ms. Joy Simmons, representing the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron, announced that they are working remotely to provide constituent services.

It was noted that a quorum of Board members was not present.

Chairperson Morgan announced that Community Board and Committees meetings will be held via WebEx until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ms. Anita Pierce announced that the Brownsville Minute is available to everyone who wishes to provide live updates and engage in Community dialogue. You can join live on the Community Board's Facebook page.

Ms. Christina Serrano, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, announced that they are planning a NYCHA Town Hall meeting in May. The staff is working remotely and can be reached at (718) 953-3097.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by John McCadney, Jr., seconded by Linda Rivera and carried to adjourn the meeting.