

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – October 27, 2020

Attendance

David Alexander	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)
Lorenzo Andrews (A)	Busayo Olupano (A)
Cynthia Bannister (A)	Ariel Perry-DeCamp (A)
Margaret Brewer	Anita Pierce
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Marie Pierre
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (A)	Linda Rivera
Adrainer Coleman	Shaneek Samuel (A)
Norman Frazier (A)	JoAnn Sexton
Danny Goodine (A)	Dr. Sonia Smith
Chanel Haliburton	Keturah Suggs (E)
Sarah Hall (E)	Beverly Tatham (A)
Balinda Harris (A)	Rev. Eric Thompson (A)
Zalika Headley	Brenda Thompson-Duchene
Michael Howard (E)	Christopher Toomer
Carl Joseph (E)	Ernestine Turner (A)
Leticia Knowles	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Deborah Williams
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)	Pat Winston (E)
Digna Layne (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Kelly Lee-McVay	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Albion Liburd (A)	Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Deborah Mack (E)	Nadine Gayle for Hon. Latrice Walker
Yolanda Matthews (A)	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
John McCadney, Jr.	Nicholas Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Andrew McCoy (A)	Frieda Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Melanie Mendonca	F. Perez for the Office of Hon. Corey Johnson
Shemene Minter (A)	Nikolas Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Genese Morgan	Renee Trotman for Hon. Latrice Walker
Rose O'Neill (A)	

PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

She stated that during the month of October the Board is scheduled to have a public hearing on the Statement of District Needs and Capital and Expense Budget items but Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee, had not yet joined the meeting.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Deputy Inspector Terrell Anderson of the 73rd Precinct who was asked to give an update on the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that locally and nationwide police reform is occurring and there is a reinvention of what police should be doing within the community.

He stated that under his leadership at the 73rd Precinct he has tasked his officers with acting as liaisons to get people in the community the help they deserve in an attempt to lower the crime. In addition to addressing crime, other areas of concern are food insecurity, jobs, poverty, and youth engagement.

The 73rd Precinct made 35 gun arrests in Brownsville during October and outside agencies made 15 gun arrests during October. These arrest numbers are the highest in city.

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that they are finding that many of the perpetrators are youth participating in gun violence. The 73rd Precinct works closely with local Crisis Management Systems partners F.A.R.M, BTTM, BIVO, M.E.L and Elite Learners to help with meditation between gangs.

There is a concern about how guns get into the community and the NYPD's Fire Arms Unit is investigating how these guns arrive in New York City from areas such as down south.

He concluded by stating that the 73rd Precinct is always open to partnership with the community.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor to questions for Deputy Inspector Anderson.

Ms. Anita Pierce recommended that content on the 73rd Precinct's social media pages be balanced between reporting on issues i.e. guns and community events i.e. breast cancer awareness. This would help with the negative perception of the police by the community and demonstrate that we are all working together.

Deputy Inspector Anderson agreed to improve the social media page information posted.

Chairperson Morgan requested that Secretary Zalika Headley conduct roll call, but due to a technical difficulty District Manager Viola Greene-Walker conducted roll call.

Chairperson Morgan opened the public hearing for the Statement of District Needs and Capital and Expense Budget items. She asked members of the Board and community members to refer to and use the prior year FY 21's Statement of District Needs and Capital and Expense items.

The prior year's submitted items were read by Chairperson Morgan in the order listed in the document and she requested that any new requests for submission be raised.

Operating items requested were as follows:

- Dr. Cleopatra Brown requested that Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) in high schools be submitted.
- Ms. Linda Rivera requested that tree pruning be submitted.
- Ms. Adrainer Coleman asked that we consider that we are oversaturated with shelters.
- Chairperson Morgan indicated that our request for additional low-income housing should address this point.
- Ms. Brandy Vasquez requested that sidewalk resurfacing be submitted.

Capital items requested were as follows:

- Chairperson Morgan requested that non-profit health institutions vehicles be submitted due to COVID-19.
- Ms. Margaret Brewer suggested that Brookdale Hospital's equipment needs be submitted and that we request that local schools be supplied with personal protective equipment.
- Dr. Brown requested that all bathrooms throughout School District #23 be upgraded.
- Dr. Brown requested that all cabinetry throughout School District #23 be upgraded.
- Mr. Christopher Toomer requested that technology for virtual learning equipment be requested.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that technology resources for schools is being provided by the NYC Department of Education.

Ms. Margaret Brewer suggested that digital communication board needs be submitted, the reinforcement of masonry i.e. brick pointing at NYCHA buildings be submitted and a waste line repair in Howard Houses be submitted.

Chairperson Morgan suggested that repairs to streets to prevent cave-ins and/or sinks from occurring

Mr. John McCadney reminded us that Transportation Committee Chairperson Zalika Headley did an assessment of the L.I.R.R East New York Station which needs renovation.

Chairperson Morgan informed him that the funding was cut for the planned project and can included as an expense item.

She also suggested that handicap decals be installed at bus shelters asking riders to give seats to handicap individuals as in the protocol on New York City buses.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil requested that a handicap ramp be placed at westbound platform of the L.I.R.R East New York Avenue Station.

Dr. Brown requested that a comfort station at Betsy Head Playground be submitted.

Chairperson Morgan reminded her that the item was funded.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee stated that she had a report on parks which included Betsy Head Playground capital improvements.

Ms. Eudene Stanton raised concern about comfort station at playground located at Riverdale and Osborn Street.

Ms. Brewer requested that the playground in Howard Houses across from 1548 East New York be improved.

Chairperson Morgan thanked everyone for their submission. There was no quorum present to vote on submission of the items.

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

Beginning on October 19th, enforcement of the New York State plastic bag ban will begin and a \$.05 cents fee may be collected on paper bags.

The Department of Sanitation has announced that they are hiring emergency snow labors for the winter season. Registrations are being accepted and interested persons can visit the nearest sanitation garage which for Community District #16 is located at 922 Georgia Avenue. Please take two small photos, an original and copy of two forms of ID and social security card.

On Friday, October 30, 2020, the NYC Fire Department, in conjunction with the Pitkin Avenue BID, will distribute smoke detectors and other information for fire safety month at 1572 Pitkin Avenue.

The Campaign Against Hunger will offer flu shots Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 2010 Fulton Street.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

Chairperson Morgan advanced the agenda to the reading of committee reports.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 with a representative for the owner of 622 Chester Street who is seeking the Community Board's support of his application to the State Liquor Authority for a Beer, Wine, Cider and Liquor License for a bar and grill which will soon open at this location. A site visit was made to the business on October 23rd. Further discussion of the application will be done at the Work Group's next meeting on November 10, 2020 and a recommendation will be provided to the Board at its meeting on November 24, 2020.

The Work Group also met with the owner of Kings Hotel, located at 2416 Atlantic Avenue, who has a contract with the Department of Homeless Services to shelter 55 homeless women. The owner is seeking the Community Board's support to expand services with the Department of Homeless Services.

The Work Group recommends that the Community Board not support the use of the Kings Hotel to expand services with the Department of Homeless Services as we are opposed to the further saturation of our community with homeless shelters.

In addition, the Work Group met with developers of a site at East New York Avenue and Strauss Street which is being proposed for 74 units of supportive and affordable housing. The proposal is in the predevelopment stage. As the project progresses, the developers will be meeting with the Work Group and eventually with the Community Board to get our support on the project.

The next Equity Planning Work Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6:00 pm via the WebEx platform.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on Thursday, October 8, 2020 via WebEx and discussed the status of capital projects in our parks and playgrounds:

Prospect Plaza Playground (Sterling Place between Saratoga and Howard Avenues),
Construct basketball court, playground, sitting area, passive lawn, and horticulture space.
Opened August 2019. Ribbon cutting event held on November 21, 2019.

Zion Triangle (East New York & Pitkin Avenues)

Full rehabilitation of Zion Park War Memorial and surrounding sitting/ horticulture areas. Completed spring of 2020 and site opened summer 2020.

Betsy Head-Anchor Parks Phase I (Bristol St & Blake Ave)

Create multi-purpose play area, skate park, parkour area outdoor classroom, seating areas, accessible (bankshot) basketball & full court basketball. Phase 1 construction began January 2019 and was completed summer 2020.

Betsy Head- Anchor Parks Phase 2 (Dumont Ave & Herzl St)

New synthetic turf football field, running track, bleachers, basketball courts, handball courts, adult fitness, and community gathering. Phase 2 construction began September 2019 and is estimated to be complete spring 2021.

Betsy Head- Imagination Playground Comfort Station (Bristol St & Dumont Ave)

Construct new comfort station, delayed due to electrical and utilities issues with National Grid, Construction started spring 2020 and estimated to be complete fall 2021.

Newport Playground Comfort Station (Riverdale & Thatford Avenues)

This project will reconstruct Newport Playground Comfort Station. Construction began February 2019 and estimated to be completed fall 2020.

P.S. 125 Playground (Rockaway Ave bet Blake and Dumont Avenues)

New play unit, 2 half basketball courts, hoop and security lighting, fencing, and a bottle fill drinking fountain, Construction estimated to begin fall 2020 and competed fall 2021.

Callahan-Kelly Playground (Fulton Street & Eastern Parkway)

Reconstruct playground including a new comfort station, basketball and handball courts, possible skate park, adult fitness area, perimeter sidewalks and landscaping. Construction likely spring 2021 and estimated completion fall 2022. Comfort station to be constructed by MTA, construction start delayed due to COVID-19.

Osborn Playground (Linden Blvd between Osborn St and Hegeman Ave)

Convert existing field to synthetic turf with perimeter track and access ramp, Construction to start fall 2020 and be completed fall 2021.

Ocean Hill Playground (Dean St and Bergen St between Rockaway Ave & Thomas S. Boyland St).

Construct full basketball courts, including drainage, pavement, color seal coat and lines. Lexan backboards with hoops & nets, seating including 3 tier bleachers and bottle filler drinking fountains, construct a large skate & BMX area, create small synthetic turf area. In design, to be completed fall 2020, Construction to start fall 2021 and be completed fall 2022.

Chester Playground & Timi Oyebola Courts (Chester St between Pitkin and Sutter Aves)

Reconstruct Chester Playground and Timi Oyebola courts, including pavement, color seal coat and lines, Lexan backboards with hoops and nets, seating including 3 tier bleachers and bottle filler drinking fountains. Construction expected to start fall 2022 and be complete fall 2023.

Brownsville Recreation Center (Linden Blvd & Hegeman Ave)

Reconstruction of Brownsville Recreation Center, Construction expected to start spring 2021 and be complete fall 2022.

The Work Group also discussed: **Hilltop Playground and Marion Hopkinson Playground.** Members complained that the shrubs in both playgrounds are grossly overgrown and Hilltop playground is very littered and there are bees and mosquitos.

The Work Group discussed a proposal by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to remove parking during the morning rush hours on the east side of Howard Avenue between Pitkin Avenue and Lincoln Place to accommodate vehicles queuing for the right turn lane at Eastern Parkway.

The Work Group reached out to DOT to inquire if there is an alternative to the removal of parking spaces and was informed there is not.

The City Services Planning Work Group recommends that the Community Board oppose any changes to the traffic regulation on Howard Avenue between Pitkin Avenue and Lincoln Place due to current parking issues and ongoing development in the area. The Work Group is opposed to the changes because of the current need for parking, the addition of new residents into the area, and a desire to avoid additional punitive measures for community residents.

Also discussed was the need for residents to remove their vehicles during street cleaning regulation times to enable the Department of Sanitation's mechanical brooms to properly sweep the street.

Ongoing dumping locations are being reported to the Department of Sanitation.

The next City Services Planning Work Group meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. via WebEx.

Thanks to everyone who attended their WebEx meeting. Please stay safe, social distance and wear a mask.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, Vice Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, via WebEx and discussed completed projects by the Department of Education (DOE) the vision of the Boys and Girls Club at Frederick Douglass High School, and its upcoming future youth projects. Also discussed was Mr. Rodney Frazier's safe and healthy foods initiative at the Brownsville Community Culinary Center located at 69 Belmont Avenue.

At the September Budget Consultation with the School Construction Authority (SCA), questions were raised about the state of the air conditioners in our public school classrooms. Fifteen out of the 19 school buildings in School District 23 were listed as either work completed (10), and (4) were under construction. The delay was caused by the COVID virus, according to the SCA however, the work has now resumed. Another letter was sent to the SCA regarding the remaining schools (4), which were not in the September response letter submitted by the DOE. According to the SCA, the remaining four (4) schools, classrooms were completed. Once the COVID restrictions are lifted, the Work Group can visit each of the schools to ensure that the schools are sufficiently operational based on School District's 23 needs.

Free School Meals Continue for All New Yorkers

This week, NYC school buildings transitioned from a grab-and-go meal hub model that had been operating since March to a back-to-school model that includes: meal service in school for days students attend in person, take-out meals for children and their families (9am-12pm at most school buildings), and grab-and-go community meals (3pm-5pm at over 200 school buildings).

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Take Out (Children and Their Families)

- PS 137-121 Saratoga Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11233
- PS 599/MS664- 241 MacDougal Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233
- PS/IS 155- 1355 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233
- PS/IS 178-2163 Dean Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233
- PS 401- 51 Christopher Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS 298/MS 363-85 Watkins Street =, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS 284- 220 Watkins Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS 327-111 Bristol Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS/IS 323 and MS 671- 210 Chester Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS 156/IS 392-104 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11212
- PS 446/MS 668- 76 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11212

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Community Meals (Everyone) = Mostly Adults

- Eagle Academy/MS 522- 1137 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233
- Brooklyn Collegiate- 2021 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233
- Teachers Prep/FDA VII- 226 Bristol Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212

Duane Kinnon, Program Coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club, discussed his desire to incorporate other youth organizations into an organization focused on the youth issues designed by the youth. This project is under development. Mr. Kinnon also would like to utilize the Van

Dyke Community Center to conduct Remote Learning for students in the Brownsville Collaborative School, located at 85 Watkins Street, for students who live in the Van Dyke Houses and in close proximity. The capacity of the school is 50 students.

Mr. Kinnon believes this would relieve some of the student's social-emotional trauma due to COVID-19 quarantine restrictions. After remote learning is over, the students can enjoy the after-school program at the Van Dyke Community Center. For more information, please contact him at duane@kinnongroup.com or (347) 831-0519.

Chef Rodney Frazier offers myriad of services for Ocean Hill-Brownsville in regard to safe and healthy food and its distribution at 69 Belmont Avenue. The Work Group suggested that he obtain a vendor's license from the Department of Education which could enable him to distribute his healthy food to the school children in District 23.

Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation has two programs open

- SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurship Afterschool Program is recruiting District 23 students attending middle schools. Services are being offered remotely.
- Open enrollment for GED Program ages 17 and up. Remote classes are available. Program is located at 444 Thomas Boyland 3rd Floor – Room 301 Telephone number 718-498-4513 or email: info@cbedc.co

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu announced that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is important that every woman and man do self-examination and/or get a breast cancer exam immediately.

The Health and Human Services Committee is working on an outreach program to handle and correct the current handling of mental health, seniors, Emotionally Disturbed Persons (EDPs), and average people looking to "cope" with today's challenges in our community.

November is Diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Month. Please learn about these and visit your doctors to be tested and receive treatment if necessary. Prevention is better than cure. Please let us do everything to protect ourselves from the COVID-19 infection. Follow the CDC regulations and save lives. Wearing a mask protects and saves lives.

The Veterans Affairs Committee held several meetings during the month to plan for their virtual Veteran Appreciation Resource Fair on Saturday, November 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics will include: GI Bill/Education, Employment/Career Opportunities (DCAS, Workforce I, Department of Labor), Housing, Mental Health, Legal Advice/Compensation, Women's Veteran Legal Clinic, Accessibility to Services, Food and Nutrition, Training (Helmets to Hardhats) and Financial Benefits.

The Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee continues their outreach to seniors to provide food bags to those in need.

The next Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx. Please visit our website at www.nyc.gov/brooklynbc16 for information on how to register for the meeting.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson Legislative Committee reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 via WebEx and discussed the importance of reminding residents about early voting which began on October 24th and goes through November 1st, and to remind everyone that early voting sites might be different from the site where they usually vote. You can locate your early voting site by calling (866) 868-3692, 311 or logon to www.nyc.vote.

Ms. Nadeen Gayle from the Office of Assemblymember Latrice Walker informed the Work Group of the following bills that are in committee:

1. S8802/A10826 – Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020.
2. S8667/A10827 – Extends the suspension on residential and commercial eviction Proceedings to one year after the COVID-19 state of emergency has ended.

3. S8865/A10901 – Limits rent payments from March 7, 2020 through the end of the pandemic, for certain tenants that have lost income or were forced to close their business that allows nonprofits or small businesses with 25 employees or fewer to pay up to 205% of their income or one-third of their contractual rent, whichever is less.
4. S8175/A10265 – this relates to prohibiting the rent guidelines board from increasing rents on one-year leases during a state disaster emergency.
5. S5009/A5199 – this allows representation in certain real property actions.
6. A50306 – Good cause eviction. Landlord must have a strong case in order to evict a tenant.

Bills already passed include 50A Police complaints are no longer sealed. S8493/A8674 – Body camera bill. The Voter Registration bill is still awaiting the Governor’s signature.

The next meeting of the Fiscal and Policy Work Group will be held on Tuesday, November 17th, 6:00 pm via the WebEx platform.

Chairperson Morgan called for reports from representatives of elected officials.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Nadene Gayle from Assemblymember Latrice Walker’s office.

Ms. Gayle stated other than the legislative items presented in Ms. Pierre’s report and a meeting was held concerning the Request for Proposal that will be released for Ella McQueen.

Chairperson Morgan attended this meeting. She provided the telephone number to their office: (718) 342-1256 for community residents to contact the office.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Frieda Menos from Congressman Hakeem Jeffries’ office.

Ms. Menos stated that Congressman Jeffries introduced the Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act to help exonerate people who need a second chance and allow judges to expunge records of first offenders. He is also accepting applications for the service academy for high school seniors interested in entering the military before age of 23. The application is available on the Congressman’s website at <https://jeffries.house.gov>.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Frank Perez from the Office of Speaker of the City Council Cory Johnson (due to 37th Council District vacancy).

Mr. Perez stated that the office will continue to support residents virtually until the vacancy is fill and can contact the office Monday – Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at (718) 642-8664 or by email at district37@council.nyc.gov; Spanish speakers are available.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Malcom McDaniel from Borough President Eric Adams’ office.

Mr. McDaniel stated that Brooklyn is leading other boroughs in early voting. Two early voting sites in the District are at Van Dyke and Saratoga Village.

Also, he stated that the Borough President’s office has compiled a list of NYCHA problems from resident complaints.

If anyone has complaints for the Borough President’s office, please call Mr. McDaniel who is a member of constituent services at (347) 942-1692 or the Borough President’s office at (718) 802-3700; the staff is working remotely. The office can connect constituents to help with rent arrears, weatherization; etc.

Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Nickolas Perry from Comptroller Scott Stringer’s office.

Ms. Perry stated that a new report is available from the Comptroller titled “Expanding the Ladder of Opportunity to all New Yorkers.”

The top three recommendations of the report include:

- CUNY Community Colleges should be tuition free
- Build out universal paid internships for CUNY
- Expand Career Technical Education and College NOW

Mr. David Alexander asked if the report includes any recommendations on establishing trade schools?

Mr. Perry agreed to follow-up with Mr. Alexander to further discuss.

Chairperson Morgan advanced the agenda to allow public announcements.

Ms. Shamika Wilson, Recruitment and Community Engagement Coordinator from New Visions AIM I Charter High School, stated that they are located at 1150 East New York Avenue. The school is currently enrolling students and has weekly open houses for students ages 15 – 21 years old who have at least a 7th grade education, is over age and under credited, has been ACS involved, court involved or held behind.

Chairperson Morgan stated that a quorum was not achieved on this evening and encouraged Board members to regularly attend Board meetings to ensure that the Board's business can be conducted and access to needed resources is not delayed.

Ms. Anita Pierce announced that the Brownsville Minute will be live on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 and Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. to elevate the conversation on the importance of legislation at the state and city level.

She also stated that community-based organizations and members are invited to be guests on the Brownsville Minute which is broadcasted via Facebook and YouTube. Please contact her via email at: anita.pierce@gmail.com.

Chairperson Morgan suggested Ms. Wilson connect with Ms. Pierce to discuss the New Visions AIM I Charter High School on the Brownsville Minute.

Deborah Williams announced that Marion Street Park is having a social distanced Halloween event on Saturday, October 31, 2020 and on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 the 73rd Precinct will have a Build the Block meeting at P.S./I.S 73 at 4:00 p.m.

Anita Pierce reminded everyone to attend the virtual Veterans Appreciation event on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11am.

Ms. Eudene Stanton announced that the streets near the old Verizon building are dirty and need to be cleaned.

She was asked to email the complaint to the District Manager.

Rev. Joseph Norton requested clarification on the early voting hours.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the Board's office will send out the updated hours and she reminded everyone to follow the Community Board on Facebook to get important updates.

There being no further discussion or announcements, a motion was made by David Alexander, seconded by Adrainer Coleman and carried to adjourn the meeting.