

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 26, 2021

### Attendance

David Alexander	Genese Morgan
Lorenzo Andrews (A)	Rose O’Neill (A)
Cynthia Bannister	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)
Margaret Brewer	Busayo Olupano (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Ariel Perry-DeCamp (A)
Kaseem Clark-Edwards	Anita Pierce
Adrainer Coleman	Marie Pierre (E)
Norman Frazier (A)	Linda Rivera
Danny Goodine (A)	Shaneek Samuel (A)
Chanel Haliburton(A)	JoAnn Sexton
Sarah Hall(E)	Dr. Sonia Smith
Balinda Harris	Keturah Suggs (E)
Zalika Headey	Beverly Tatham
Michael Howard	Rev. Eric Thompson (A)
Carl Joseph (A)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene
Leticia Knowles	Christopher Toomer
Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)	Deborah Williams
Digna Layne	Pat Winston
Kelly Lee-McVay	Viola D. Walker, District Manager
Albion Liburd	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Deborah Mack (A)	Ronald Baez for Hon. Zellnor Myrie
Yolanda Matthews (A)	Hon. Inez Barron
John McCadney, Jr.	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
Andrew McCoy (A)	Nicholas Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Melanie Mendonca	Hon. Alicka Ampy-Samuel
Shemene Minter	

### PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and an invocation was said by Ms. Cynthia Bannister.

Chairperson Morgan requested that Secretary Zalika Headley call the roll. A quorum was present.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Councilmember Inez Barron.

Councilmember Barron wished everyone a happy new year and encouraged everyone to adhere to the City COVID-19 protocols of washing your hand, social distancing, wearing a mask and staying home if you are sick.

The NYC Health + Hospital’s Gotham Health Center, located at 2094 Pitkin Avenue, is administering COVID-19 vaccine to those who are eligible by appointment only.

There is a pop-up vaccination site at the Christian Cultural Center, located at 12020 Flatlands Avenue.

They are working on opening a vaccination site at Starrett City due to it having the highest mortality death rate of COVID-19 virus in the neighborhood.

Middle school entrance exam will be administered on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 to students who are interested in applying to the specialized high schools. They will be administering the test at the students’ home middle school.

If you know any child who is in need of an electronic device in order to attend online learning, please contact her office.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has apprehended the suspect who murdered 3 women at New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) Carter G. Woodson Senior Housing Development. The first victim was 92-year-old Ms. Myrtle McKenny in 2015, the second victim was 83-year-old Ms. Jacolia James, and the third victim was 78-years old Junita Cabarello.

For this reason, they are calling for security cameras in the housing development at Carter G. Woodson. They had several press conferences and met with NYCHA representatives and Ms. Johnson, President of Carter G. Woodson Senior Housing Development Tenant Association, to discuss the installation of the cameras in the elevators, hallways and stairways

Councilmember Barron stated that the NYCHA representative stated that they will begin the installation in June or July.

She stated that they are not waiting until June or July. The funding and the equipment are available. She will continue to follow up on the conversation.

They are working with NYCHA to make sure that apartments are being occupied by those whose names are on the lease.

Four months after Ms. James's murder, a gentleman named Hector Hemmingway was found dead in his Carter G. Woodson apartment. The City ruled his death as natural causes which the family disagreed because they found injuries on his body. There needs to be further investigation on the city and federal level when examining a dead body. The families deserve justice and other families deserve to know that they are protected and safe.

Councilmember Barron stated that she's working along with Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Assemblymember Latrice Walker and Senator Roxanne J. Persaud to execute these needs for NYCHA residents.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Dr. Miatheresa Pate, Superintendent of School District #23.

Dr. Pate stated that in response to the closure of all New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she led her team towards designing a district-wide remote learning plan framework that honors a mission and vision focused on a collaborative, inclusive, and remote learning environment for all students in which they are academically challenged, socially developed, and emotionally uplifted towards readiness for their successful participation in the global 21st century community.

Ensuring that their vision is realized, District #23 is committed to: M.O.V.I.N.G. (M- monitoring the intent and the impact of our work. O- optimizing opportunities for innovation. V- valuing collaboration and inclusivity. I- igniting a growth mindset. N- nurturing critical thinkers and agents of change. G- galvanizing our community, the words wellness, advocacy and advancement).

Schools under her leadership are designing reopening SMART plans that honor social distancing, multiple learning platforms, accelerated health measures, responsiveness to families and communities, and training for staff and families. The output of her leadership has resulted in school specific remote learning plans, reopening plans, district-wide transition to Google classroom and iLearn, virtual professional development using Google Meet and Zoom platforms, and the use of online intervention supports with programs like I-Ready. District remote engagement is consistently above 79% daily and she has aggressively tracked and monitored the delivery of 4,477 wi-fi ready tablets resulting in greater student access to technology.

District #23 has sent out a welcome letter to every upcoming middle school student. The letter explains how to create an account and apply for middle school on a platform called myschools which included a personalized access-code. If a student did not receive a letter, email her and include your child's name to receive an access-code. The deadline to apply is February 8, 2021.

The Department of Education (DOE) is partnering with Panorama Education to launch the Fall 2020 School Experience survey which is intended to capture anonymous feedback from families, students, and teachers on their ongoing experiences during 2020-21 school year by visiting [www.schools.nyc.gov/ExperienceSurvey](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/ExperienceSurvey). The survey will remain open until February 5, 2021.

Dr. Pate stated that in partnership with her deputy and team there is laser-like focus on quality professional development, progress monitoring and schools tiering their supports for students. The outcome of these foci is 13 out of 23 schools increasing their overall proficiency in ELA and 17 out of 23 schools in math. The district's overall proficiency levels (59% ELA and 44% math) continue to increase under her leadership.

In partnership with the district's Director of Continuous Improvement, she has designed school specific action plans for her two Receivership CSI state designed schools resulting in one having a Demonstrable Improvement Value of 91.7% and the other 49.9%.

She also adopted AVID and partnered with Rigorous Curriculum Design (RCD) group as a critical curriculum collaborator. By adopting the AVID program as a district wide approach, schools have implemented strategies like the WICOR which provides a learning model that educators can use to guide students in comprehending concepts and articulating ideas at increasingly complex levels. RCD ensures that district schools have a road map to design a progression of units of study that keep standards, instruction, and assessment tightly focused and connected

The score proficiencies in ELA and math are District #23 assessment score's, not State assessment because State assessment scores for 2020 are not available.

They have redefined the students learning approaches and have created an individualized learning plan through the support partnership with a group called I Ready to identify the areas that students are struggling with and design an individual learning program that parents can use to provide additional support.

They developed a critical action plan to work closely with schools to continue monitoring the students' progress.

They also offer a monthly remote teaching series for teachers on a platform called Danielson Framework to train teachers on how to best practice remote/blended learning context.

District #23 partners with Community Education Council (CEC) under the leadership of Mrs. Page Best-Hardy to ensure families are involved in the educational process and have access to resources needed to promote positive outcomes for their children.

Dr. Pate stated that she will email the school year calendar to the Board so that the Board will be aware of every program that they offer weekly to parents, teachers, principals and co-leaders, and community events. She believes that relationship building is a key component towards improving teaching and learning outcomes for all students resulting in globally competent scholars.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for questions to be directed to Superintendent Dr. Pate.

Mr. David Alexander asked if there is a difference in the grade scores between the students engaged in blended learning and online learning?

Dr. Pate stated that the Map assessment that District #23 conducted is an adaptive assessment which assess the students based on the answer they provided. For example, if a student answers the first question correct, the second question will be difficult, but if you get it wrong and the test shift back to an easier question, and it will continue to shift back and forth so it can get an accurate account of how the student is doing. That's one of the reasons they tell the families not to assist the students when they are taking the test because it gives the school false information about the student's performance level which will shift the individual learning plans that the computer creates for the students. All students took the same assessments.

Mr. Alexander asked how are the students living in transitional housing doing compared to other students?

Dr. Pate stated that living in temporary housing doesn't put a student in a special academic cohort. They have some students who live in temporary housing that are super accelerated. Their home condition doesn't determine their academic placement. They would never be isolated and be given a different assessment.

Ms. Patricia Winston stated that on Monday, January 18, 2021 a child's mother, who she used to take to school, received a letter saying that he has to stay home for one week due to COVID-19 virus infection in the school. She feels that one week is not enough to disinfect the school and make it safe for the children to return. How long does DOE take to disinfect the schools?

Dr. Pate stated that the DOE does not determine the length of time a school or a classroom can be closed. It is determined by the Department of Health's Contact and Trace. It depends on the

type of exposure and what the exposure was. For example, the school may be closed for a day for the purpose of doing a deep cleaning due to a third-party exposure.

Mr. Malcom McDaniel asked how is District #23 assessing students who don't have equipment such as a computer, laptop or internet access? What's the issue of the students who have the essentials to those who don't? How is District #23 addressing the issue to make sure that every student gets the equivalent education.

Dr. Pate stated that they have a number of students who are in need of technology and are waiting for their delivery from the Department of Education. They went from 6,000 to 100 students across the district that didn't have a learning equipment. Some students have devices, however, they did not have internet access. The DOE partnered with internet providers to provide hot spots to those.

They also offer paper curriculum for the younger graders at the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Malcom McDaniel suggested that teachers record their lecture for the students to play back and have access to content that was previously taught.

Dr. Pate stated that she agrees with Mr. McDaniel. She thinks it is a phenomenal idea that has been introduced to the unions. To create those types of mandates, it has to take place at the Department of Education.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Dr. Pate for the presentation and her leadership, especially during this difficult time. She recognized how much effort she is putting in to make sure that everyone is updated with the information concerning the schools.

She encouraged everyone to attend the Community Education Council (CEC) meeting that is held on the first Monday of each month from September through June to stay abreast of what is happening with our school.

Dr. Pate stated that CEC is looking for community members to fill the vacant slots on their board. She encouraged parents to join the board and be active.

She also encouraged community members to follow District#23 on social media handles. They have an app, web site, Twitter, Facebook and an Instagram page called D23rising. They sent notifications and update on everything that's happening in the district. If you haven't done so, please subscribe or download the app.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Deputy Inspector Terrell Anderson, Executive Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that they are continuously dealing with violence in the neighborhood. They are addressing the underlying issues that cause people to commit crimes and make sure that there are opportunities and resources available to prevent people from being arrested, hurt or hurt someone.

Thus far in 2021, there were 3 shootings and the homicide murder at Carter G. Woodson Senior Houses, which got a lot of media attention because the perpetrator had committed two others murders within the same building. The perpetrator has been arrested and admitted to all 3 murders. He will face justice.

He stated that they are looking to engage with the youth and anyone who hopes to stop crimes or prevent certain instances from happening in Brownsville. Their best resource is the community.

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

Someone stated that on Eastern Parkway between Park Place and Sterling Place, there has been large parties where attendees are armed and selling drugs. These parties have been happening for approximately 9 months.

She wanted to thanked Deputy Inspector Anderson and his team for patrolling the area and she hopes they will continue to patrol the area.

She is aware that arrests have been made at the parties, but the parties continue to be held. What is the next step in regard to the building?

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that they started \$10,000 dollars summons fees to the building owner because they should not be giving access to these individuals to have large gatherings.

There have been two incidents in that building where the Police Officers were able to legally enter the location and conduct enforcement which enabled them to start a civil process. The process is slow during COVID-19 but they will continue to work on it.

Ms. Anita Pierce asked when will the next Brownsville Safety Alliance Pilot program conference will be held? The event in December was successful.

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated the program started as a healthy dialogue in terms of public safety and who plays what role. The initiative has started a nationwide discussion and the Chief of Patrol wants to incorporate it citywide in certain neighborhoods. They are looking to host another discussion in April.

Chairperson Morgan asked if Brownsville is the first community to pilot this program, or was this done someplace else?

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that Brownsville is the first to pilot the program and he was pleased with the community members response.

He wants to work in collaboration with different organizations to bring different ideas to build on this program and improve the lives of the residents in Brownsville.

Chairperson Morgan stated that she looks forward to hearing about the next event. There are numerous initiatives that originated from Brownsville and she thinks it's going to be really important when this program becomes citywide, Brownsville receives more than its fair share of the resources that are going to be put behind the initiative. What typically happens when these types of initiatives get started in Brownsville and when the program move to other communities, they receive the benefit in a much greater way than where the idea originated. We have to make sure that Brownsville gets more than its fair share for taking the lead. It's important that we don't get lost in the conversation.

Deputy Inspector Anderson stated that he agrees with Chairperson Morgan. This initiative that the community did has brought positive attention of which the Mayor took notice. He's planning to have a discussion with the Mayor soon.

He will make sure that Brownsville gets it's due because this community has been marginalized. The only way that we're going to repair some of the unfortunate conditions that currently exist is through the resources we receive to be expanded beyond the neighborhood.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Monique Chandler from New York City Health + Hospitals.

Ms. Chandler stated that their agency has partnered with community stakeholders to get the message throughout communities about COVID-19 prevention, information, testing and mask adherence or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution to make sure that our committee members are safe.

New York City Health + Hospitals offers a program called a Day of Actions, held every Tuesday. It's a pop-up event in the neighborhood that has an increase level of COVID-19 or where there is a need for COVID-19 intervention such as testing, distributing hand sanitizers and face masks. They are looking to partner with different organizations in the community. If interested, please email her.

She encouraged everyone to follow the City COVID-19 protocol on washing your hands, wearing a mask, 6 feet social distance and staying home if you are sick.

Ms. Chandler encouraged everyone to get tested for COVID-19 because someone can be infected without having any symptoms.

The NYC Test & Trace Corps offers a program called Take Care Hotel for New Yorkers who test positive for COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the virus and their close contacts have the resources needed to safely separate in a hotel room, free of charge for up to 10 days, or at home to help prevent the spread of the virus. For information, please call 212 COVID19 (212-268-4319) to book a room. Take Care Hotels are free, safe, comfortable, and convenient.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms, don't wait. Separate! COVID-19 transmission is common in households, and it happens fast among families and roommates living together.

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to certain groups in New York City.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were shown to be safe and greater than 94% effective at preventing symptoms and decreasing severe COVID-19 infection, however, there is a chance that you could still contract the virus.

Even after you are vaccinated, you will still need to practice COVID-19 prevention steps: stay home if sick, wash your hands, wear a face covering and keep physical distance from others.

To find out if you are eligible to receive the vaccine, please **call** 1-877-VAX-4NYC or 1-877-829-4692. or visit [www.nyc/Covidvaccinedistribution.com](http://www.nyc/Covidvaccinedistribution.com) or [www.nyc.gov/vcc.com](http://www.nyc.gov/vcc.com).

COVID-19 testing will continue to be offered. It is recommended to be tested for at least once a month or twice a month for those who come in close contact with others.

If you are interested in being tested for COVID-19, visit [www.nyc.gov/covidtest.com](http://www.nyc.gov/covidtest.com) or call 311 to find the nearest testing site. They offer mobile testing, rapid testing and self-testing.

There are some misconceptions about the COVID-19 vaccination. Due to the last administration, a lot of people are afraid and not trusting the scientific work. With this new administration, they are hoping to reinstall people's confidence.

When you get tested or vaccinated, you are helping to protect yourself, your family, friends and community.

They have seen an increase number of COVID-19 virus infection among youth age 13 through 17 years old. If you know any youth organizations that they can partner with to get the message out to the youth, please reach out the Department of Health + Hospitals.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for questions to be directed to Ms. Chandler.

Someone asked about the 94 % COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness. Does it protect against the new COVID-19 variant? Does the Department of Health + Hospitals offer oral swab testing for children?

Ms. Monique Chandler stated that some sites offers oral swab to children age 2 years and older. It is listed on the site what each site offers. As far as the mutant COVID-19 virus, scientists are still doing research and she does not know if the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are effective against the mutant strains.

They also offer self-swab test. New Yorkers at community testing sites would be shown to private rooms and asked to spit in a cup and insert a small sterile swab into the nostril for 10 seconds. Both samples will be passed to a health care professional for testing. The result can be obtained within 24 hours. Hospital staff members can partner and train Community Based Organization (CBO) staff members to do the self-swab test. If you're interested, contact her to sign up.

Before anyone enters New York City, they must test negative for COVID-19 virus within 72 hours. Within 4 days of entering the State, they must get another negative COVID-19 test. They must quarantine until the second test result is available. If tested positive for the second COVID-19 test, the individual must quarantine for 14 days to prevent the spread of the virus.

Councilmember Inez Barron asked if there have been any improvements on the COVID-19 testing. When she took the test, it was painful to a point she does not want to be tested again.

That might hinder people from being tested and also maybe traumatizing children who have to get the test.

Ms. Chandler stated that it has improved at the Health + Hospitals testing sites. It is something she heard of but has never witnessed.

Mr. Malcom McDaniel asked if there is any information available to tell people what ingredients are the COVID-19 vaccine made of? He thinks that is one of the reasons why people don't want to take the vaccine. Knowing what is inside the vaccine will encourage people to do their own research and it will help them make the decisions if they want to take the vaccine or not.

Ms. Chandler stated that she agrees with Mr. McDaniel and will bring this concern back to her team.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Drew Vanderburg, Project Manager, and Bianca Fernandez from RiseBoro Community Partnership.

Mr. Vanderburg stated that RiseBoro Community Partnership is a local nonprofit agency that has been doing a construction project in Community District #16 for the past couple of years and they are presenting some affordable housing that will be available to the community.

For the past 2 years, they have been working on constructing affordable housing units called Harry T. Nance Apartments at 1860 Eastern Parkway. The application will be launched in Spring 2021 at the Housing Preservation Development (HPD) lottery process website. To apply, please visit [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect). The application will be open for 6 weeks only.

The building will consist of 67 multi-family apartments, (1 live-in super, 11 homeless or veterans, 55 units through HPD lottery), True Holy Church (landowner) on ground floor and basement and a community space. Fifty percent of the units are set-aside for Brooklyn Community Board #16 resident. Sixteen percent of the unit are set aside for formerly homeless (veterans), 4 units set aside for the hearing/visual impaired and 7 units set-aside for the mobility-impaired. There are 8 Project-Based Vouchers. The rents ranges from \$457 through \$1485 per month.

An Annual Median Income (AMI) of 30% - 60% is required to be eligible to apply.

Ms. Bianca Fernandez stated that they anticipate the application to be available within the next couple of weeks on the HPD website and encourage everyone from the community to apply.

Once on the housing connect website, you will be asked to create an account and answer a few personal questions. The applicant must select Harry T. Nance Apartment as one of the sites you are applying for and they can submit to many different affordable housing projects in New York City.

Document requirements include: W2 and tax form 1040 for 2017 and 2018, six (6) consecutive paystubs (most recent), six (6) months consecutive bank statement (most recent and all pages), six (6) rent receipts (most recent). Letter of Verification from landlord, three (3) months of electric and gas bills (most recent and consecutive). Social Security cards for all household members, birth certificates for all household members over 18 years of age, school letters for all dependents. SSI/SS award letters with current date (if applicable). Public Assistance breakdown letter (if application), pension award letter (if application), verification of Child Support and or Alimony (if application). If selected for an interview, you can submit your documentation electronically, by mail, or bring them in person.

To request a paper application for Harry T. Nance Apartments only, mail a request to the marketing agent with a return envelope at 217 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237.

The marketing agents will not accept paper applications. Within the application, it tells where to mail the application after completion.

Eligibility determination is made based on the information provided on the application. They encourage applicant to be honest and truthful to what they submit. The process is a fair opportunity to apply and be selected.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for questions to be directed to Mr. Vanderburg and

Ms. Fernandez.

Someone asked if social service will be offered on site?

Mr. Vanderburg stated that there is no social service office in the building, however RiseBoro has another building nearby where social services and other programs that are offered to the homeless residents in the building. For additional services, please reach out to RiseBoro to be referred to services within walking distance of this building.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if the applicant has to submit original or copy of the documents?

Ms. Bianca Fernandez stated that copies of the documents are acceptable.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that she works with clients who live in temporary housing. They were placed in other communities and would want to be relocated to Brownsville. How can they be part of the selection?

Ms. Bianca Fernandez stated that when submitting the application, the applicant can use their former address while they were in Brownsville. If selected, they will be asked to provide a letter stating where they are currently residing in temporary housing. The address that's on the application will be considered as their primary residents.

Mr. Vanderburg stated that he encourages everyone to apply. If you don't have a home or live in a shelter, you are welcome to apply.

There are 3 additional units out of the 55 units that will be offered to the homeless population, that is in addition to the 11 units designated to homeless placement services that is part of the lottery process.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if homeless veterans qualify to apply?

Mr. Vanderburg stated that homeless veterans will qualify to apply. HPD Homeless Placement Services Unit were going to select applicants from the homeless shelters. The State wanted them to make a preference to veterans, however, they will use HPD to select the veterans in the shelters.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the building has central air? Are utility bills included in the rent?

Mr. Vanderburg stated that the building has central air and there will be a charge for cooling. The utility bills are not included in the rent such as electricity and gas.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Hannah Knopf, Asley Ototo and Renee Muir from Brownsville Multi-Services (BMS) Family Health and Wellness Center.

Ms. Hannah Knopf stated that she is the Behavioral Health Project Coordinator at BMS and speaking on behalf of Martin Bruner.

BMS Family Health and Wellness Center's mission is to provide and promote integrative, high quality health care and social services to enable every individual and family in the communities they serve to achieve lifelong total health and wellness. They will provide all sorts of health services, which is primary care, pediatrics, gynecology, prenatal, WIC, dentistry, HIV and hepatitis C care, behavioral health, addictions treatment and COVID-19 response team.

Community members of Brownsville and East New York who choose to receive their primary care with BMS are eligible to receive individual therapy, either in person or via telehealth.

They also have psychiatry medication management as well as treatment for substance use disorders with medication assistant treatment program using Suboxone or naltrexone for non-inpatient drug treatment facility.

She stated that mental health and substance use services are critical to an individual, their family and community health.

They offer Opioid Overdose Prevention program and training to anyone or any organization that needs them. They also give out opioid kits.

Ms. Asley Ototo stated she works at the COVID-19 Testing Expansion Grant program. Their mission is to increase testing within Brownsville and East New York areas.

They have conducted a total of 12,351 COVID-19 test in Brownsville. From January 18<sup>th</sup> through January 23<sup>rd</sup>, they conducted 601 COVID-19 tests. 29 pending test result, and 79 tested positive.

The positivity COVID-19 test rate is 13.86% and Brownsville area is 14.5%.

COVID-19 vaccinations are being done at the BMS sites based on the State eligibility.

If you choose to get vaccinated, it's important to arrive on time during your appointment, and also be sure to schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose right after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

Ms. Renee Muir stated that the 14.5% COVID-19 positivity rate Ms. Ashley Ototo mentioned is specific to the test that they conducted at BMS only.

She thinks the overall 11212 zip code rate is 9% for Brownsville and 11% for East New York. The data is in terms of the 11212-zip code only, which is local because residents are within walking distance. The positive rates are higher than the total of the zip code overall.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for questions.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu asked if the COVID-19 test at BMS is free because some of the health care clinics charge.

Ms. Renee Muir stated that the COVID-19 test and vaccination are free at BMS. They accept walk in and appointment.

Mr. David Alexander asked if an appointment is needed for the COVID-19 vaccination?

Ms. Renee Muir stated that the vaccine is offered to people who are eligible and by appointment only.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following from her report: The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program is first come, first served. Applications will be accepted throughout the application period. HCR will prioritize eligible households with greatest economic and social need. Previous Applicants for COVID Rent Relief will not have to reapply to be reconsidered. HCR will re-evaluate all applications that were denied according to the new criteria and issue revised determination letters to applicants. Application are being accepted through February 1, 2021. To apply, visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP> or call 1-833-499-0318.

On Saturday, January 30, 2021, there will be a Gun Buy Back at Bethesda Healing Center located at 167 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn. The drop off site opens at 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.

Chairperson Morgan read the proposed amendments to the By-laws as (a copy is on file at the Community Board Office)

Chairperson Morgan stated that reading of the recommended changes to the bylaws will be read next month.

Chairperson Morgan advanced the agenda to the reading of work group reports.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via WebEx. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

Chairperson Morgan requested a motion to accept the Equity Planning Work Group report for January 12, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Digna Layne and carried with all in favor.

The vote for the liquor license application at 225 Rockaway Avenue was 21 in favor, 0 against and 6 abstentions (C. Brown, J. McCadney, Jr., K. Lee-McVay, M. Mendonca, J. Sexton, and M. Ukaegbu).

The vote for the Board of Standards and Appeals application at 44 New Lot Avenue was postponed to next month until they present to the full Board.

Ms. Zalika Headley, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on Thursday, January 14, 2021, via WebEx with representatives from the Department of Transportation who provided updates on 2 of their projects. They are seeking a letter of support from the Board to support their 2 projects.

The first project, the Eastern Parkway project located between Lincoln Place and Mother Gaston Boulevard was presented at our December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Board meeting. There were a number of concerns raised by the audience. The representatives are present to give an update.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Rochelle Brahalla and Ms. Ronda Messer from the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Ms. Rochelle Brahalla stated that regarding the school safety proposal, street improvement project on Eastern Parkway between Lincoln Place and Pacific Street intend to shorten pedestrian crossings, keep concrete sidewalk expansions and painted curb extensions. They also plan to simplify intersections by reducing turning movements and improving traffic flow. After the presentation in December 2020, five questions arose.

The first concern is to inform District #23 Superintendent Dr. Pate of the proposal.

They informed all of the schools in the surrounding vicinity.

The second concern was to reduce congestion on the corridor because it is busy and popular route.

After their study, they found out that when they ban turning, traffic will move better. They are proposing safer and simpler intersections across corridors. They anticipate that traffic will move freely.

The third concern was at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Eastern Parkway. They are currently studying the intersection.

The fourth concern was a sinkhole at Howard Avenue and Eastern Parkway. The Sinkhole has been patched and repaired.

Finally, there was a question of the vacant lot between Prospect Place and Thomas S. Boyland Street. Their citywide concrete group will investigate this triangle.

Ms. Page Best-Hardy stated that there are 3 schools in the area: a charter school, P.S 156 and I.S. 392. There is a heavy congestion around that area. Those schools would have the greatest impact on whatever take place there not that parents wouldn't want to see nice improvement area. That area gets very crowded when it's time for children to go home from school and the buses cannot easily maneuver in that area.

Ms. Rochelle Brahalla stated that she understands what Ms. Best-Hardy concern about the congestion during arrival and dismissal especially for students who are walking and biking to school. The schools are not Eastern Parkway corridor itself, but they will take that into consideration.

The vote for the changes to Howard Avenue and Eastern Parkway was 27 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Mr. John Butz stated that the New York Department of Transportation partnered with the local Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC) to improve Osborn Street Plaza, located between Belmont and the dead end where the space can be used as a community gathering and markets with popup tents. They are also proposing to replace the existing furniture to flexible and removable furniture.

The entire intersection is going to be raised at the side to eliminate the step out into the street. There will be new large crosswalks, and detectable warning strips.

They will replace 4 granite blocks on the pedestrian sidewalk to prevent cars from going into the Plaza to help protect pedestrians. They will also enhance the existing lighting at the eastern building façade.

There is a good amount of site amenities and they want to ensure that additional amenities will be provided with DOT standard amenities and furnishings such as DOT's city bench, bike rack, and city rack.

They will place new amenities such as cafe tables, chairs, umbrellas and a drinking fountain with a bottle filler in the plaza.

They are proposing to enlarge the bioswale from 200 square feet to 900 square feet. Also, to plant additional trees and provide seasonal event within the plaza.

They also want to introduce a flush condition between the tamed areas and the planting areas that will direct all of the rainwater that falls within the plaza directly into the bioswale.

They are proposing to place a kiosk at the northwest corner of Belmont Avenue.

They will replace the current lightning, with 3 pedestrian fixtures which will provide enhance lighting levels.

The vote for the changes to support the design with all of the amenities in the Osborn Plaza was 26 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Chairperson Morgan advanced the agenda to the continue to read the work group reports.

Chairperson Morgan requested a motion to accept the City Service Planning Work Group report for January 14, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Christopher Toomer and carried with all in favor.

Chairperson Morgan stated that last month there was an item in the Equity Planning Work Group report regarding the development project at 2435 Pacific Street owned by Love Fellowship Project, is looking to partnering with the Central Brooklyn Economic Development to manage workforce component of the project, and the Board needed to vote on that project.

The vote for 2435 Pacific Street project was 21 in favor, 1 against (m. Brewer), 3 abstentions (C. Brown, J. Sexton, and M. Ukaegbu) and 1 present but not voting (David Alexander).

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, reported that the Community Resident Planning Work Group met on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, via WebEx. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board Office.

Chairperson Morgan requested a motion to accept the Community Resident Planning Work Group report for November 24, 2020 and January 13, 2021. A motion was made by Balinda Harris, seconded by Adrainer Coleman and carried with all in favor.

Chairperson Morgan requested a motion to accept the December 2020 Board minute and the District Manager's report. A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Melanie Mendonca and carried with all in favor.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Malcom McDaniel urged everyone to keep practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and checking on your friends and family during this difficult time. The office at Borough Hall is closed. For any information, please reach out to him at (347) 942-1692 or visit [www.Brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.Brooklyn-usa.org).

Mr. Nicholas Perry, representing Hon. Scott Stringer, stated that the Comptroller along with trustees of the two city pension funds and the Mayor's Office announced that the funds have voted to divest their portfolios of \$4 million dollars from securities related to fossil fuel

companies. The divestment will address the significant financial and environmental risk that these fossil fuel holding pose to the fund and to our planning.

On January 19, 2021, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer released Fair Shot NYC, a vaccine equity plan to ensure that New Yorkers across backgrounds, income-levels, occupations and age groups have equitable access to vaccines as the City ramps up distribution. Comptroller Stringer's Fair Shot NYC plan includes recommendations for more transparency and outreach to increase access for communities of color, lower-income neighborhoods, and immigrant New Yorkers. Comptroller Stringer's Fair Shot NYC plan calls on the City to: release all demographic data in real time broken down by age, race, profession and zip code, mandate all businesses provide paid time off for employees who need to get vaccinated, and drastically scale up outreach and education through public advertising campaigns and local community leaders and organizations, build strategic partnerships with employers of high-risk workers who are eligible for the vaccine, plan for the anticipated arrival of new vaccines, and establish a supply chain management task force, led by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Mayor's Office of Operations. For more information, please reach out to him at (917) 499-0749.

Chairperson Morgan asked members for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Mel Faulkner, a Legislative representative for Assembly member Charles Barron, who passed away.

Ms. Anita Pierce stated that there is crucial information on the Community Board #16 website and Facebook page. She urges the community members to utilize the information.

Mr. Alexander announced that the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is looking for members for the Neighborhood Advisory Board for Community District #16. For more information, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/dycd>

Chairperson Morgan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to stay safe.

There being no further business to discussed, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander seconded by Mrs. Balinda Harris and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.