

Attendance

David Alexander
Lorenzo Andrews (A)
Cynthia Bannister
Eramas Beras-Monticciolo
Margaret Brewer
Dr. Cleopatra Brown
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (A)
Adrainer Coleman
Norman Frazier (A)
Danny Goodine
Chanel Haliburton
Sarah Hall
Balinda Harris (A)
Zalika Headley
Michael Howard (A)
Gabriel Jamison (A)
Carl Joseph (A)
Leticia Knowles
Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)
Digna Layne
Kelly Lee-McVay
Albion Liburd (A)
Deborah Mack
Yolanda Matthews (A)

John McCadney, Jr. (A)
Andrew McCoy
Melanie Mendonca
Shemene Minter (A)
Genese Morgan
Rose O'Neill (A)
Deidre Olivera
Luz Ortiz
Shelevya Pearson (A)
Anita Pierce
Marie Pierre
Linda Rivera
JoAnn Sexton
Khadijah Smith
Dr. Sonia Smith (A)
Keturah Suggs (A)
Beverly Tatham
Sydone Thompson
Brenda Thompson-Duchene (A)
Christopher Toomer
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Deborah Williams
Pat Winston
Viola D. Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Marie Boone for Hon. Roxanne Persaud

PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7: 03 p.m. and welcomed newly appointed Board members.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Allie Gumas from the Department of Sanitation.

Ms. Gumas stated that she is the Curbside Composting Outreach Coordinator which simply means that she is the liaison between the community and the Department of Sanitation.

She is pleased to announce that they will be reinstating the composting program this fall. It will now require residents to sign up to enroll in the program by registering online or calling 3-1-1 beginning in August. If enough households in the area sign up, the Department of Sanitation will collect the composting. If you do not live in an area where the service is being offered, they will let you know about opportunities to bring your food scraps to a drop off location or how to compost at home. Locally, composting materials are being collected at Abib Newborn Learning Garden, located at 495 Osborn Street and at the Howard Garden, located at 750 Howard Avenue.

Mr. Andrew McCoy asked if there is a threshold on how many households that must sign up in order for the community's composting materials be collected by the Department of Sanitation?

Ms. Gumas stated that she is unsure, but would guess that it would be about 200 to 300 households (about what takes to fill a collection truck). Once they have a definitive number she will reach out to the Board and inform them.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker read highlights from the District Manager's report. A copy of the report is on file at the Board's office.

A roll call of members failed to yield a quorum.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, read the report of the Equity Planning Work Group. A copy of the report is on file at the Board's office.

Ms. Deborah Williams, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, read the report of the City Services Planning Work Group. A copy of the report is on file in the Board's office. Within the report are requests to co-name East New York Avenue at Thomas S. Boyland Street

in memory of Police Officer Robert Denton and Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street in memory of the late Yusef and Dara Iman. She invited the family and friends of Police Officer Denton to present on their request to be followed by the family and friends of the Imans.

Mr. Ron Denton, nephew of the late Police Officer Robert Denton, related the circumstances of fifty years ago when the family learned of the killing of his uncle while on duty in the 73rd Precinct. He spoke of the type of person Officer Denton was both as a police officer and as a man. He described him as a dedicated police officer and as a kind and caring man.

On the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of him being slain, they are asking that the Board support their request to co-name the corner of East New York Avenue at Thomas S. Boyland Street Police Officer Robert Denton Way.

Mr. Ron Bellestri stated that he is a proud retiree of the NYPD and that Police Officer Denton was a friend from childhood. Their two families were very close. They went to school and participated on the same sports teams. They were like siblings and called each other's parents mom and dad. When his parents vacationed during winters, Robert would stay with the Bellestris. After two of their friends were killed in the Vietnam War, Robert decided to enlist in the United States Army in their honor. In 1969, they both joined the NYPD where Robert was assigned to the 73rd Precinct and he was assigned to the 13th Precinct in Manhattan. They remained in contact and he asked Robert to come to the 13th Precinct, however, Robert stated that he did not want to leave the 73rd because he felt he could make a difference here. He asked that the Board grant the family's request to co-name East New York Avenue at Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor to questions.

Ms. JoAnn Sexton asked what is the 73rd Precinct's recommendation?

Mr. Bellestri stated that everyone is in support.

Ms. Sexton asked if there are any letters of support?

Mr. Bellestri stated that a letter was sent to District Manager Greene-Walker.

Ms. Deidre Olivera asked if the family considered having a plaque or some other tribute to Officer Denton permanently placed at the 73rd Precinct in his honor?

Mr. Bellestri stated that a plaque already exists at the Precinct. On July 24th, the Precinct will be presented with a flag that was given to his family after his death to be placed adjacent to his plaque on the Precinct's Wall of Honor.

Ms. Olivera asked if they considered having a street in his hometown renamed in his honor?

Mr. Ron Denton stated that they moved around when he was young. The family associates Brownsville with his uncle. He believes that having the street co-named in Officer Denton's name is befitting.

Ms. Olivera asked how long did he serve the community?

Mr. Bellestri stated that he worked at 73rd Precinct for a little over two years and it was the only precinct where he worked.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if there are any other jurisdictions where Officer Denton has been honored?

Mr. Bellestri stated that there are none. He does visit the 73rd Precinct each July 24th and speaks to young officers about Officer Denton and tries to inspire them to treat the community as Officer Denton did.

Ms. Jestine Roper asked if the family has any concern about co-naming the street resurrecting feelings of grief?

Mr. Ron Denton stated that the family has lived through the grief. Each year, as the end of July comes, they are reminded of the tragedy and have come to terms with it. They hold no disdain against his uncle's killer who was a young man himself. Beyond grief and remorse, they would like to move towards honoring his life.

Chairperson Morgan thanked everyone for their participation in this conversation. She next recognized Ms. Malika Iman.

Ms. Malika Iman stated that Yusef and Dara Iman were her parents and they lived on Dumont Avenue for a long time. She is seeking to have Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street co-named in their honor. They were both arduent activist for the people of Brownsville and did this mostly through the arts. They established outlets that uplifted and empowered youth, adults, and families. They impacted many people and were well respected. They taught Black history, created workshops in dance, music and theatre from the perspective of an African culture. To her it was about the seven principles of Kwanzaa - unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Her father was instrumental in building a theatre group through the Seth Low Community Center and the Howard Houses Performing Arts Group.

Mr. Eric Frazier stated that as a friend and protégé of Yusef Iman, he can say that Mr. Iman saw poverty in the community and did something about it. He saw the housing problem and did something about it. He saw the poor education and the way people were looked upon and did not just go about his business. He spent his entire life seeking to better the community.

Ms. Deidre Olivera stated that there have been so many people through the years that have done things to uplift the Brownsville community from Major Owens to Jeannette Gadson, from James Mack to Rev. Al Sharton, and Viola Greene-Walker, from forming one of the earliest Model Cities to Summer Youth Employment Programs. She is unfamiliar with the work of the Imans and asked if District Manager Greene-Walker is familiar with them?

Mr. Frazier stated that he is happy that this question arose and staed that Mr. Iman was not the type of person who did thing to gain recognition; he worked to get things done.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that she is not familiar with the works of Yusef and Dara Iman.

Ms. JoAnn Sexton asked if there are any supporting documents for the street co-naming request?

Ms. Iman stated that she submitted a petition with over 200 signatures along with a biographies of Yusef and Dara Iman to the Board.

Ms. Eramas Beras-Monticciolo stated that while she did not personally know the Imans, they were a great influence on her elder brothers. When her family emigrated to New York City from the Dominican Republic, her brothers faced a good deal of discrimination. It was the Imans who helped them gain a sense of pride that still resonate with them today.

Having achieving a quorum, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Dr. Cleopatra Brown, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Williams, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the Equity Planning Work Group Report.

A motion was made by Ms. Deidre Olivera , seconded by Ms. Digna Layne, and carried to accept the City Services Work Group Report.

In a roll call vote of 19-in favor (D. Alexander, C. Bannister, E. Beras-Monticciolo, M. Brewer, A. Coleman, D. Goodine, Z. Headley, L. Knowles, D. Layne, K. Lee-McVay, D. Mack, A. McCoy, M. Mendonca, G. Morgan, L. Ortiz, L. Rivera, J. Sexton, C. Toomer, and D. Williams), 2-against (S. Thompson and P. Winston) and 6-abstentions (C. Brown, B. Kollock-Wallace, D. Olivera, A. Pierce, K. Smith, and B. Tatham), members of Community Board #16 elected to support the application by Party Life and Lounge, located at 31 Truxton Street, for a beer, wine, cider and liquor license.

In a roll call vote of 19-in favor (D. Alexander, E. Beras-Monticciolo, M. Brewer, A. Coleman, S. Hall, Z. Headley, L. Knowles, D. Layne, D. Mack, A. McCoy, G. Morgan, L. Ortiz, M. Pierre, L. Rivera, J. Sexton, B. Tatham, C. Toomer, D. Williams, and P. Winston) , 2-against (D. Goodine, and S. Thompson) and 8-abstentions (C. Bannister, C. Brown, B. Kollock-Wallace, K. Lee-McVay, M. Mendonca, D. Olivera, A. Pierce, and K. Smith), members of Community Board #16 elected to support an application filed by Villa Castillo Restaurant at 1474 Pitkin Avenue to renew their beer, wine and cider license with the New York State Liquor Authority.

In a roll call vote of 6-in favor (Z. Headley, D. Mack, M. Mendonca, G. Morgan, S. Thompson, and C. Toomer), 15-against (D. Alexander, C. Bannister, E. Beras-Monticciolo, A. Coleman, M. Brewer, C. Brown, D. Goodine, L. Knowles, B. Kollock-Wallace, D. Olivera, J. Sexton, K. Smith, B. Tatham, D. Williams, and P. Winston) and 7-abstentions (D. Layne, K. Lee- McVay, A. McCoy, L. Ortiz, A. Pierce, M. Pierre, and L. Rivera), members of Community Board #16 elected to not support a request to co-name East New York Avenue at Thomas S. Boyland Street in memory of the late Police Officer Robert Denton.

In a roll call vote of 27-in favor (D. Alexander, C. Bannister, E. Beras-Monticciolo, M. Brewer, C. Brown, A. Coleman, D. Goodine, S. Hall, Z. Headley, L. Knowles, B. Kollock-Wallace, D. Layne, K. Lee-McVay, D. Mack, A. McCoy, M. Mendonca, G. Morgan, D. Olivera, A. Pierce, M. Pierre, L. Rivera, J. Sexton, K. Smith, B. Tatham, S. Thompson, C. Toomer, and D. Williams), 0-against and 2-abstentions by L. Ortiz, and P. Winston , members of Community Board #16 elected to support a request to co-name Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street in memory of the late Yusef Iman and Dara Iman.

Ms. Khadijah Smith read the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee. A copy of the report is on file in the Community Board's office.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for comments and announcements and stated that an announcement was left in the chat area wherein New Visions Charter School is seeking to recruit students aged 15 to 21 years old. Visit their website at www.newvisions.org/AIM1, for more information.

Ms. Anita Pierce announced that the 73rd Precinct will host the Brownsville Community Café on July 1, 2021 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Precinct. All are invited to participate.

Chairperson Morgan thanked everyone for their participation in tonight's meeting and encouraged them to contact the Board's office should they come across issues of concern to the community during the summer break.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Daniel Goodine, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.