

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD#16 - April 23, 2024**

### **PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT MT. OLLIE BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED AT 1698 ST. MARKS AVENUE, BROOKLYN**

#### **Attendance**

Mulika Adams	William McKethan (E)
Tiffany Adams (A)	Melanie Mendonca (E)
Rhotochia Atkins-Jones	Tyra Mendoca
Leotta Baird (A)	Shemene M. Minter (E)
Cynthia Bannister (E)	Genese Morgan
Lorraine Bassett (A)	Bilal Ndongo (A)
Dr. Kevin Bond (E)	Hector Perez (A)
Margaret Brewer	Marie Pierre
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Arielle Reid
Adrainer Coleman	Shadajahia Scarboro (A)
Lesley Cummins (A)	JoAnn Sexton
Byron Davis (E)	Dr. Sonia Smith (E)
Linda Dorceus (A)	Niani Taylor
Hunter Dupree (A)	Sydone Thompson (E)
Tiffany Esperson (A)	Christopher Toomer
Melvin Faulkner (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Dionne Grayman (A)	Kpade Viho (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Deborah Williams
Davere Hanson (A)	Pat Winston
Tiarra Haynes (A)	Hon. Latrice Walker
Zalika Headley (E)	Hon. Darlene Mealy
Michael Howard	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Ebony Jefferson (A)	Malcolm McDaniels for Hon. Eric L. Adams
Kalima Johnson (A)	Orlando Ross for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Pamela Junior-Baptiste	Freida Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Albion Liburd	Dalia Turner for Hon. Antonio Reynoso
Edith Margarito	Carlos Sanchez for Hon. Sandy Nurse
Annie Mayor (A)	

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05PM followed by invocation.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The floor was opened for public comments and announcements.

Raphael Mayor provided information about the 5-Borough Comic Book Store Tour which kicks off on Saturday May 4, 2024, and takes place on multiple Saturdays. The tour will start at 1pm at 14 St. Union Square. This event is a participating event of Jane's Walk and Municipal Art Society (MAS NYC). More information at [www.MAS.org/janes-walk-nyc-2024](http://www.MAS.org/janes-walk-nyc-2024). He shared that Brooklyn currently has 14 comic bookstores, the most in the five boroughs of New York City. Chairperson Morgan asked members of the community to share this information with youth groups to offer new experiences and an opportunity to have intergenerational connections. Raphael said information is available on his Instagram profile.

Edith Margarito provided information about the Nehemiah Homes Exhibit at the Brownsville Heritage House which opens on Sunday, April 28, 2024, 2PM by an organization named From the Ground

Tiera Mack, Executive Director of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District provided information on the series of events taking place at the Zion Triangle. The events dates and some details are as follows:

- May 5, 2024: clothing swap, skateboard repair, sneaking cleaning and giveaways
- May 11, 2024: bouquet flower workshop with only 20 slots available must RSVP
- May 18, 2024: youth mental health fair from 11am -2pm
- June 8, 2024: community bike ride with Lyft and Citi bike with only 30 slots available must RSVP

Tiera requested that members of the community follow the Pitkin BID on Instagram and Facebook and provided her contact information to call or text at (646) 420-7964; a de-brief of the Pitkin BID's community clean-up event held on event April 22, 2024, was also provided.

No further public comments or announcements.

Michael Wynter, Jr. of Positivity Market presented his technology program and is requesting a letter of support to expand his services within the Brownsville community. The program called According to Youth is seeking financial support, to provide HTML and JavaScript coding for youth ages 8-16. Positivity Market has just completed an internship program in partnership with NYC Summer Youth Program; and previously worked with senior centers within Brownsville: Rosetta Gaston and Langston Huges, to support online use related to HRA online applications and Con Edison for seniors ages 60+. The contact information for the organization is telephone at (201) 431-6381 or email at [globalafrican.enrollment@gmail.com](mailto:globalafrican.enrollment@gmail.com).

Chairperson Morgan opened the floor for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Det. Allen and Det. Daniel-Spears of 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Division.

Det. Allen presented current statistics concerning crimes this year April 2024 vs last year April 2023 as follows:

Murders are 6 this year versus 3 last year; Robberies are 66 this year versus 64 last year; Assaults are 148 this year versus 165 last year; Burglaries are 26 this year versus 42 last year; Grand Larceny is 99 this year versus 90 last year; and Grand Larceny Auto are 38 this year versus 27 last year. 98% of scooters are not registered. Registration for scooters is the same as vehicles and must be done through the Department of Motor Vehicle registered, the owner can bring paperwork to precinct to retrieve scooters. Many scooters are parked at hotels and shelters and picked up from those locations by NYPD. After COVID-19 Pandemic the city saw an increase in use of scooters, but unregistered.

Sheriffs can now close smoke shops and confiscate merchandise.

Neighborhood coordinator officers are assisting with towing electric bikes and scooters at 60-70 bikes a week.

Summer Jam Event on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct with HBCU theme and show by sororities and fraternities, cotton candy, food, comics, poet, bands, dance will also be live streamed on social media Facebook and Twitter.

There will be a job fair on May 13, 2024, at Mount Ararat Baptist Church from 10AM – 1PM.

National Night Out August 6, 2024, Callahan Kelly playground from 1pm – 6pm.

Chairperson Morgan requested roll call from First Vice Chairperson Deborah Williams.

Chairperson Morgan requested reports from Workgroups.

**Chairperson of Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee, Adrainer Coleman read the Equity Planning Work Group report.**

The Equity Planning Work Group met via WebEx on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, for the site located at 800 Rockaway Avenue. The presenters from the Doe Foundation were Larry Gordon, John McDonald and Jesse Schwartz. They are proposing to build 104 units under the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program. The 104 units are as follows: 68 studios, 13 1-bedroom, 17 2-bedrooms, 3 3-bedrooms units, and 1 unit for the super. The units will be supportive and affordable housing. The project will also have a grocery store that under the FRESH program is intended to help bring healthy and affordable food options to our community.

The Work Group also heard from Ms. Carole Gordon, Sr. VP, Housing Development for the Bridge, Inc., who gave an update on their Bridge Rockaway (805 Rockaway Avenue) project. She is present to give a brief commentary.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, via WebEx. Wishing all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

### **Presentation by Carole Gordon from The Bridge**

Carole provided an update on The Bridge-Rockaway, an affordable housing project located on Rockaway Avenue between Newport Avenue and Thatford Avenue. She shared that there are 174 units available, and 86 units are affordable housing that will be available via the lottery process hosted on NYC Housing Connect. There will be a training for community members taking place at the end of May 2024 with HPD Housing Ambassador program; applications can be submitted via online or via mail. She has requested that members share or sign-up residents in advance of training. The advertisement for the units will be available by the end of June 2024 and will include the costs of rents per unit. Additionally, there will be a job fair to hire for 20 positions to include Porters, Maintenance, Program Director, Social Workers, Case Aides: etc. Her contact information is via email [cgordon@thebridge.org](mailto:cgordon@thebridge.org) or telephone (646) 612-0395.

Greenpoint Manufacturing will operate approximately ten (10) spaces for light manufacturing at 1,000 – 5,000 SF of space on the ground floor.

Parliamentarian Margaret Brewer asked if there was any other information concerning a prior question concerning the impact of wastewater that might occur. Carole shared that no water will be used in manufacturing production and there is no wastewater that will present environmental concerns than bathroom water.

Chairperson of Veterans Affairs Committee, Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if there would be set asides for veterans; and Carole stated that ten (10) units for homeless veterans are available. Chairperson Morgan asked Dr. Brown to refer veterans for the Housing Connect training.

### **Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Deborah Williams read the City Planning Working Group report.**

The City Services Planning Work Group met on Thursday, April 11, 2024, via WebEx to discuss, Floyd Patterson Field, Update on Parks and Playgrounds.

A discussion with Emilio Llopiz, Parks Supervisor about Floyd Patterson Field centered around the signage that was ordered and to be installed are 6 Clean Up after Dog signs and the new garbage cans were distributed throughout the park and field. It was also requested to have stationary metal garbage cans so it will be harder to steal, 2 for regular garbage and 2 for recyclable garbage. Ms. Williams will be asking for a letter from the board to help expedite the order for these garbage cans to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

It was also suggested that a meeting with Mr. Michael Howard, the Sports Director, and the Parks Supervisor at the field to show their concerns about the turf and seeding of the field. It was also brought to my attention by parks staff that a homeless couple is trying to stay in the field by the bleachers. Ms. Williams will reach out to Ms. Margaret Brewer of Public Safety.

She also asked for more poop bags for the park's poop bins so that bags are available for discarded waste from residents' beloved pets.

It was also stated that the Parks Department is looking for volunteer groups that are willing to help with the upkeep of the field. She would like to reach out to the Nehemiah Homeowners Association and neighboring residents to see if anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the upkeep of the field.

It was stated that lighting is a big issue on the side of Mother Gaston Boulevard where it is extremely dark, increasing of community residents to become victims of robberies. It was also stated that the field is on the list of our district's needs. It also was stated to reach out to our City Councilwoman Darlene Mealy to seek funding for this field, her office is aware and there is an ongoing conversation.

DOT is also aware of the lighting problem and mentioned a request for tower lights 6 each 3 on each side of the field. A request has been made with the Forestry Division of Parks to prune some of the branches that obstruct the light.

As of this meeting, Marion Hopkins Playground, and the streetlight in front of the park are working and the bathrooms are open. We also discussed "No Dumping" signs due to the observation of dumping at our district parks.

No progress on water main issues at Osborne Playground, Ocean Hill and Chester Playgrounds.

P.S. 125 has been reopened and the Ocean Hill lower section. Chester playground will be closed starting in spring due to a capital project being done.

The quality-of-life proposal discussed is an ongoing conversation with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Update on the Brownsville Recreation Center Construction Project update. No further updates were available on the BRC as Ms. Eileen Dalton is out of the office, Ms. Williams reached out to Tuwanda Harmon of Parks NYC and has not received a response yet.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reports that Patrol Borough Brooklyn North will hold their 2024 Prom Dress and Suit Giveaway on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (line will close at 8:15 p.m.), at their office, located at 179 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn. Contact Lauren Sylvester at (917) 943-5715 or [lauren.sylvester@nypd.org](mailto:lauren.sylvester@nypd.org), for more information.

The filing period for the Police Officer Exam is now open. Visit [nypdrecruit.com](http://nypdrecruit.com) or call (212) RECRUIT for information or to register for the exam.

Thank You all who attended the City Service Planning Work Group meeting. The next City Service Planning Work Group meeting will be on Thursday, May 9, 2024, via WebEx.

**Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, Pamela Junior-Baptiste read the Fiscal & P Planning Working Group report.**

In connection with the Cannabis Application that was submitted to CB16 for the location 180 Rockaway Avenue, between Herkimer Street and Atlantic Avenue, presentations to the Legislative Committee were made by:

- Kareen Leivent and Dr. Craig Leivent, who intend to partner with Daniel Gamil, the owner of 180 Rockaway Avenue, on January 16, 2024. The Committee requested that Kareen Leivent and Dr. Leivent submit a Statement of Intent to the Community Board as to employees, etc. The Statement of Intent is attached hereto.
- Chairwoman Tremaine Wright, NYS Cannabis Commission on February 20, 2024.
- Mr. Daniel Gamil, owner of 180 Rockaway Avenue, on March 19, 2024.
- Stephanie Pierre, Cannabis Account Manager, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce | NYC Business Solutions Center on April 16, 2024.

Additionally, the Legislative Committee held several “Special Meetings” during January, February, March and April in reference to this Application and the presentations that were made before us.

The Legislative Committee has recently determined that, at this time, they are comfortable with giving a “Recommendation” to CB16 Board Members at the Board’s meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, as to the Cannabis Application that CB16 received for 180 Rockaway Avenue (between Herkimer Street and Atlantic Avenue).

The Legislative Committee’s responses as to whether to support or not to support this Application are listed below:

Reason NOT to Support

Committee Member 1:

After further discussion with you I have decided not to vote for this application. There are some things that I do not feel will be a great fit for our Brownsville Community.

1. I have not heard so far what they are planning to bring or give back to our community.
2. I think the landlord just needs to have a renter who they can for sure will pay the rent for the storefront knowing what is being placed in the building.

3. Also, I haven't heard much from their presentation of how this is going to benefit the Brownsville community once again.

Committee Member 2:

I am not in favor of it. First, I have a concern with people leaving their own communities and exploiting impoverished communities for their personal gain. Moreover, with the emergence of cannabis/weed shops, it appears that a lot of children under the age of 18 are purchasing these products. Despite being legal, the age of the buyers is not being properly monitored or regulated.

Committee Member 3:

As a Brownsville resident I do not support this application as there are existing businesses in that location that fit the community better and are more needed. Any legal cannabis business should be on a true commercial corridor where the commercial zoning and land use is more significant than the residential use. Belmont, Pitkin, Mother Gaston Blvd and Rockaway Avenue between Sutter and East New York are continuous commercial corridors and that is the desired location of our first legal dispensary.

Committee Member 4:

Foremost, application approval prior to the acceptance of the board regarding the CB#16 Application process and requested format and documentation would be premature and a disservice to the community. It is also noted that concerns and previously addressed questions have not been addressed.

As it is, The Letter of Commitment by Kareen Leivent and Dr. Craig Leivent is “unremarkable” as it fails to provide a workable baseline of any true Commitment to the residents/stakeholders of Community Board 16. The letter content stating:

“being owners of two successful dispensaries in Oregon, which have provided us with invaluable knowledge of the processes and requirements essential for the sustainable operation of a dispensary... By providing hands-on experience, we aim to serve as a catalyst for individuals interested in exploring different roles within the cannabis sector, ultimately supporting the community in navigating the early stages of the industry.”

The letter does not address the current occupant displacement, the resident and traffic congestion hardship created this location selection or identify any specific area of commitment.

During Legislative Committee meetings, concerns pertaining to the hardship created for the current restaurant occupants, and inquiry within the commercial corridor have also not been addressed.

The location also has residential homes on both sides of the proposed location and would undoubtedly create traffic congestion, as that portion of Rockaway Avenue is a double lined single lane traffic route close to the corner of Atlantic Avenue. There is also no parking and as the only proposed legal dispensary for CB#16, it does not seem to be feasible for families and/or the community flow of traffic.

In summary, I believe the Application “As -Is” should be denied for a reasonable timeframe once the Recommendation to CB#16 has been presented by the full Board.

In all fairness, Kareen Leivent and Dr. Craig Leivent have demonstrated their ability of the financial means to locate within the commercial district and as such should be given time to reconsider location. As such, they should also be presented with an opportunity to provide an adequate Letter of Commitment with consideration to the community inquiries. Afterward, a completed CB#16 Cannabis Application package should be submitted for reapplication and review.

Committee Member 5:

I vote nay on the application. I do not think, I cannot see any clear indication that my community will benefit from this venture.

Committee Member 6:

Nay - To the support of the application

Committee Member 7:

During the Legislative Committee's Special Meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2024, Member 7 expressed that he was not in support of this business but would like to engage in more dialogue to gain additional information.

Reason TO Support

Committee Member 8:

The Applicant has provided every piece of information that we requested in a timely manner. The property is owned by someone he knows which is out of our control, and this will be the first legal shop in our district.

Committee Member 9:

Yay (NO EXPLANATION GIVEN)

Committee Member 10:

Yay (NO EXPLANATION GIVEN)

Pamela Junior-Baptiste, Chair, Legislative Committee:

Agrees with all NAY reasons submitted by the Committee Members.

By a majority decision of the Legislative Committee Members, the Legislative Committee recommends to CB16 Board Members NOT to support this Application.

VOTE 16 NYC

As we did not have a quorum present at the CB16 Board Meeting in February 2024 and March 2024, we again present to you that at the Fiscal and Policy Work Group's January 2024 meeting, a presentation was made by Alfred Kurland of Vote 16 NYC in reference to 16-year-olds being allowed to vote in New York State. After extensive discussion, the Work Group expressed a desire to see young adults engaging and becoming more active in their communities, i.e., participating on community boards and in political clubs. The majority of the Work Group feels that most young adults are not mature enough to be granted this important privilege. The Work Group has voted "No" and recommends that the Board not support this request to allow 16-year-olds to vote in New York State, at this time.

The next meeting of the Fiscal and Policy Workgroup will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 6:30pm via Webex. Thank you. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL.

Several members of the community expressed perspectives and opposed the Legislative committee's recommendation to not support allowing 16-year-olds to vote.

**Chairperson of the Veteran's Affairs Committee, Dr. Cleopatra Brown read the Community Resident Planning Working Group report.**

The Community Resident Planning Working Group met on April 10, 2024, by WebEx with Mr. Michael Wynter, Founder of Positivity Market.

Positivity Market is a company that offers community-based educational programs for youths and seniors. All programs are offered online and can be taught in-person. They provide basic technology lessons to seniors. They assist with helping seniors how to navigate the computer system as well as online classes. They also provided internships which they work with the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) program especially with those who are interested in technology.

Mr. Wynter has another program called Coding for Youth. He is looking for students who might be interested in STEAM.

As was heard during tonight's public hearing, Mr. Wynter is seeking a letter of support in search of funding as well as recruitment.

The Work Group also heard from Ms. Leah Gable, Program Manager at the Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center, who presented their plan to operate the Brownsville Open Streets. This is a program that they are collaborating with the Department of Transportation, the Brownsville Justice Center, and Street Lab to provide safe bike routes for students to ride to and from school safely. The pilot program will provide for limited access along the route and provide for storage of the students bicycles at the schools which are the Riverdale School and P.S. 198/I.S. 363. It will operate on Fridays, May 17th to June 21st, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

On March 25, 2024, Dr. Cleopatra Brown testified on behalf of Community Board 3 & 16 at the NYC Council Committee on Veterans Budget Hearing held at City Hall. Dr. Brown highlighted several issues and concerns that many veterans are facing:

1. **REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR COLD WAR VETERANS** – Cold War veterans are men and women who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces from September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991, and were discharged or released under honorable conditions. Many Cold War Veterans served on the coast during the Lebanon conflict, which is unfortunately, not recognized by the NYC Department of Finance. The committee is requesting that the NYC Council Committee on Veterans recognize the service of Cold War Veterans and create legislation that would include them in the NYC Real Property Tax Exemption.

2. **VETERAN PREFERENCE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – Veterans should be given preference when applying for HPD newly constructed developments listed in Housing Connect. Currently, community board residents receive 50% preference, and city employees receive 10%, but veterans—those who have served, protected, and fought for this country's democracy—receive no preference. We ask that veterans be given 30% preference to Affordable Housing listed in Housing Connect and the Condo Homeownership projects being created in NYC; increased the Budget to create City-VASH Vouchers, hire Housing Coordinators to assist veterans with obtaining vouchers and/or finding an apartment before becoming homeless. A veteran should not have to become homeless in order to receive a Housing Voucher.

3. **JOBS FOR VETERANS** – we request that the NYC Council collaborate with state and federal elected officials to create legislation that would reserve job opportunities for veterans at the city, state, and federal levels. This would allow them to receive credit for their military service time, which would be added to their years of civilian service, thereby increasing their retirement annuity. We also suggest increasing the budget to hire and train Veteran Specialists to work in non-veteran healthcare facilities and city workplaces to assist veterans in obtaining the necessary benefits and disability compensation they are entitled to.

4. **TRANSITIONING FROM MILITARY TO HOME PORTAL** – request that the city develop a portal exclusively for veterans. The portal should contain a list of city, state, and federal jobs set aside for veterans, as well as affordable HPD units for them and their families. This will ensure that when servicemen and women return home from active duty, they can easily apply for these jobs and housing units, which are exclusively earmarked for them.

5. **LEGAL SERVICES** – We requested that funds be allocated to legal services organizations serving veterans to assist with submitting and appealing claims for disability compensation and discharge upgrades for those unfairly given Other than Honorable or Dishonorable Discharges due to racism and discrimination.

6. **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS** – We kindly request that you increase the Budget to allocate funds to local veteran organizations, such as but not limited to American Legion Posts, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Black Veterans for Social Justice, and the National Association of Black Military Women. In addition, providing funding to community boards with veteran committees to conduct outreach events aimed at providing veterans with resources and benefits to which they have earned.

The Joint Veterans Affairs Committee met on March 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The Committee has started strategically planning for the 6th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Parade & Resource Fair, on November 2nd. We will begin at the Bright Light Baptist Church and proceed to the Restoration/Marcy Plaza. We are seeking veterans, veteran organizations, marching bands, and donations.



March 29th is recognized as National Vietnam War Veteran's Day. The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 hosted an event at Elmhurst Park, where a short ceremony was held at the Vietnam Memorial in Queens. The ceremony honored the fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice and all of those who served in the Vietnam War. We would also like to express our gratitude to Assemblywoman Latrice Walker for acknowledging the Vietnam Veterans, advocating on a Resolution to memorialize March 29, 2024, as Vietnam Veteran's Day in the State of NY (K.1024), and for her words of encouragement spoken on the floor of the NYS Chamber.

A Home Accessibility Improvement Grant for Brooklyn Veterans is available. Please contact NHS Brooklyn (Angella Cummings) at (718) 469-4679 or [accummings@nhsbrooklyn.org](mailto:accummings@nhsbrooklyn.org).

On April 9, 2024, A bipartisan group of lawmakers demanded Gov. Kathy Hochul to release millions of dollars donated to New York veterans for services that benefits veterans. The state has withheld \$1.5 million for the Veterans' Remembrance and Cemetery Maintenance and Operation Fund, \$1.3 million for the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, roughly \$360,000 for the Veterans Home Assistance Fund and about \$230K for the Military Family Relief Fund. On behalf of the Veterans Affairs Committee, we would like to thank Melanie Mendonca for sharing this information.

The Committee is planning to host Recognition of Women Veteran's Day scheduled for June 12. Planning for this event will begin at the next Joint Veterans Committee meeting scheduled April 24, 2024, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

On April 17th the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee met at Langston Hughes Senior Center. The letters we wrote to our elected officials were read out loud. We discussed what we wanted to hear and asked our officials. Index cards were handed out to talk to other seniors to come up with relevant questions. The elected officials were given two days in May and June to choose from so that they can join our meeting. This is a win-win situation: you have the chance to help the seniors be more informal and effective in our duties as members of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee.

The next Senior meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Langston Hughes Senior Center, located at 301 Dumont Avenue at 1:00 p.m. Contact the Community Board at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) if you will be attending this meeting.

The next community resident planning working group will take place on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx.

#### **Council Member Mealy provided remarks to the community.**

Council Member Mealy encouraged the community to be diligent about our senior population and shared that two (2) closed Senior Centers are now reopened.

She expressed concern about the City of Yes: Economic Opportunity proposal and encouraged the community to attend meetings to understand what is being proposed and the impacts on our community such as trash; etc. She invited the community to her advisory board meeting to participate in a presentation on the City of Yes: Economic Opportunity. Additionally, she encouraged the community to participate in the upcoming Narcan training on April 27, 2024, at 11am to help keep the community and their families safe from drug overdose; those participating in the training will receive two (2) cans.

Furthermore, she reminded the community about the upcoming Job fair at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church on May 13, 2024; encourage community members to sign up for Fare Fairs at the office on May 13, 2024, from 10am -3pm; and announced upcoming events Juneteenth, Senior Boat Ride, Jazz at Marion Street Park, and Lincoln Terrace Park this summer.

Also, there will be five (5) students studying journalism working with her office to conduct community interviews.

#### **Assemblymember Latrice Walker provided remarks to the community.**

Assemblymember Walker stated that the New York State Budget was finalized on April 20, 2024. She shared 421-a type legislation was passed to allow for more buildings to be built in the state of New York with deeper affordability. Additionally, some new laws were passed concerning good cause eviction which loosens some rules; however, landlords will be required to give new leases



at the end of an expired lease and rent increases will be capped at stated percentages. She also shared that \$500 million has been secured to save SUNY Downstate and acknowledge the concern about illegal cannabis operations within the community.

The Assemblymember will host her next advisory board meeting on May 18, 2024; and a social services resource fair will be held on April 25, 2024, at Marcus Garvey Houses.

Lastly, she shared that the B60 bus route is no longer free as of March 2024.

#### **Orlando Ross represented Congresswoman Yvette Clarke Office**

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke has re-introduced the Average Median Income (AMI) Bill to recalibrate AMI levels and the Bill is co-sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. She is also advocating for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to ensure that access to technology is available to seniors and all other households.

The office is promoting the Congressional Art Challenge, to ensure that students have access to STEAM education.

He also shared that usajobs.gov supports access to employment for veterans and there is separate portal for veterans to apply.

**Chairperson Morgan acknowledged Council Member Sandy Nurse's office; however, the representative was no longer present.**

#### **Frieda Menos represented Congressman Hakeem Jeffries Office**

She reminded the community about the upcoming Job fair at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church on May 13, 2024. She shared that on April 27, 2024, from 10am – 1pm there will be a Constituent Services Fair at Boys and Girls High School and on April 28, 2024, from 2 - 4:30pm United States Service Academy will host an information session at 3000 Fillmore Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11234, to learn about the application and congressional nomination process to attend service academy schools.

The office of Congressman Jeffries can be reached at (718) 373-0033 and information is available at [www.jeffries.house.gov](http://www.jeffries.house.gov).

#### **Dalia Turner represented Brooklyn Borough President's Office**

She shared that the Brooklyn Borough President has opened the Graduation Award Application, to give awards to graduates in three (3) categories grades Pre-K through 12 and school administrators can recommend up to one (1) graduate.

The deadline to apply to apply is May 17, 2024, and is available on the website.

#### **Malcolm McDaniels represented NYC Mayor's Office Community Affairs Unit**

He shared that Hercules Reid is the CAU representative for Brooklyn North Director and he can be reached via email at [hreid@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:hreid@cityhall.nyc.gov) or telephone at (934) 444-9714.

Also, there will be a Hiring Hall event on April 25, 2024, in East New York at 876 Scheck Avenue from 10am – 2pm.

The city of New York has 12,000 jobs that they are hiring individuals to fill; information can be found at [www.nyc.gov/jobs](http://www.nyc.gov/jobs) and Locker NYC is free public package delivery lockers for residents that sign-up to participate.

He encouraged everyone to follow Mayor Eric Adams on social media using handle @NYCmayorsoffice on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

The Mayor and Department of Education Chancellor David Banks has launched the NYC School Bus Application to track children on school buses arriving to and from school.

The Mayor has also helped place 1,500 Homes to new yorker in shelters.

The New York City budget includes \$22 million for Cultural Arts Institutions to be awarded to 1,200 institutions.

Malcolm can be reached via telephone at (212) 676-3033 or cellphones (347) 669-6683 and (347) 942-1692.

**Chairperson Morgan read the Chairperson's report which appointed the Nominating Committee.**

The By-laws of Community Board 16 stipulates that during the April meeting of each fiscal year the chairperson shall appoint a nominating committee to recommend board members to fill the positions of the executive officers which consist of Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. The following board members have been requested to serve as nominating committee for the upcoming fiscal year Pamela Junior, Dr. Cleopatra Brown, Joann Sexton, Chanel Haliburton, and Zalika Headley and as an alternate Patricia Winston.

The committee will meet during the month of May 2024 and report on recommendations for executive office at our May 2024 hybrid Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.