

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD # 16
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING
MT. OLLIE BAPTIST CHURCH & WEBEX
1698 ST. MARKS AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY

Attendance:

Lindsay Adams (E)	Joan Johnson (P)
Oluwabumi Ajayi (A)	Tiffany Jones (P)
Donna Allen-Arnold (A)	Tanya Kinard (A)
Renee Archer (A)	Shiyanne Letts (A)
Cynthia Bannister (P)	Ivi Lewis (A)
Dwayne Barnes (P)	Edith Margarito (P)
Latonya Baskerville (A)	Sabrina Massey (P)
Deidra Booker (A)	Celeste Mathis (P)
Kevin Bond (A)	Gail McLeod (A)
Margaret Brewer (P)	Elizabeth Mcilwain (A)
Cleopatra Brown (P)	Malika Parker (P)
Terish Brown (A)	Franklyn Patterson (E)
Monica Cassaberry (E)	Annelisa J. Purdie (P)
Adrainer Coleman (P)	JoAnn Sexton (P)
Byron Davis (A)	Tijuana Shropshire (P)
LA Cherokee Dickens (P)	Niani Taylor (P)
Sholanti Gordon (P)	Miran Ukaegbu (P)
Uriel Griffin (P)	Jere Upsher (A)
Chanel Haliburton (P)	Cheyanne Walker (E)
Karlena Hamblin (A)	Deborah Williams (P)
Zalika Headley (P)	Kencina Nicole Williams (A)
Michael Howard (E)	Ineisha Williford (A)
Karlene James (P)	Patricia Winston (P)
Shanti Jimenez (E)	Sydone Thompson, District Manager
	Hawa Barry, Community Assistant
	James Moultrie for Hon. Latrice
	Walker

First Vice Chairperson Margaret Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Public Comments & Announcements

A community member announced a design series expo in partnership with Lincoln Center and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, aimed at providing job opportunities in makeup, wardrobe, wig and hair design.

Roll Call

There was a roll call of Board members. A quorum of 24 were present.

73rd Precinct Report

Officer Rodriguez and Sergeant Casimir provided updates including the addition of 53 new recruits to the precinct. They also discussed the issue of vehicles being stolen when left running while drivers go into stores. Discussions also included an increase in ATM scamming, and the importance of community awareness and safety as there is a spike in crimes such as robbery and grand larceny.

Public Hearing Items

1. NYCEDC Broadway Junction Public Realm Plan

Representatives from NYCEDC presented the Broadway Junction public realm plan, which includes investments in public health, pedestrian safety, and workforce development. The plan is a comprehensive initiative aimed at improving pedestrian safety, creating better access to transit, and building new, beautiful, and accessible public spaces around the Broadway Junction station. The plan involves significant investments in public health, workforce development, and equitable growth.

The plan includes \$130 million in city and federal funding allocated to improve pedestrian safety, create better access to transit, and build new public spaces. The investments will focus on enhancing visibility and access to the Broadway Junction station entrance and the surrounding park .

Two new public open spaces will be created. An extension of Callahan Kelly Playground to Van Sinderen Avenue, reclaiming parkland around the station headhouse by relocating the current transit police district. A smaller public plaza across the street on the east side of Van Sinderen Avenue on property currently owned by the MTA. These spaces will include new seating, public art, vendor space, and plantings.

The existing NYPD transit district facility will be relocated to a new purpose-built building two blocks away. The new facility will be a four-story, 35,000 sq ft building with a community room and off-street parking for the district's vehicle fleet.

Streetscape improvements will be made on Van Sinderen Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street, and on Broadway between Jamaica Avenue and Truxton Street. These projects will prioritize creating safer streets for all modes of transportation and improving connections between neighborhoods, the subway, and the Long Island Railroad.

The plan includes a workforce and minority/women-owned business enterprise strategy to support training and business growth in the local community. NYCEDC has set a 30% target for MWBE firms for the Callaghan Kelly Playground extension design contract.

The plan has been informed by community engagement, including public meetings, workshops, presentations, site tours, and table sessions. The design process will continue to involve community feedback to ensure that the improvements reflect the needs and priorities of the local residents.

Design for the projects is expected to start later this year, with construction beginning in 2026 and completion targeted for 2031. The Broadway Junction Public Realm Plan aims to reclaim public land for public use, improve access to transit, create safer streets, and support equitable growth and workforce development in the community.

Response from Attendees

During the meeting, several community members expressed their thoughts and concerns about the Broadway Junction Public Realm Plan.

- A community member raised concerns about sanitation and trash in the area during construction.

- Another community member asked about the outreach and engagement plan for the project.
- Questions were raised about the safety improvements for the connection between the MTA and the Long Island Railroad.
- Concerns were expressed about the health impact of the new public spaces, especially for children.
- A member inquired about the community hiring goal and the percentage of local hires.
- There were questions about the potential use of the new plazas for community events.

Community Engagement and Feedback

- The presenters emphasized the importance of community engagement and feedback throughout the design and implementation process.
- The plan includes a workforce and minority/women-owned business enterprise strategy to support training and business growth in the local community.

2. SLA Renewal Application – Abuela Antonia Restaurant

A presentation was made by a representative from Abuela Antonia Restaurant, located at 225 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11212. Several board members and members of the public posed questions regarding the restaurant.

3. Fantastico Brooklyn LLC did not appear for their SLA application presentation.

Work Group Reports

Ms. Adrainer Coleman Chairperson of the Zoning & Land Use Committee, read the report of the Equity Planning Work Group. A copy of the report is on file in 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.

Ms. Sydone Thompson, District Manager, read the report for the Community Resident Work Group. A copy of the report is on file in the Board's office.

Motion to accept the Equity Planning Work Group report was by majority vote. No abstentions, motion carried.

Motion to accept the City Services Work Group report was by majority vote. No abstentions, motion carried.

Motion to accept the Community Resident Work Group report was by majority vote. No abstentions, motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Zalika Headley from the Nominating Committee read the report and announced the slate of electorates for the period of June 1, 2025, to June 1, 2026. Members can also self-nominate from the floor or be nominated on June 24, 2025, during the voting period. The slate will include the following board members:

- Chairperson – Margaret Brewer
- 1st Vice Chairperson – Deborah Williams
- 2nd Vice Chairperson – LA “Cherokee” Dickens
- Secretary – Vacant
- Treasurer – JoAnn Sexton
- Parliamentarian – Kevin Barnes

District Manager's Report

Ms. Sydone Thompson, District Manager, provided information which included information for homeowners regarding the extension of the water and tax lien sale to June 3, 2025. Information was also provided for how to locate your nearest polling

location, via <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/> or by calling 1-866-Vote-NYC. A copy of the report is on file in the Board's office.

Adoption of the Minutes

Motion to accept the Minutes for March was by majority vote. No abstentions, motion carried.

Motion to accept the Minutes for April 22, 2025, was by majority vote. No abstentions, motion carried. Per board member Zalika Headley, her attendance was recorded incorrectly. The April minutes will be amended at the June 24, 2025, meeting.

Votes

1. SLA Renewal Application – Abuela Antonia Restaurant

The board voted by majority with no abstentions or dissent to support the renewal for SLA applicant Abuela Antonia Restaurant.

2. NYCEDC Broadway Junction Public Realm Plan

The board voted by majority to support the NYCEDC Broadway Junction Public Realm Plan. It was requested by the board members that more details be provided on how litter will be maintained.

3. Sammy's Law – Belmont Avenue

The board discussed and voted on the proposal to reduce speed limits on Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard from 20 mph to 10 mph. The board voted to oppose the speed reduction plan on this corridor. A letter will be issued to DOT by the district manager requesting that other streets be selected.

4. Beyond Plastics Initiative

The board voted to support the Beyond Plastics initiative, which aims to reduce plastic use and improve recycling infrastructure.

5. Personnel Action

First Vice Chair Margaret Brewer discussed the personnel item regarding the hiring process for the Assistant District Manager position. It was indicated that the public was informed about the hiring. A motion was made and carried by majority vote with no abstentions.

Special Presentation

A proclamation was presented to the former Community Board 16 Chairwoman Ms. Genese Morgan who served 16 years. Ms. Morgan gave remarks and thanked the Board for their acknowledgment.

Report from Elected Officials

Mr. James Moultrie provide updates from Assemblywoman Latrice Walker's office.

First Vice Chairperson Brewer provided closing remarks.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Deborah Williams, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m.