

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, April 20, 2011  
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center  
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)  
Brooklyn, New York 11221  
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

- 1) New York City Department of Transportation & Department of Design and Construction – “Knickerbocker Plaza”. Project ID# HWPLZ006K. To be built on the corner of Knickerbocker Avenue and Myrtle Avenue will expand the landing of the subway exit by removing the slip lane. Amenities to be added include seating, lighting, trees/plants, decorative paving, a drinking fountain, bike racks, and a space for public art, under the NYC Department of Culture Affairs- Percent for Art. The presentation depicted the site from an aerial view which highlighted the decorative paving in the geographic outline of the community district. Members and the public posed questions concerning maintenance, lighting, seating and drinking a fountain for dogs. Most of the questions were responded to positively. A member of the board was concerned about the elimination of the left hand turn from Myrtle Avenue on to Knickerbocker Avenue. He noted that drivers would have to travel out of their way to enter into Knickerbocker Ave. It was noted that the plaza was being developed not only for resting and beautification but for safety as well.
- 2) New York City Mayors’ Office of Adult Education: “We Are New York – Practice English”, Ms. Sophia Tolentino: The We Are New York Community Leadership Project was established by the Mayor’s Office of Adult Education and the City University of New York to help Adult New Yorkers practice English in community-based conversation groups. These groups use the Emmy award-winning We Are New York television series to help immigrants learn everyday English. The series provides valuable information about healthcare, domestic violence, education, money management and living in New York City. “We Are New York” is currently seeking sponsors to host free English conversation groups. Most groups meet once weekly for the same two hour period over ten consecutive weeks. Support can be given to groups that can also meet twice weekly for five weeks. As a partner they ask that you:
  - Provide a suitable space to comfortably accommodate 20 participants.
  - Provide a DVD player and viewing screen for each session.
  - Enroll twenty adults in either a weekly or biweekly conversation group.

To learn more, volunteer, or sign up for a group, go to [www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish)

The Chairperson asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted call the first roll at 7:12PM.

**Roll Call:** 30 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and seconded by Ms. Gladys Puglla-Jimenez. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous month’s minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month’s minutes was accepted by Ms. Saundria Simmons and seconded by Ms. Sharline Moore. All members present were in favor.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the April 20, 2011 meeting of Community Board #4. The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

She then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and to give out their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Laurie Wheelock – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 718-963-7029

- 2) Roy Sawyer – Darryl Towns has been appointed to the Commissioner of the State of New York Homes of Community Renewal. 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 3) Abby Bello – Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 4) Evelyn Cruz – Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, 266 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY, 718-599-3658
- 5) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 6) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Evelyn Ortiz – NYC Department of Health Brooklyn District Public Health Office, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5636

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Rachel Fuentes – RBSCC, Housing Dept., 217 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-366-3800
- 2) Beryl Williams – Brooklyn Hospital, 1280 Dekalb Avenue, 718-250-9000

Ms. Dent elaborated on the following meetings:

Tuesday, April 5, 2011: Brooklyn Borough Board Meeting hosted by the Borough President Marty Markowitz  
 The agenda included a presentation by Transportation Alternatives whose mission is to reclaim NYC's streets from the automobile and to advocate for bicycling, walking and public transit as the best transportation alternatives.

It was noted that in NYC the majority of people that loose their life in traffic are pedestrians. The Borough of Brooklyn had the most deaths during the years of 2005 through 2009 with speeding being the number one cause of traffic deaths.

Analyzed data correlate accidents at various speeds and the chance of pedestrian survival:

- 20 mph has a 98% survival rate
- 30 mph has a 80% survival rate
- 40 mph has a 30% survival rate

Over 70,000 people were injured on New York Street in 2009; with the borough of Brooklyn having most pedestrian deaths from 2005-2009.

Two decades of experience with Automated Speed Enforcement in the United States show that the number of communities currently using speed cameras has grown to about 70 located in 13 states. In New York City the use of speed cameras is supported by the following:

1. New York City Department of Transportation
2. The New York Academy of Medicine
3. New York Police Department
4. NYC Strategic Alliance for Health
5. NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
6. American Academy of Family Physicians
7. American Academy of Pediatrics
8. American Trauma Society

A chart was shown showing the impact and effectiveness of speed cameras in Scottsdale, Arizona after the city had temporarily shut off its cameras and then resumes using the cameras.

The New York City red light camera program has had enormous success. The Transportation Alternatives organization is requesting support of a Speed Camera Demonstration Project in New York City. They would like for Brooklyn Community Board #4 to go on record in support of this demonstration project as did Manhattan Community Board # 2, 4 and 7.

More information regarding this matter is forthcoming and as soon as the Chairperson receives it she will let the Board know.

Also at the Brooklyn Borough Board Meeting was a presentation about the NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education. A presentation was made at tonight's meeting during the public hearing item 2.

Borough President Markowitz hosted the Annual Federation of Block Association meeting where block, local block leadership receives literature and information from city agencies, foundations and others.

Friday, April 15, 2011: The Chairperson attended the Rally at City Hall against looming budget cuts sponsored by AFSCME.

Thursday, April 14, 2011: Borough President sponsored a rally against budget cuts in day care centers. In Community District 4 several day care centers are scheduled to loose their classrooms. A few of the Day Care Centers scheduled to absorb cuts are: Roundtable Child Care Center, John Coker Day Care Center and Horace Green Child Care Development Center.

These cuts will cause one class room as of July 2011 in each of these day care centers to be cut, each class consist of 20 children. An addition classroom will be cut in September 2011. These cuts will cause 4 employees to be laid off. The lost of a classroom not only affects teachers and assistance teachers but also custodians and cooks/nutritionists will also be laid off or their hours will be decreased because of the cuts.

Ms. Dent speaking as the Director of the Audrey Johnson Day Care Center stated that these budget cuts will cause one class room to be eliminated and three employees from her staff to be laid off.

She stated that day care centers were put in place to support low and middle class working families. Day Care Centers allow children to learn and socialize with other children and enhances their social growth, emotional growth, physical growth and cognitive growth.

Remember the term "Latch Key" children which were children that would come home from school, go into their homes and be told by their parents to lock the door and do not let anyone in. We do not want to go back to that point in time. Should Day Care Centers close so will the afterschool programs. These programs are very important and vital to the community. Children learn at these programs and not just play. Studies have shown that children learn from birth, they should not have to wait until they go to kindergarten. These teachers in these programs hold Masters Degrees in Early Childhood and Elementary Education which allows them to teach children from nursery to 6 grades.

Ms. Dent stated that support is needed in order for these programs not to close.

Another rally will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 10:00am at City Hall. All who wish to join in to help save almost 17,000 infants, toddlers and pre-school children from being thrown out of NYC Public Day Care was encouraged to come. For further information please call (212) 219-0099 also contact the Directors at your local day care and the Elected Officials, Congressperson and State Assembly representatives and let them know not to make any further cuts.

The Summer Youth Employment Program is on schedule for Summer 2011 with substantial reductions. The applications will be out in April. If interested, now is the time to begin gathering the required documentation: Proof of age, proof of Social Security number, working papers, proof of Citizenship/Alien Status (if applicable), proof of address and proof of family income.

The Chairperson stated that these summer employment programs are good and needed because they help youths with obtaining school cloths and schools supplies; help improve their social skills.

Ms. Dent noticed that there were a lot of people in audience due to the upcoming elections. She stated that if they want the Community to vote for them they need to support programs that are important to our young people. Most people start attending the Community Board's meetings when they are running for office, however she stated that she need them to attend our meetings all the time and find out what is going on in Community Board #4. In addition, if they want our vote you need to rally and support the issues and items that are important to the constituents of Bushwick. She stated that she is holding them accountable, people are watching and people are looking so do not attend our meetings because you want us to vote for you. They need to tell us what they are going to put on the table to help and support the Bushwick Community. She went on to say that the children need

quality education. Not only are they cutting at day care centers they are also cutting at public schools, hospitals, homeless services, senior citizen services, colleges, cuts are taking place all across the board. She concluded by saying that we need the people who are running for office to support our constituents if they want our vote, and they need to show us what they are going to do to earn our vote.

### **District Manager's Report:**

The District Manager attended several meetings throughout the month. The community is invited to attend any of the meetings. For more information on meeting schedules please look at the Community Board's website at [www.nyc.gov/brooklyn4](http://www.nyc.gov/brooklyn4) or call the Community Board's office at 718-628-8400.

March 23, 2011 – Economic Development Committee Meeting (See report)

March 25, 2011 – DOT-DDC Meeting Concerning Knickerbocker Plaza – Presentation tonight on what the plaza will look like.

March 28, 2011 – Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting (See report)

March 29, 2011 – Housing & Land Use Committee Meeting (See report)

March 31, 2011 – Civic and Religious Committee Meeting (See report)

April 5, 2011 – Public Safety Committee Meeting (See report)

April 6, 2011 – Executive Committee Meeting

April 12, 2011 – Youth and Education Committee (See report)

April 13, 2011 – District Service Cabinet Meeting

Items discussed:

HPD – Proactive Enforcement Program will affect buildings numbering 6 units and above that have been referred to them from community groups. Prior to the Proactive Enforcement Program properties are referred to the Proactive Preservation Program where properties are in the early stages of decline and convinces landlord to make repairs. Owners are told of the various programs available through HPD. No violations are placed on property. If owners are not responsive after required time, the property is then forwarded to The Proactive Enforcement.

The District Manger will try to get a list of properties in the program so as to encourage the property owners and to offer them help.

Department of Parks and Recreation, NYPD, Community Board #4 will be working together on the permit process in the future.

April 14, 2011 – Civic and Religious Committee (See report)

After meeting together with various organizations who requested permits in the local parks for children less than 12 years of age a schedule was developed in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Organizations that do not use their time spot in the park will lose it.

“What to Expect When You're Inspected: A guide for Food Service Operators” is now available on the DOHMH website in Spanish, Chinese and Korean. The book can be found at:

English: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/rii/blue-book.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/rii/blue-book-sp.pdf>

Chinese: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/rii/blue-book-ch.pdf>

Korean: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/rii/blue-book-ko.pdf>

The Red Cross – Zip Code Break down of their response from January through March 2011 (see report)

83<sup>rd</sup> PCT. Summer Camp – Children from ages 7-12 years old are invited to apply. Applications will be available in May on a first come first serve basis. Only 40 children will take part in this summer program.

### **Committee Reports**

Civic and Religious Committee (CRC), Ms. Elvena Davis – Chairperson: Meeting Held Thursday, April 14, 2011 at Iglesia Metodista Unida Nueva Jersualen (The New Jerusalem United Methodist Church) located at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue

Members Present: Elvena Davis, Avellar Hansely, Rev. Grace Aytes, Cyril Joseph and Miriam Lamboy, Brenda Lee Tramble

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Rev. Milagros, Solorzano

Items Discussed:

Bushwick Community Diversity Parade being held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 (Brooklyn/Queens Day)

- 1) Review of Flier and registration form
- 2) Include GLBT population in the parade
- 3) Letters to Elected Officials for citation honorees – Biographies from honorees
- 4) Invite Marching Band
  - Possibility of Army Recruiters
  - Achievement First
  - Any other recommended marching band
  - Soul Tigers will be joining the Parade
- 5) Possibility of purchasing banner from Staples
- 6) Next scheduled meeting, April 28, 2011 at 6pm at Iglesia Metodista Unida Nueva Jerusalem Church at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue

Economic Development Committee Report (EDC), Mr. Odolph Wright – Chairperson: Meeting Held Wednesday, April 23, 2011

Members Present: Odolph Wright, Cyril Joseph, Brenda Lee Tramble, Julio Salinas

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Roget Romain-Circumspect Security

Items Discussed:

The Committee invited the following Security Firms to the Meeting:

The P.P.E. & E. People for Political and Economic Empowerment – 1639 Broadway

Circumspect Security Training School – 1427 Broadway

S&S Security Training and Services – 1198 Myrtle Avenue

Circumspect Security Training Academy – Mr. Roget Romain presented on the program. He noted that Circumspect is a Security Guard Training Academy approved by the NYS Department of Criminal Justice.

They offer all New York State Department of Criminal Justice Mandated Courses, Certifications and Licenses for Security Guards in New York State. This makes their Security Guards eligible to work in Construction locations, Office buildings, Retail outlets and State buildings.

Since 911 licensed security guards have become more important. There is an increasing need for trained licensed security guards in the public and private sector. This sector is growing by a rate of 16% every year. The average annual income for a security guard is approximately \$44,000.

Circumspect Security Training Academy offers:

- 8 Hour Pre-assignment Course
- 16 Hour On-the-Job Training Course
- 8 Hour Annual In-Service Course
- Fire Guard Test Prep Training
- Metal Detection / Loss Prevention Training
- 10 Hour OSHA training
- 47 Hour Armed Guard Training
- CPR Training
- 40 Hour Enhanced Training
- Job Referral Program
- Financial Aid

For more information and to see available jobs in security please visit:

<http://securityjobstraining.com/courses/>

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLU), Ms. Martha Brown – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 6:15PM

Member Present: Julie Dent, Cyril Joseph, Freddy Fowler, Victoria Fernandez, Deborah Brown

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Robert Lowe, RBSCC Inc., Richard Ortiz, Abba Homes LLC

Items Discussed:

HPD Neighborhood Homes Program (NHP) Mr. Richard Ortiz –Presented on the partnership between Abba Homes LLC (developer), PRB Realty Corp. (project sponsor) and Cheever Development Corp. (Contractor) to fully rehabilitate seven homes in the Bushwick Community District.

Potential Homebuyer must continuously occupy at least (1) one of the units in the home as their primary residents for at least (10) ten years following the initial purchase. The annual income may not exceed 165% of the annual median income for the NY metropolitan area as determined by HUD.

There is a fifty percent (50%) neighborhood preference requirement for residents of the local community district. There is also a Municipal Employee Preference of (5) five percent for employees of the City of New York.

Currently Abba Homes LLC. is awaiting the certificate of occupancy. Thereafter, another meeting will be scheduled with further information. Mr. Ortiz noted that he would be more than happy to arrange a tour of one of the buildings for members of the Housing and Land Use Committee.

Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC), Mr. Austen Martinez – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, March 28, 2011

Members Present: Iluminda Belardo, Carlos Feliciano, and Joanne Grant

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Willie Morales, Edwin Vargas, Robert Colon, Emilo LLopez, Eva Dejesus, Jaime Vargas, Marisol Garcia, Enrique Garccia, Camilo Litanzo

Items Discussed:

Mr. Emilo Llopiz – The new Park Manager in Community District 4 introduced himself and immediately stated he is familiarizing himself with all of Bushwick Parks. He reminded everyone of the new law which takes effect on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which will prohibit people from smoking in the parks and beaches. Smokers will be allowed to smoke only on the sidewalks that form the perimeter of parks and in the parking lots of all parks properties. People who violate the new law could receive a \$50.00 ticket.

Mr. Edwin Vargas – reminded all that time is of the essence. The required paper work should be brought in to the Community Board Office as soon as possible. That would include:

- Copy of permits applied for
- Registration of children (age and address)

Ms. Nadine Whitted –

1. Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DRP) will notify both 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and Community Board #4 of any request for permits. Particular focus is on Maria Hernandez Park which is the district's flag ship park as it has accommodated many activities in the past.
2. DRP representatives were asked to attend the next scheduled District Service Cabinet meeting on April 13, 2011 where other agency representatives will be attending.

A chart was shown of all organizations that have submitted their documentation to the Community Board.

Public Safety Committee (PSC), Ms. Barbara Smith – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. located at 480 Knickerbocker Avenue at 4:30PM

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Mary McClellan, Freddy Fowler, Linda McKinley, Lola Robinson, Elvena Davis, Victoria Fernandez, Gladys Puglla and Rev. Grace Aytes

Others Attending: Nadine Whitted, D.I. Capasso, PO Franco, Lt. Elloit Colon – NYPD 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Representatives

Items Discussed:

NYS Liquor License Requests

1. Guadalajara de DIA 1 Corp. - 134 Wyckoff Avenue
2. El Asadero Intercianoal Corp. - 1513 Myrtle Avenue
3. Zaloot Bar Restaurant Corp. - 53 Wilson Avenue

4. Tandem - 236 Troutmant Street
5. Dear - 41 Wilson Avenue

Youth and Education Committee (YEC), Ms. Virgie Jones – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 143 Himrod Street, 5:30PM

Member Present: Linda McKinley, Victoria Fernandez, Sharline Moore and Vernedeaneer Shell  
Others Attending: Nadine Whitted, Sharon Wong, Brittiny Wright-NYC Food and Fitness, Nilsa Figueroa-NYC DOE, PS 151, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Joelle Anderson, Kallie Weinkle-Eldert Street CSA/Garden, Felix Vasquez, Asher Calldender and Edwin Valdez-P.O.P. ent

**Items Discussed:**

1) Gardening Opportunity that could potentially involve: PS 151 Students and P.O.P. ent, Food and Fitness  
A community garden located on Eldert Street Street between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues is expanding to include a CSA-Community Support Agriculture Program which is a mutual agreement between a farmer and the community.

The CSA would sell share to community people who would then be able to pick up fresh fruits and vegetable grown by the farmer.

NYC Food and Fitness (NYC FAF) – Goal is to create and design more healthful environments for children and families. Target areas include Community District #4 due to health disparities. NYC Food and Fitness partners with local communities in specific areas, for example: Improving school food, increasing access to health foods in communities and increasing opportunities for active living. Another major component of NYC FAF is Youth Engagement with the hope of building future leaders dedicated to healthy living and advocates for change and building solutions.

NYC FAF funded through the Kellogg Foundation has small grants available to community groups' demonstration the above. Ms. Wong mentioned the importance of attending and upcoming workshop on either 5/13 or 6/2/2011 where the NYC FAF will look to fund organizations on School/Garden Partnerships!!!

PS 151 – Parent Coordinator Nilsa Figueroa was invited to learn of an opportunity for students from her school to be involved in the garden programs as it is nearby to the Eldert Street Garden. Ms. Figueroa enlightened the committee to what is happening currently at the school. Under the leadership of a new Principal, Ms. Anaya students are preparing for state wide examinations. However a specific science instructor is very much interested in plant life and gardening. Ms. Figueroa thought that this presents a very good opportunity for local students. She also mentioned the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens Apprenticeship Program (GAP).

P.O.P. ENT – Is a group of local young men who state that they no want to be the problem, but solutions to the problem. They addressed the committee with their beginnings and forecast for their future. They shown strong interest in becoming involved with each item that was discussed.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) PSC – 5 local establishments were approved for a liquor license. Motion to approval was moved by Ms. S. Simmons and second by Ms. G. Puglla-Jimenez all board members present were in agreement.
- 2) Public Hearing Item #1- NYC Department of Transportation Presentation – Knickerbocker Plaza  
27 Members in support, 2 Non Support, 1 Abstention

**Announcements:**

Open Community Forum for Neighbors of Tandem – 236 Troutman Street: Neighbors of Tandem please join us at 7:30pm on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tandem wants to improve the dialogue between them and their neighbors so that they can learn about noise and other quality of life issues.

For more information call 718-360-7543

NY Public Library: Overdue Materials? Bring them back to the Library between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and they will waive your late fees. When you return materials, you ensure that everyone has access to the excellent books, DVDs and CDs the Library has to offer. As of may 1, customers owing more than \$25 in fees will receive notices from a collection agency. Please settle all accounts by May 1, 2011

Donate at your library or online at <https://bpl.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/donate>

Noël Lane, The Bushwick Starr presents Big Green Theater Performance Festival on April 22 & 23, 2011 located at 207 Starr Street between Wyckoff and Irving Avenues. Free for kids under 18 and Bushwick community members (bring proof of address to the performance) General admission price: \$12 Tickets available at: [www.thebushwickstarr.org](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org)

Laura Braslow: Bushwick Open Studios'11 Celebrating 5 Years! June 3-5, 2011, Artist Registration 4/4 -4/28 All registrants must attend Arts in Bushwick mixer meeting/orientation prior to registration. For more information visit us at [www.artsinbushwick.org](http://www.artsinbushwick.org) for a schedule of upcoming events and registration information

Meeting at Make the Road NY: May Day International Workers' Day and a celebration of immigrants' rights, Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am. A protect in Brooklyn to defend immigrant workers rights. For more information and to reserve a spot call 718-418-7690.

Beryl Williams, Brooklyn Hospital: Health Fair on Saturday, May 21, 2011 for more information call 718-455-9000 or 718-250-8344

Olivia Triana, State Farm Insurance Agency: Help with saving and investing money. For information call 718-386-6800, 136 Wyckoff Avenue

Laurie Wheelock – Assemblyman Vito Lopez: Budget past in Albany on April 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the Legislative issues that their office is working on is the Rent Regulation. Rent Stabilization laws will expire in June 2011 and the Assemblyman is working hard to strengthen the rules. As of Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> it past the Assembly and it will go on to the Senate and then we will see what will happen with the governor. The Assemblyman's office will keep everyone posted and they will let the Board know how everyone can help.

Evelyn Cruz, Representing Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez:

Unfortunately a budget was passed and the Congresswoman did vote against it, which will impact the NY area.

\$10 Billion cut in Housing Programs, \$735 Billion cuts in Medicaid and head Start Programs, and 26,000 College Kids from the New York Area will be affected.

The Congresswoman is trying to get the bill past regarding rent reform.

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roll Call:** Meeting adjourned 8:50PM