

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
 Wednesday, September 21, 2011
 Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
 195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
 Brooklyn, New York 11221
 6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

1) NYC Department of Design & Construction (DDC) Project HWCSCH3H, PS 299 located at 88 Woodbine Street

Presenting is Mr. Ali Rangwala from Gandhi Consulting Engineers & Architects. Gandhi is the design consultants firm representing DDC for this project.

The location of the project is from Putnam Avenue to Palmetto Street along Bushwick & Evergreen Avenues consisting of a total of 8 intersections. The project is designed to provide physical improvement to the safety of the pedestrians in the community.

Long -Term measures to be implemented in this contract: Installation of *Neckdowns* at the following intersections:

1. Woodbine Street & Bushwick Avenue
2. Madison Street & Bushwick Avenue
3. Palmetto Street & Bushwick Avenue
4. Putnam Avenue & Bushwick Avenue
5. Woodbine Street & Evergreen Avenue
6. Madison Street & Evergreen Avenue
7. Palmetto Street & Evergreen Avenue
8. Putnam Avenue & Evergreen Avenue

There are 2 types of neckdowns: Type 1 = curb extension on one side of the street corner/Type 2 = curb extension on both sides of the street corner. The purpose of the neckdown:

- To calm traffic down by physically and visually narrowing the roadways.
- It helps turning vehicles to slow down and allows more of the right away for the crossing pedestrians.
- It reduces the length of pedestrians crossing
- It reduces the time needed to cross the street
- It enhances the ability of the driver and the pedestrian to see each other
- It helps reduce illegal parking within the crosswalk
- It prevents drivers from making illegal passing maneuvers at intersection
- It provides additional spacing for pedestrians
- It reduces crowding on sidewalks
- Helps find end of an angle parking

According to school officials $\frac{3}{4}$ or 74% students walk to school. Summaries of accidents from DMV from (1998-2000) and from NYPD covering (2001 through 2004) reveal the following data:

Accident Summary – DMV (1998-2000)

Intersection	Total Accidents	Pedestrian Accidents	School-Related Accidents
Evergreen Avenue and Madison Street	14	1	0
Bushwick Avenue and Madison Street	18	1	0
Evergreen Avenue and Woodbine Street	11	0	0
Bushwick Avenue and Woodbine Street	11	2	0
Evergreen Avenue and Putnam Avenue	16	1	0
Broadway and Putnam Avenue	15	2	1
Evergreen Avenue and Palmetto Street	18	1	1
Bushwick Avenue and Palmetto Street	20	5	3

Accident Summary – NYPD (2001-2004)

Intersection	Total Accidents	Pedestrian Accidents	School-Related Accidents
Evergreen Avenue and Madison Street	14	2	0
Bushwick Avenue and Madison Street	21	1	0
Evergreen Avenue and Woodbine Street	12	3	2
Bushwick Avenue and Woodbine Street	30	2	0
Evergreen Avenue and Putnam Avenue	8	0	0
Broadway and Putnam Avenue	26	3	1
Evergreen Avenue and Palmetto Street	20	3	0
Bushwick Avenue and Palmetto Street	34	5	N/A

Contractors are scheduled to start bidding on the project in the summer of 2012 and the program will start in the spring of 2013.

Questions were entertained

Mr. Raul Rubio: When was this study done?

Answer: The project is based on a study that was done in 2005 in which the data was obtained in 2004 from the Department of Transportation.

Question: Why did it take so long?

Answer: It takes about 2-3 years for funding to come through from the Federal Government. However they have the funding now.

The bidding process will not take that long it will mostly involve the design and survey.

Mr. Austen Martinez: Who will be responsible for sidewalk repairs by this project?

Answer: The Department of Transportation will be responsible for the curb extension of the sidewalk and repairs.

Ms. Whitted: Will DOT's responsibility be in writing for the homeowners? We do not want homeowners to have a problem 5 years later and say that Community Board #4 supported a project and now there is a problem. DOT will have to put it in writing that they will be responsible for any sidewalk or underground piping damage that occurs due to this project.

Ms. Martha Brown: What will happen to the bicycle lanes? Will this project cause less space for them?

Answer: The bicycle lanes will not be affected because they are beyond the parking lanes. Parking lanes are about 8 feet wide so bicycles lanes will not be affected.

Mr. Odolph Wright: Why is there not a traffic signal on the corner of Evergreen, Woodbine & Madison?

Answer: The intersection did not qualify for a traffic signal light based on the number of pedestrian crossing.

Ms. Barbara Smith: How much will the project cost?

Answer: The total project with 4 schools, Mr. Rangwala did not have an exact amount for PS 299 the cost is roughly \$50-60,000. This price also includes all work done underground, for example the water pipes, catch basin, relocating traffic signal, etc.

Question: A gentleman in the audience questioned the use of a simulated model stating that if the work is not done properly it will have to be destroyed and done over again if it does not work.

Answer: We used a FDNY fire truck for an earlier project downtown Brooklyn. The truck was made to perform turning test in simulation. The corners measure the same dimensions as what's being proposed. The FDNY requires at least 25ft for their trucks to turn, the curb extensions that are proposed will not be more than 25 feet. There will be a sign on the corner letting motorist know that there is a curb extension. During the winter time when there is snow on the ground, drivers will know that the curb has been extended even if it is not visible to the eye.

Ms. Claudette Workman, New York Department of Transportation Brooklyn Borough Commissioners' Office: This is being done because these locations do not warrant a stop signs or traffic signals. This is a pedestrian safety project for those children and seniors that travel these locations daily. She stated that even though she understands the audience's concerns, it is the Department of Transportation's priority to make things safe for the children and seniors in the area.

This is not the first project of this kind stated Ms. Workman. In the past they have reached out to the Department of Sanitation during these projects with regards to the snow and the Sanitation's trucks have been able to turn, clean and plow the streets without a problem. Since the project will not start for another two years Ms. Workman said that they will monitor Bushwick this winter.

Ms. Dent thanked Ms. Workman and Mr. Rangwala for their presentation. She thanked them for allowing the board and the audience to ask questions and for giving answers that made sense to all.

- 2) Brooklyn Public Library's New Technology Project & Job Readiness Classes at the Dekalb and Washington Irving Branches - Judy Kamilhor, Coordinator of Digital Literacy Outreach – Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11238, 718-230-2014

The Brooklyn Public Library will distribute 95 laptops to 8 branches in the Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville sections of Brooklyn they are: Brownsville, Bushwick, Dekalb, Macon, Marcy, Saratoga, Stone Avenue and Washington Irving. The Washington Irving branch will receive 15 laptops & the Dekalb Branch will receive 10 laptops.

In addition Brooklyn Public Library customers at these libraries will benefit from more of the following:

- Computer classes – increase from 1 to 3 classes a week
- Job-readiness workshops
- One on one job readiness sessions
- Staff on hand to provide assistance and answer questions

The Dekalb & Macon Branches will now be open 6 days a week. The sessions for use of the laptops are 2 hours. The internet sites will be filtered so young ones and others will not be able to go on restricted sites. Users will have to reserve the use of the laptops and they are on a first come first basis.

Please Note:

- Adult patrons must have valid library cards and government – issued photo ID. Green library cards are required, the white library cards are no longer valid
- Young adult patrons must have valid library cards and school ID
- Printing is available from these laptops; computers are for use in the library only.

For more information, visit online at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or call 718-230-2100.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted to call the first roll call at 7:17PM.

Roll Call: 30 members present constituting a quorum.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes. The previous meeting's minutes was accepted by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Barbara Smith. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone in attendance to the September 21, 2011 meeting.

She greeted the audience with enthusiasm for the upcoming year of activities as they jointly address the issues and services needs in the district.

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) Antonio Reynoso – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 2) Yamilka Mena – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 3) Cathy Holdmeister – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Ben Colombo, Dept. of Buildings, 210 Joralemon Street
- 2) P.O. Wright, NYPD 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1605
- 3) P.O. Fox, NYPD 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1609
- 4) William Fitchell, FDNY, B28, 718-965-8328

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Judy Kamilhor, Coordinator of Digital Literacy Outreach – Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11238, 718-230-2014

- 2) Ishmael Feliciano, RBSCC, 217 Wyckoff Avenue, 718-366-3800
- 3) Richard Rivers, P.P.E.E., 347-770-8343
- 4) Magdalena Mangual, Wyckoff Heights Hospital Center, 718-508-4669

Ms. Dent announced her selection of committee chairpersons for the 2011-2012 year:

Arts and Culture Committee (ACC)	Ms. Laura Braslow
Civic and Religious Committee (CRC)	Ms. Elvena Davis
Economic Development Committee (EDC)	Mr. Odolph Wright
Environmental/Transportation Committee (EPT)	Mr. Eliseo Ruiz
Health/Hospital/Human Service (HHH)	Ms. Mary McClellan
Housing/Land-Use Committee (HLU)	Ms. Martha Brown
Parks and Recreation Committee (PRC)	Mr. Robert Camacho
Public Safety Committee (PSC)	Ms. Barbara Smith
Sanitation Committee (SAN)	Mr. Raul Rubio
Youth & Education (YEC)	Ms. Virgie Jones
Senior Citizens Committee (SCC)	Ms. Saundria Simmons

Ms. Dent thanked the chairpersons in advance for their hard work and dedication to their community. She stated that the public is invited to attend and participate at the committee meetings however they are not allowed to vote on any of the recommendations.

Council Member Daniel Halloran, 3rd mailed a letter to Ms. Dent regarding two pieces of legislation that he introduced to the NYC City Council which are designed to strengthen the role of Community Board in the variance process. The Community Board has an important advisory role when applications are submitted for variances. It is documented that the Board of Standard and Appeals (BSA) often time ignores the will of the Community Board and grants variances contrary to the community's support.

The Council Member is hoping that Community Board #4 supports these bills and encourages the local NYC Council Members to support them as well.

The Chairperson will forward this information to the Housing and Land use Committee for review and recommendation. A copy of the Council Member's letter can be obtained at the office of the District Manager a copy was also attached to the chairperson's report.

Update: Knickerbocker Square Project, NYC Design – Public Design Commission of the City of NY considered the designs and the construction of the Knickerbocker Plaza to be located at Knickerbocker Avenue, Greene Avenue & Myrtle Avenue. The first round of the project was given unanimous approval with the understanding that there is a sign explaining the historical significance of the street and neighborhood names.

As an educator Ms. Dent believes in the full partnership of education, first beginning at home, then school and community. She encourages families to be fully engaged in the education of their children. She shared the new list of school principals, parent coordinators and their phone numbers for the district. Next month she will provide a list of private schools, daycare centers and head starts in the community.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in collaboration with The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) invites you to their Hispanic Heritage Month's Celebration with a Men's Health Symposium - Preparing Men for their Challenges.

Location: Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, 374 Stockholm Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237

Date: Friday, September 23, 2011

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00PM

The Panel speakers will discuss and answer questions related to health, health disparities for seniors, managed care and home health options. A light breakfast will be available. For more information please contact: Jannitza Luna-Dilan at 718-508-4639

Ms. Dent acknowledged the ten year anniversary of 911 by addressing a letter to all of the FDNY stations in the community. She asked for a moment of silence in their respect and then the letter was read.

District Manager's Report:

Ms. Nadine Whitted welcome everyone back from their summer vacation and stated that the community Board is ready to get started with the many meetings and public sessions. It is the desire of the Community Board to bring the Bushwick Community information from agencies and organizations that would enhance the lives of residents living in the district. Information about changes or additional services that impact the quality of life or level of services is what is brought to the community.

Over the summer the Community Board worked very closely with the 83rd Precinct and the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits (SAPO). The Community Board has coordinated 107 requests for street closings: block parties, religious ceremonies, etc. The board was also involved in the processing of PlayStreet applications where the streets were closed off from traffic, Monday through Friday throughout the months of July and August. The District Manager stated that the new procedure of applying for street closing online has been a daunting experience for some and very easy for others. The board was told that the new process was needed to alleviate the large amount of paperwork and to have a more coordinated process, however the verdict is still out as we have found that the system still needs some fine tuning. The board will continue to work with the Mayor's Office to make sure that the people living in Community District #4 still will have an enjoyable experience at local ceremonies and keep up with the times by applying online.

A great part of the planning and work of the Parks and Recreation Committee has been establishing schedules and playing time for local sports organization representing the youths of the community. Over all it has been a good thing stated the Ms. Whitted however, unfortunately she has been made aware of many injustices which is not a good representation of the work that they do. This has resulted in some changes that are to take place. The board and the community will learn more about these developments next month.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have experience budgetary issues that has resulted in the staff re-assignment of Ms. Evelyn Ortiz, who will no longer work in Brooklyn Bushwick area. Ms. Zulma Novoa has been assigned to cover the Bushwick area and is now our main contact person to the DHOMH. Her responsibilities will include attending Community Board #4's monthly meetings as well as the District Cabinet, Health Committee and the 83rd Precinct meetings. She can be reached at 646-253-5855 or znova@health.nyc.gov.

The School Construction Authority has notified the board, neighbors and parents of students attending I.S. 383 of the second phase of the Boiler conversion project beginning the week of September 12, 2011. The expected completion date is April 2012. A construction fence will be placed on the sidewalk closed to the school on Greene Avenue which will cause a diversion of pedestrian traffic away from the sidewalk. The next phase will begin the installation of a temporary boiler inside the fence. This structure will remain in place until the end of the project. The work will not interrupt the learning environment as the work will take place after school hours and on weekends and school holidays. The Project Support Manager Ms. Yvette Knight can be reached at (718)472-8199 or yknight@nycsca.org for questions or further information.

The NYC Food and Fitness Partnership established three health bodegas in the District:

1. Linden and Wilson Deli – 338 Wilson Avenue
2. Geramarte Grocery Deli – 313 Wilson Avenue
3. Dominguez Grocery – 1004 Flushing Avenue

Currently Food and Fitness will be recruiting other Bodegas to take part in this program, as well as looking for community sponsorships of the "Healthy Bodegas". During the month of October NYC Food and Fitness and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will host a training class in Bushwick.

NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings OATH recently expanded its jurisdiction by now overseeing the operations of the administrative court that is responsible for holding hearing on Notices of Violations issued by the Department of Health of Mental Hygiene. As a new division of OATH the Health Tribunal is independent from the agency that issues violations and OATH's expertise in tribunal administration means that recipients of Notices of Violations will receive access to impartial and timely hearings. Since 2008 OATH has overseen the operations of the Environmental Control Board, which was previously managed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

OATH now offers an appeal process online for those who wish to challenge a decision after a hearing. Filing an appeal can be done via online submission or by mail, using a simple application for on OATH's website: www.nyc.gov/oath.

Cristo Rey Brooklyn HS (formerly Lourdes Academy High School) has a Corporate Work Study program (CWSP) where students receive work experience and enables students to earn approximately 65% of their tuition working for corporations and non profit organizations. Becoming a Non profit Sponsor is more realistic due to the economic climate – the sponsor will receive:

- Free service from a trained team of students from 9:30-5:00PM, Monday –Friday
- No administrative overhead
- No additional employee expenses

Support from Cristo Rey Brooklyn's CWSP Coordinators

Ed Davey and Jennifer Zimmerman are available to discuss further information (718)455-3555

The Citizens Committee for New York City and NYC Service invite your volunteer-led neighborhood group to apply for a block transformation grant and receive:

- Grants from \$500 to \$1,000
- Support from City agencies including the Department of Transportation, Sanitation and Parks & Recreation to help revitalize your block!
- Assistance with local media coverage for your event

Important Dates: November 8, 2011, Application Deadline

Early December 2011, Grantees Announced

Mid-December, 2012, Orientation

April – June, 2012, Project Implementation

If interested in learning more about the grant, please contact: Saleen Shah, 212-822-9566 or email:

sshah@citizensnyc.org

To download application please visit; http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love_your_block.html

Effective August 15, 2011, the Bushwick NY Social Security Office will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm. This reduction of 30 minutes each weekday is due to budget cuts. While the agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face service with the visiting public without incurring the cost of overtime.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to an office. For example: Applying for benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare Card, obtain a proof of income letter, inform them of a change of address or telephone #. You can do so at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling toll free at 1-800-772-1212, for the hard of hearing call 1-800-325-0778

Raccoons – getting them off your property and out of your home: Raccoons can carry rabies and rabid raccoons have been found in New York City. To arrange for a raccoon to be picked up that appears to be staggering, convulsing, spitting, choking or frothing at the mouth call Animal Care and Control at 311, or your local police precinct.

To report a bite or to learn more about rabies visit nyc.gov/health or call 311

Recommendation:

Public Hearing Item #1: The Board voted to table the recommendation until they receive updated information from NYC Department of Design & Construction (DDC). The board requested that since the data that was used dated back to 2004, more current information is needed in order for a vote to be made.

The motion to request more updated information from the DDC was made by Mr. Odolph Wright and second by Ms. Martha Brown.

Old Business:

Mr. Odolph Wright: There is an increasing amount of liquor stores in the District. What is the process in opening one? What should be the proximity between stores? There seems to be an overwhelming amount of liquor stores in the community and this is a business that is not needed.

Announcements:

Yamilko Mena: Bushwick Community Meeting – “Let’s talk about Crime & Safety”

Invited Guests:

- Council Member Diana Reyna
- Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes
- 83rd Precinct

Wednesday, October 5th, 2011, 6:30PM, Location: Bushwick United Methodist Parish, 1139 Bushwick Avenue. For more information please contact: Anita Haines 718-574-6610 or Antonio Reynoso 718-963-3141

Council Member Diana Reyna invites you to attend Free Citizenship Application Assistance, Saturday, September 24, 2011, 11AM-2PM. Location: Pope John Paul Academy (Auditorium), 139 Menahan Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221. Experienced lawyers and immigration professionals will be there to assist with applications. RSVP/more information: 718-963-3141

NYPD – Community Affairs Bureau: “How Can You Get Involved, What Programs Do We Offer?” We Want to Hear From You!

The Community Affairs Bureau would like to encourage everyone in the community to attend their local monthly Precinct Community Council Meeting. Their goal is to continue strengthening the relationships that they have with the communalities they serve. Community members are their partners in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods. The 83rd Precinct would like to encourage you to visit their website regularly at www.nyc.gov/nypd (click on “Community Affairs” link), you can subscribe to a free e-newsletter and receive up-to-date information on events; find out what is happening in your Community Affairs Bureau, such as the Youth Services and Crime prevention Sections, our Community Outreach Units and much more. For questions or comments email them at: commaffairs@nypd.org

The 83rd Precinct Community Council Meeting is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM.

Magdalena Mangual, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center – Positive Health Management & Referrals: At some point in life, we all need to reach out for a helping hand... Free Services, 18 year or older

- Supportive Counseling and Referrals to mental health care, GED programs, job training & more
- Screening for Depression
- Screening for Substance and Alcohol Abuse
- Confidential Rapid HIV Testing
- Health Education, Counseling, Outreach, etc.

For more information call 718-508-4669 or 718-302-8483, Monday to Friday 9AM-4PM

Sharline Moore, 1st Vice President of National Council of Negro Women, Inc. invites you to join them on a 7-day Bahamas Cruise aboard the Norwegian Gem, Saturday August 11- 18, 2012.

Denise Hall, Cloth with Love, Inc. 1207 Hancock Street, Having a Thanksgiving Drive and are looking for space and support. For more information call: 800-788-1462

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times – 718-821-7500
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier – 718-260-2500
- Shannon Firth – CUNY
- Carla Bleiker - Columbia University , Journalism School
- Aimee Kuuadia – Columbia University, Journalism School

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:25PM