

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent introduced herself and welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, January 16, 2013 monthly board meeting at 6:35PM.

- Public Hearing Items -

- 1) New York State Department of Labor - Commissioner Peter Rivera
 - A. Gun Violence
 - B. Educational Initiatives
 - C. Stop & Frisk

Mr. Rivera previously served as an Assemblyman for the D-Bronx since 1992 and now serves as the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced his State of the State Address two weeks ago. The State of the State Address, addresses the agenda that the Governor would like to establish in the upcoming years. Governor Cuomo has assigned 20 commissioners, such as the Commissioner of Housing, the Commissioner of Economic Development and other commissioner to go out into the communities so that other leaders and the public can get a fair understanding of the Governor's agenda. The commissioners will listen to what some of the community's concerns are, and report those concerns back to the Governor. For 30 days these commissioners will be reaching out to community leaders by speaking at places such as the community boards so that the Governor's agenda and message can reach the communities.

As a legislator, Commissioner Rivera stated that he has heard 20 State of the State Addresses from 1992-2012. He stated that the most important State of the State Address that he has ever heard occurred at this year's address.

Commissioner Rivera stated that this is the best agenda for the entire State of New York for 2013. He stated a few projects on the Governor's agenda:

Governor's Core Elements:

- 1) Establish and Attract good jobs and Economic Growth
- 2) Create a world class education system that prepares the next generation for the future
- 3) Establish Fiscal Integrity and Discipline
- 4) Restore NY as the progressive Capital of the Nation that fosters a caring and supportive community

Governor's Core Agenda:

Economic Challenge: Tech Transfer – from Academia to Commercialization

- Innovation Hot Spots: Create 10 higher education/private sector companies through a competitive process
- Innovation Hot Spots will be part of a tax-free zone

Innovation NY Network:

- To break down barriers to commercialization of academics ideas

Innovation Venture Capital Fund

- Will help entrepreneurs make the transition from research and other ideas through prototyping and ultimately to the creation of marketable products

Education:

Commissioner Rivera stated that there is an estimated 210,000 unfilled jobs. More talent is needed in order to fill these jobs. The Governor would like to use the Community Colleges throughout the State to fill these jobs.

While tremendous progress has been made over the last two years there is much more work to be done in education stated Commissioner Rivera. New York State rates 14th in the world in reading, 25th in math and 17th in science.

To help with this issue the Governor suggests more learning time. Research shows that students who have more time to learn have higher academic achievement than their peers. To help close the achievement gap, the Governor announced steps for students to spend more time learning.

- Extending the School Day and/or Year
- Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten for the highest needs students – early learning has a major and long lasting impact on a child’s future success

Better Teachers and Principals: Research suggests that teachers account for one third of a school’s total impact on student achievement and that principal leadership accounts for 25%.

- Creating a “Bar Exam” for teachers: to ensure that the best and the brightest are teaching the children
- Incentivizing High Performing Teachers: High performing “master teachers” will receive \$15,000 in supplemental income annually for four years to teach other teachers
- Community Schools in Distressed Communities: To improve education and the resources offered by schools in New York’s neediest communities
- Community Schools: In neighborhoods in some of New York’s neediest areas, Community Schools offering education plus health, employment, after school, and other support services – serve as the hub for all community services. The Governor proposed to replicate successful models such as Cincinnati Community Learning Centers, Harlem Children’s Zone, Say Yes to Education, and Strive Network in distressed communities across New York State

Progressive Agenda

Minimum Wage Increase: New York’s current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is below that of 19 other states and has not kept up with the increases in the cost of living. The Governor proposed to raise the minimum wage to \$8.75 an hour.

Stop and Frisk: While stop and frisk can play an important role in the prevention of crime, there are also significant costs, including a deterioration of relationship between community residents and law enforcement, and the reality that stops fall disproportionately on communities of color and in particular on the young.

*Marijuana Possession: Police arrest 100 times more people for marijuana possession and this arrest contains the single largest category of arrests in New York City, accounting for 15% of all NYC arrests and 20% of New York City misdemeanors.

The Governor would like to make marijuana possession a violation and not a crime. Doing so would then affect a person’s pocket instead of following them on their record for the rest of their life.

Ensuring Fairness in the Justice System: Mistaken eyewitness identifications contributed to approximately 75% of wrongful convictions overturned by DNA evidence. False confessions contributed to approximately 25% of wrongful convictions by DNA evidence. The Governor would like to:

1. Strengthening Eyewitness Identification: The use of blind or double-blind photo arrays can reduce the potential for the administrator of the array to inadvertently influence the witness
2. Recording Criminal Interrogations: In order to help prevent wrongful convictions based on false confessions, as well as to protect law enforcement from erroneous allegations of coercion, the Governor proposed requiring that interrogations of persons arrested for serious offenses such as homicide, kidnapping and certain sex offenses be recorded on video.

Create the \$1Billion House NY Program: The Governor proposed the House NY Program, consisting of 1 Billion Dollars to produce or preserve over 14,000 units of affordable housing over the next 5 years. As part of House NY, the state will invest in the most successful affordable housing programs to help meet unfulfilled housing needs, as well as revitalize New York’s Mitchell-Lama Affordable Housing Program to rehabilitate housing units that are suffering from deferred maintenance and other physical deficiencies.

Achieving Equality for Women: The Governor announced plans to advance a 10-Point Women’s Equality Act. This Act will break down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender. The Governor’s 10-point proposal will:

- I. Protect a Women's Freedom of Choice by enacting the Reproductive Act
- II. Achieve Pay Equity
- III. Stop Sexual Harassment in All Workplaces
- IV. Allow for the Recovery of Attorney's Fees in Employment and Credit and Lending Cases
- V. Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws
- VI. End Family Status Discrimination
- VII. Stop Source-of-Income Discrimination
- VIII. Stop Pregnancy Discrimination Once and For All
- IX. Stop Housing Discrimination for Victims of Domestic Violence
- X. Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Strengthen Order-Of-Protection Laws

Public Safety:

Safe and Fair Gun Policy: There have been too many lives claimed as a result of gun violence in recent years, to Virginia Tech, Aurora, Newtown and Webster. New York once led the way: "Sullivan's Law of 1911 was the nation's first gun control law. The Sullivan's Law was a model law that required a permit for possession of a hand gun. The Governor would like to go back in leading the nation in gun control.

- We must Pass the toughest assault weapons ban in the country
- Preventing Private sales to prohibited persons
- Enhanced Penalties
- Reporting by mental health professionals
- One State, One Standard
- Combating Gun Violence in the State's most Violent Neighborhoods

Responding to the Crisis:

In just two years, New Yorkers have witnessed firsthand the destructive force of three powerful storms that have crippled the state: Irene, Lee and most recently Sandy. Each of these storms has taken an immeasurable toll on communities. Precious lives have been lost and homes and businesses have been destroyed. The Governor has outlined a series of proposals for the state to fortify and upgrade the systems that can paralyze us when they fail during an emergency as well as act to tackle the reality of a changing climate. These proposals draw from the work of four commissions that the Governor announced in November: NYS Respond, NYS Ready, NYS 2100 and the Moreland Commission on utility storm preparedness and response.

- Lower the Regional Greenhouse gas Emission Cap
- Increase Alternative Local Renewable power Sources
- Ensure a Skilled Energy Workforce
- Improve the Resilience of Our Buildings
- Provide Assistance to Property Owners to Mitigate or Sell Properties in Vulnerable Areas – The State will use various strategies to assist home and business owners whose properties were damaged in Hurricane Sandy to mitigate for the future or, if they choose to do so, to sell their and relocate.
 - Recreated NY Smart Home: Provide financial assistance to property owners to mitigate their properties for future threats
 - Recreate NY Home Buyout: designed for homeowners who want to relocate

Ensure that Healthcare Facilities are Resilient

1. Toward a More Resilient New York Harbor
2. Harden our fuel Delivery System
3. Harden the Subway System
4. Strengthen Wastewater Infrastructure
5. Harden our Utilities

Redesign Our Power System: The electrical power grid and the structures that controls it must undergo a fundamental redesign that improves performances and protects ratepayers

1. Strengthen Public Service Commission's Regulatory and Enforcement Oversight
2. Abolish the Long Island Power Authority

Effective Emergency Response: Preparing for disasters and responding to emergency events requires collaboration and coordination among local, state and federal authorizes; non-government organizations; and the private sector, as well as skilled first responders and a network of civilians ready to help their fellow citizens during and emergency.

1. World Class Emergency Response Network
2. Specialized Training for the National Guard
3. Statewide Volunteer Network
4. Civilian Emergency Response Corps
5. Private Sector Emergency Response Task Force
6. Citizen Education Campaign
7. Ensure that Vulnerable Populations Can Receive Help in an Emergency
8. Communicating with New Yorkers in an Emergency

Some of the questions that were entertained:

Rev. M. Rae: Stated that the Governor is a noble man. Rev. Rae is concerned about how he and others can support the Governor while others might oppose him?

Commissioner Rivera: Has been speaking every week at different groups in order to make known the Governor's agenda and to make sure that your concerns are relayed back to him. The Governor is very sincere about his agenda and he is fighting for all the issues that concern our communities. By getting his message out to others you can support him.

Ms. Martha Brown, 1st Vice Chairperson: Concern about the curriculum for High School Education. New York has one of the highest dropout rates, she stated. Ms. Brown suggests that we look into the curriculum to see what the problem is.

Ms. Brown thanked Commissioner Rivera for sharing the governor's agenda with the Community Board and expressed her approval for the work that Governor Cuomo is doing.

Ms. Sharline Moore: Concern about affordable housing.

Commissioner Rivera: Stated that Darryl Towns is the Commissioner of Housing for the State of New York, he is responsible for the new housing program that the Governor has. The Commissioner stated that on Tuesday, January 22nd there will be more details about the governor's budget.

He suggests that the Community Board invite Mr. Towns to their meeting for information on housing.

Ms. Gladys Puglla: Why doesn't the government change the land regulation of the State so that the people who are living in affordable housing do not loss it? People are being displaced and will have to start paying higher rent.

Commissioner Rivera: Legislature passed changes on rent control/rent stabilization about 10 years ago. Caps were allowed in order to keep these apartments rent controlled / rent stabilized, however slowly but surely the caps were being met and then thrown out. We are trying to bring back reasonable caps and these caps were passed in the assembly. The Commissioner advised Ms. Puglla to speak to her senator to see if there can be one bill passed that both parties (Democratic & Republican Senate) can agree on.

The Chairperson thanked the Commissioner for coming and sharing this important information to the board and all those in attendance.

2) MESA Charter School – Mr. Arthur Samuels

MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Academy) is a Charter High School that will endeavor to provide a rigorous education that equips each student with the ability to succeed in life and in college. MESA students will develop a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and through an intensive college readiness program, develop critical thinking and self-advocacy.

Objective: MESA graduates will internalize the connection between academic excellence, perseverance and economic opportunity, empowering them to assert control over their professional futures.

There is no charge to attend the school however students will have to take a test in order to attend. Bushwick students will have first priority. The proposed- school location is 231 Palmetto Street.

Now accepting Applications for the 2013-2014 school years!!! To learn more please email Mr. Samuels at: asamuels@mesacharter.org or call 917-257-6876. Application deadline: Friday, April 5, 2013. Lottery Date: Monday, April 15, 2012 at 4:00PM the location is to be announced.

Some of the questions that were entertained:

Ms. Dent: Have you met with the principals and other educators?

Mr. Samuels: Yes, he has spoken to representatives from IS 296, IS 349, IS 347 to name a few and he is still reaching out to other educators.

There are 9 members on the MESA board at present and Community Board #4's member Raul Rubio is the only member serving from Bushwick at present.

Mr. Samuels stated that any child/student can apply because it is against the law not to accept a child because of their disability or because they are disabled.

Ms. Dent thanked Mr. Samuels for his commitment to education and stated that she is looking forward in working with him in the future.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked the 1st Vice Chairperson Ms. Martha Brown to call the first roll call.

Roll Call: 26 members present constituting a quorum.

Chairperson's Report: 7:42PM

The Chairperson welcomed everyone in attendance to the first meeting of the 2013 year.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Rev. Matthew Rae and second by Rev Grace Aytes. All board members present were in favor.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous meeting's minutes was accepted by Ms. Elvena Davis and second by Mr. Robert Camacho. All board members present were in favor.

Ms. Dent asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Dale Coxson the grandson of Board member Mrs. Avellar Hansley. Mr. Dale Coxson was laid to rest today, January, 16, 2013. She asked that the Board Members remember Mrs. Hansley by giving her a call to extend their condolences.

Ms. Dent asked that the Elected Officials and /or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Ariel Salazar Representing Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 2nd Floor, 718-963-3141
- 2) Christopher Durosinmi and Michael Olmeda Representing Senator Martin M. Dilan, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 3) Alice Nascimento Representing Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 4) Celeste Leon Representing Assemblyman Rafael Espinal, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) PO Franco, 83rd Precinct - Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
PO Franco introduced her new partner PO Natalie Robinson

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent thanked PO Franco for her presence at the board meeting and for her outstanding work for the community.

Community Board Membership process is underway. In order to be considered for board membership the following must apply:

- a) You must be a NYC resident
- b) You must live, work or have professional or other significant interest in that board's district

c) Notarized application form returned to the Brooklyn Borough Presidents office located at 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Applications are available at WWW.brooklyn-usa.org

The Chairperson stated that the responsibility of volunteering as a community board member should be taken seriously. In accordance to the Community Board #4's By-Laws members who have three or more unexcused absences during the calendar year must receive a certified return letter informing them of their absences; as well as listing the time and location of the next scheduled meeting. The letter also states that the member must attend the next meeting; otherwise they will be recommended for removal from the board.

Sixteen letters have been mailed out to board members who have missed meetings.

Board Members whose term expires in 2013 should have received their reappointment applications in the mail. Please make sure that your applications are notarized and returned to the Borough President's Office.

The Achievement First Charter School – which has 780 scholars (students) from Bushwick Community has opened the application process for the 2013-2014 school years. All forms must be received by April 1, 2013 to be entered in the lottery.

Kindergarten and First- Grade Lottery-Achievement First: AF Aspire (K and 1) located at 982 Hegeman Avenue is the only school holding a first grade lottery. The school is not located in Bushwick but it services Bushwick's children.

To be eligible, your child must be born before 1/1/09. For more information visit www.achievementfirst.org/enroll or call 718-623-2660 extension 3

All other grades can fill out a waiting list information form by visiting their website.

The School Construction Authority (SCA) has notified the board, parents and neighbors of the Bushwick Leaders High School for Academic Excellence, located at 797 Bushwick Avenue of a construction project that has begun at the school and is expected to be completed in March 2014.

The Citizens Committee for New York City has money to give away. They are granting awards of \$300 to \$500 to resident's led-groups to work on community and school improvement projects addressing issues that they identify as important to them. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2013. If interested in receiving more information please contact Wilfredo at wflorention@citizensnyc.org or call 212-822-9568.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted was not in attendance, her report will be put on hold until next month.

Committee Reports: 8:06PM

Public Safety Committee (PSC): Ms. Barbara Smith, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 6PM, Location: 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Room 370, Brooklyn, NY

Members Attended: Mary McClellan, Freddy Fowler, Gladys Puglla, Rev. Grace Aytes, Miriam Lamboy

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted-District Manager, Charles and Consuelo Karim-Brooklyn Diesel Bar LLC., Ginny Benson, Silent Bar, Gina Leone, Ben Warren-Heavy Woods, Daniel Ross-Leutwyler, Aaron Golembiewski –Fritzl Lunch Box, Naomi Blume, Jessica Wertz-Chief Bodega Inc.

Item Discussed:

NYS Liquor Authority License Requests

- 1) New York City Department Consumer Affairs – Unenclosed Sidewalk Café request for 50 Wyckoff Avenue, The Heavy Woods LLC.
- 2) 173 Irving Avenue previously known as Montero's Mexican Grill
- 3) 428-432 Troutman Street – Brooklyn Diesel Bar LLC
- 4) 603 Bushwick Avenue –Silent Barn
- 5) 1089 Broadway – Chief Bodega – Lone Wolf

No recommendations will take place – will be on hold until next month meeting.

Other issues- The over saturation issue continues to plague the community. The NYS Liquor Authority has the 500 foot rule as a tool which can be used to assist the Community Boards. Unfortunately it only pertains to full liquor licenses and there must be at least three within 500 feet in order for this to be utilized. The PSC Report is informational.

Announcements:

Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz Office –

For Board Member whose term ends in 2013, reappointment applications are due back to the office by February 13th.

Brooklyn Sweethearts event for couples married 50+ years will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14th at El Caribe from 1-3pm. It is a free event, but attendees must RSVP. Please call 718-802-3530 for details.

Celeste Leon representing Assemblyman Rafael Espinal: Announced the 1st Town Hall meeting of the New Year to be held on January 31, 2013. The location is to be announced.

Mr. Ariel Salazar representing Councilmember Diana Reyna: Public meeting with the Department of Transportation regarding traffic control measures along Broadway to Myrtle Avenue. Tuesday, January 22nd at 790 Broadway, 2nd Floor.

Demolition on the Rheingold Triangle should start sometime in February 2013.

Raul Rubio: Gang Awareness work shop on February 19, 2013 at the Dekalb Branch Library at 10:30AM. Members from the District Attorney's office will be there.

Ms. Dent thanked the Hope Gardens Multi service Center for allowing Community Board #4 host their meetings at their facility.

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times – 718-821-7500

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:55PM