

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 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 welcome all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, November 20, 2013 monthly board meeting.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted to call the first roll call.

Roll Call: 8:15PM 32 members present constituting a quorum.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. Mr. Raul Rubio moved to accept the agenda as written. It was second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All board members present were in favor.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The October 2013 meeting minutes was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Linda McKinley. All board members present were in favor.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the November 20, 2013 meeting of Community Board #4. She said that she was extremely glad to see all in attendance despite of the very cold weather.

Ms. Dent asked for a moment of silence for Rexford Dasrath the young man who was fatally shot on Tuesday. She asked that we keep the family and friends of the young man in their prayers and support them through these unbearable times.

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

- 1) Charvey Gonzalez – Representing Senator Martin Dilan, 718 Knickerbocker Avenue (New address as of 11/19/13), 718-573-1726
- 2) Celeste Leon - Representing Assemblyman Rafael Espinal, 840 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 718-235-5627
- 3) Maritza Davila - District Leader- NYS Assembly Member Elect
- 4) Paula Melendez – District Leader in the 54th District

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Boniface WeWe, NYC Public Library, Washington Avenue Branch, 360 Irving Avenue, 718-628-8378
- 2) Maggie Mangual – Wyckoff Heights Medical Center – HIV Prevention Program, Positive Health Management, 342 Stanhope Street, 718-508-4669
- 3) Deputy Inspector A. Tasso – 83rd Precinct's Commanding Officer, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 4) Det. D. Franco – 83rd Pct. Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 5) Sgt. Duncan – NYPD PBBN, 179 Wilson Avenue, 718-573-5045
- 6) Det. D. Townsend – NYPD, 179 Wilson Avenue, 718-573-5048

Community Board #4 has a new appointed member, Mr. Robert (Bob) Murray. Mr. Murray is the founder of "Bushwick Restaurant Week". Now as a member of our ranks, I am sure that we will be collaborating on some very interesting events in the future, stated Ms. Dent.

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent introduced and thanked the 83rd Pct. Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector Tasso for attending the meeting.

It is that time of the year when Community Board #4 begins to prepare for the Annual Holiday Festivities (which is held in lieu of a formal meeting during the month of December) Ms. Dent asked for volunteers to spear head the committee and plan a wonderful end of the year festivity for the board members and the public. Board Members who would like to volunteer are being asked to contact the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted.

On October 23th El Puente, a youth organization held a Visioning for Hope Park meeting in light of the shooting that took place there during the summer. The youngster's goal was to reclaim the park by making it more active with a volunteer group for monitoring and also maintenance. Moreover, they are interested in showing movies and having events that all can be involved in from youngsters to seniors.

The chairperson supports this effort and committed the board and the Parks and Recreation Committee to join in. See the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted for more information.

October 25th the Life Audrey Johnson and John Coker Learning Centers held the Health Committee Meeting which was well attended by local organizations, schools, head start programs, the community board and more. Some of the goals of the committee were to meet the needs of the whole child which is their social, emotional and physical needs. The committee's goal was also to promote linkages to existing community resources, educate parents of health disparities, provide venue for parents and providers to meet, and sponsor a spring health fair.

The HHH Committee will provide more information in the future regarding the event. For questions and information please call 718-574-0130.

The Weill Cornell Hospital is interested in providing hands only CPR Training for the community. This training will be provided through the Life Audrey Johnson and John Coker Learning Centers. The training will be held at 272 Moffat Street between Knickerbocker Avenue and Irving Avenue. All interested organizations or individuals are being asked to call 718-628-8400 for further information.

On October 25, 2013 the Executive Board Members had the pleasure of attending the promotion ceremony for Detective Damarys Franco which was held at One Police Plaza.

Community Board #4 congratulates Detective Franco for a job well done and expresses our most sincere appreciation for all of the work she has performed. Detective Franco goes beyond the call of duty as an NYPD officer to serve the community.

On November 13th the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center held a meeting called "Wyckoff Rising". Gary Goffner, President of the Wyckoff Heights Board of Directors addressed the audience by stating that he wants Wyckoff Hospital to be "My Hospital" in other words "Our Hospital". The Chief of Surgery spoke and had other key surgeons meet those in attendance. We were told that the hospital is no longer operating in the "RED". Mr. Ramon Rodriguez who is the CEO and President of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is very proud of accomplishing that goal since taking office there.

On November 16, 2013 the Life Audrey Johnson and John Coker Learning Centers sponsored a memorial service for the late Rev. Matthew Rae. Ms. Dent personally thanked all of the community Board #4 members who attended the memorial. Rev. Rae was a long standing community board member since 1977; many people knew and loved him. Those attending the service included his family and colleagues from the many local boards of which he served.

November 19, 2013 – The 83rd Precinct Community Council held its monthly meeting where they received twenty turkeys for their Annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive of which they distribute to families in need. The Audrey Learning Center collected six boxes of food items which were donated to the 83rd Precinct's Community Council for distribution to families.

Ms. Dent extended her hope for a very Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

District Manager's Report

October 29, 2013: New York City Councilmember Reyna convened a community advisory meeting with many interested parties to discuss the proposed project at the Rheingold site. The agenda included specific questions and concerns. Listed were: Education, housing, manufacturing and commercial space, local jobs, open space, community facilities, transportation and re-mapping of streets. Although the agenda was quite aggressive and detailed for one evening, Ms. Martha Brown the Chairperson of the HLU Committee who also attended the meeting prepared a list of what was discussed. (The list was attached to the District Manager's report and is for informational purposes only.)

The NYC Council Land Use Committee meeting was held on November 12, 2013 and the NYC Council will vote on December 10, 2013.

On October 29, 2013 two follow-up meeting were planned: The first on Monday, November 18, 2013 and the second on Friday, November 22, 2013. At that time the goal is to have a working session on Rheingold in the District Office and draft

a document compiling the agreements (ex: a community benefits agreement) the community would like to see implemented.

There has been a lot of controversy over the Rheingold project. Through Councilmember Diana Reyna and groups in Bushwick such as Rheingold homeowners, business owners, people who are concerned about housing, CBO including CUFF (Churches United for Fair Housing), Make the Road and other groups. In moving forward the District Manager believes that there will be a document that will be like a restrictive declaration that will be attached to whatever may or may not be voted on.

The District Manager stated that she will share more information with those of interested as the document is developed.

Some Items Discussed

- a) Over Crowding of the two local schools (PS 120 & PS 145) – The EIS stated that the two schools have under enrollment and both schools have vacancies so there should not be overcrowding when the Rheingold project is completed.
- b) The schools were encouraged to talk about some of their other needs such as building a new gymnasium, air conditions and computer labs for all students.
- c) Increase the affordable housing from 24% to at least 30%. Meetings have been held with both the owner of the building and their lawyers along with and the top organizations in order to work out some terms. Requested by the Advisory Committee that the Read Group make sure that the affordable units remain permanently affordable for the tenants after 20 year limit for the 421(a) tax abatements.
- d) Manufacturing: Looking at future use of the Mademoiselle Building
- e) Jobs: Request for Union Jobs was made, however the Read Group stated that there are business issues on both sides and they cannot make any commitments regarding any union jobs or otherwise. They stated that they have to meet with the principals of all involved in the development of the Rheingold housing.

Community Board #4 has already voted and the next stage of voting will be the NYC Council.

November 6, 2013 the Executive Committee was hosted at the board's office. Items of discussion included: Remind Councilmember Dilan of the request to co-name Bleecker Street/Knickerbocker Avenue after Chineda Carter.

Request to name newly constructed Knickerbocker Plaza to "Tony's Knickerbocker Plaza".

November 12, 2013 attended the NYSLA meeting

Updates from Previous Meetings:

423 Troutman Street, Carlo Martello LLC: New application for LWB restaurant license. This will be a brick oven pizzeria, received NYC-DOH Permit on 11-19-2013.

970 Flushing Avenue is a one story approximately 1700 square foot space. Owners are proposing are performance space, stage music and speeches. Location received permits and copies on file at the CB office.

1386 Dekalb Avenue, NYPD noted that complaints were basically noise related. NYPD met with the owner of the establishment, each agreed that the recommendation would move forward positively. However the location will continue to be monitored.

94 Wilson Avenue received their certificate of occupancy.

November 14, 2013 – Attended the Sanitation Committee Meeting

The board is in receipt of a proposal which is designed to create a community garden at 1278 Myrtle Avenue. Currently the land is City owned and has been cleaned. The proposal is to produce food that the community can access for free.

The Volunteers of America are the new operators of the Bushwick Family Residence located at 1675 Broadway.

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent thanked the District manager for her report.

Ms. Dent and Ms. Whitted attended the 83rd Precinct Community Council Meeting that was held on Tuesday, November 19th. Ms. Dent asked the Deputy Inspector Tasso if he could share some information about the shooting that took place on Monday afternoon.

Deputy Inspector Tasso briefly explained what occurred:

A tragic incident occurred on Monday afternoon about 3pm that led to the death of a mentally ill person. This issue is on the minds of many however the DI could not say much about it because it is still under investigation.

On Monday, November 18th at 3PM the 83rd Precinct received a 311 call to respond to a landlord and tenant dispute on Hart Street between Irving and Wyckoff Avenues. This is the only information that the police officers were told. Once upon arriving at the scene they observed a male with a knife. They drove down the block and got out of their car. As the police officers walked down the block towards the scene they noticed a male coming towards them and on his way he picked up a glass. As they approached the individual they ordered him to drop the knife. He then lunged towards one of the two police officers which caused the officer to discharge his fire arm. The individual was transported to Woodhull Hospital where unfortunately he succumbed to his wounds.

This was a tragic set of events stated the Deputy Inspector and the officers did not know at the time that the individual was suffering from some mental issues.

The police department has certain protocols and procedures to follow when they are dealing with someone with mental illness. Unfortunately the whole incident happened in a span of 60 seconds.

DI Tasso thanked the chairperson for giving him an opportunity to shed a little light on what occurred during that situation.

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent thanked the DI for taking the time out to attend the meeting to explain what happened.

As it relates to the family we have to reach out and support one another, when something happens to one it affects us all, stated Ms. Dent.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety Committee (PSC): Ms. Barbara Smith, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 6PM, Location: 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue (Muster Room), Brooklyn, NY

Members Attending: Barbara Smith, Maria Gomez, Linda McKinley, Miriam Lamboy, Freddy Fowler, Mary McClellan, Elvena Davis, Veronica Shell and Cirilo Nunez

Others Attending: Nadine Whitted- CB4 District Manager, DI A. Tasso- Commanding Officer, 83rd Pct., Det. Damarlys Franco Community Affairs Officer

SLA Applicants/SLA Requests:

1) Matthew Webber – 226 Wyckoff Avenue (Old Stanley's) requesting new full liquor license for a tavern- pub-with light food menu. Monday through Sunday from 12 noon to 4AM.

Committee recommends: Sunday, no liquor sales after 12 midnight

2) Hector Vargas – 591 Knickerbocker Avenue (El Burrito Beer Inc.) requesting a new wine and beer only license for a restaurant. The proposed methodology of operation: Monday through Saturday 6am to 10pm. Sunday 8am to 8pm. Currently awaiting FDNY, DOB and DOH permits.

Committee recommends: Hold until copies of all required permits are received by the board's office.

3) Phillip Gilmour – 247 Starr Street (Hi Hello) requesting new full liquor license for a restaurant. The proposed methodology of operating: Sunday through Saturday: 8am to 4pm

Committee recommends: Sunday no liquor sales after 12 midnight. Hold until copies of all requires permits are received by the board's office.

4) Jorge Rodriguez – 1224 Myrtle Avenue (Zefe's Mexican restaurant Serial number 1195781) renewing a restaurant wine and beer license. The proposed methodology of operating: Monday through Friday: 12 noon to 12 midnight. Saturday and Sunday 12 noon to 2am.

Committee Recommends: Based on information provided by the 83rd Pct. security guard is required for weekends. No liquor sales after 12 midnight on Sunday.

- 5) Milagros Sandoval – 1409 Myrtle Avenue (Mills Tavern serial number 122148) renewal of full liquor license for bar. The proposed methodology of operating: Wednesday through Saturday: 7pm to 4am. Sundays: 3pm to 9pm. Committee recommends: Approval
- 6) Marek Gregorski – 1409 Myrtle Avenue requesting a new full liquor license for a tavern. The proposed methodology of operating: Monday through Saturday: 5pm to 4am. Sunday: 5pm to midnight. A concern involving the backyard deck - is it included as part of the bar in the certificate of occupancy. Committee recommends: Hold until information is gathered regarding the backyard deck. (On Monday, November 18, 2013 the DM ascertained information from the DOB that states that the backyard is not included as part of the premises)
- 7) Maigualida Fruto – 1386 Dekalb Avenue (Johana El Dorado Inc., serial number 1262783) renewing a wine and beer only restaurant license. Numerous complaints have been received by the 83rd Pct. Committee recommends: On Hold
- 8) Skylyer Insler – 140 Wilson Avenue requesting a new full license for a tavern with front yard. Methodology of operating: Monday through Friday 10am to 4 am, Saturday: 8am to 4am, Sunday: 8am to 12 midnight. Committee recommends: Approval

All applicants are encouraged to attend both the Community Board Meetings and the 83rd Precinct Council Meetings.

Sanitation Committee (SAN): Raul Rubio, Committee Chairperson, Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 12pm. 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207
 Members Attending: Raul Rubio, Tari Sunkin, Armenta Simuel
 Also Attending: Nadine Whitted, CB4 District Manager

Items discussed:

Eliminating food sources that attribute to rats in the community: According to the Mayor’s office of operation score card, which rates the cleanliness of our street, Bushwick received a score of 91% which does not seem accurate given the amount of trash that can be found in the streets and in the overflowing corner receptacles in the high foot traffic areas on Broadway and Knickerbocker Avenues, along with the piles of trash that can be found outside of some of our schools and housing developments.

Also discussed was a concern from board member Ms. Sunkin regarding a block where the alternate street side parking begins at 11:00AM, but the street sweeper drives through at 10:00AM while the cars are still legally parked causing the street not to get cleaned. The District Manager will look into the matter.

The next Sanitation Committee Meeting will be held on December 19th from 3 to 4pm at the Community Board’s office. All concerns are to be directed to the community board’s office at 718-628-8400 and 311. These calls help us address the issues.

Recommendations:

The PSC made six (8) requests regarding liquor licenses. The Public Safety Committee requests support for their entire report: Motion to support PSC report was moved by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Mr. Cyril Joseph. One abstention made by Rev. Nicolas Angustia. All other members present were in favor. Motion moved.

Old Business:

District Manager:
 NYC – Dept. of Transportation – Bushwick Avenue Pedestrian Safety Proposal Update
 Driving tour took place on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 9:00AM
 Attending: 83rd Pct. Det. D. Franco, District Manager Nadine Whitted, Eliseo Ruiz, Joanne Grant and Elvena Davis

Location Visited:

Bushwick Avenue at Myrtle Avenue – The DOT recommended permanently banning the north and south bounds turns. The Community Board recommendation:

- 1) signs at Bushwick Avenue at Freedom Square. Requesting the do not block the box with penalty
- 2) gas station and car wash Bushwick Avenue at Myrtle Avenue no left turn from
- 3) block the box for vehicles making left or right turns Myrtle Avenue at Troutman Street – resting do not
- 4) not block the box Bushwick Avenue at Flushing Avenue requesting do
- 5) them to make a right turn only sign For vehicles exiting the BP Gas Station requesting

The District Manager asked for a board member to accept the recommendations presented by DOT and in addition to the recommendations of the community board.

Ms. Linda McKinley motioned to accept the recommendation made by DOT and the boards. The motion was second by Ms. Martha Brown and the EPT Committee's chairperson Mr. Eliseo Ruiz. One abstention: Mr. Raul Rubio
All other member present was in favor. Motion moved.

New Business:

Mr. Robert Camacho: Shared a few encouraging words about Rev. Matthew Rae who passed away last month.

Announcements:

Assembly Member Rafael L. Espinal invites you to attend the 2013 Tree Lighting Ceremony!!

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2013

Time: 6:00PM

Location: Between Euclid Avenue and Jamaica Avenue

For more information call 718-235-5627 or visit the office at 850 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208

Ms. Barbara Smith: 83rd Pct. Fund Raiser to collect donations for the children of Bushwick. The honored guess this year is Raul Rubio.

December 6th 2013 at 7pm, 218 Wyckoff Avenue, no charge, dinner will be served

The 83rd Pct. Council is now accepting donations for Thanksgiving Baskets. The baskets will be given out on the Monday before thanksgiving to low income Bushwick residents.

Names are to be given to Detective Franco of the 83rd Pct., along with the residents' address and the number of members in the family.

New York State Senator Martin Malave Dilan invites you to their District Office Open House, Saturday, December 14th at 10AM to 4PM. Location: 718 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 between Hancock Street and Jefferson Avenue
It will be a great opportunity to meet the Senator, visit with his staff, and learn about what services the office can assist you with. Useful brochures and pamphlets will be available, voter's registration form and participation from State and City Agencies and community organizations are expected to be present.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: PHM H.I.V. Outreach & Prevention program, What Would Happen? If You Took the HIV Test... You can learn how to take care of yourself & others! Free, confidential rapid HIV testing

Walk-in hours: Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm, 342 Stanhope Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 (across from the hospital's Emergency Room) Call / Text: 347-398-7053

New York City Police Department: If You See Something Say Something

Counterterrorism Hotline: 1-888-692-7233, NYCSAFE@NYPD.ORG

All reports will be kept confidential.

Dig Daffodils? On Sunday, November 24, 2013, Maria Hernandez Park at the Starr Street and Irving Avenue entrance,

plant daffodils and other spring blooming bulbs in the tree beds surrounding the park. Time: 11am until 1pm
Refreshments, fun for all ages! Gloves, tools and bulbs provided by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Cash for Guns: Turn in an operable handgun no questions asked

Saturday, November 23rd, 2013

Turn in a weapon and receive a \$200.00 Bank Card for the return of operable handguns and assault rifles

\$200.00 bank Card for the return of rifles and shotguns

Drop off-site open 10:00AM to 4:00PM at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, 425 Howard Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11233

Councilmember Diana Reyna invites you to: Meet & Greet with the 83rd Precinct

Come and discuss ways to keep our neighborhood safe.

When: Thursday, November 21st at 6PM

Where: 1028 Bushwick Avenue, Lobby, 1st Floor

For information and RSVP, please contact Kevin Worthington at 718-963-3141, kworthington@council.nyc.gov

Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library: Need Homework Help? We Can Help!

Washington Irving Library, 360 Irving Avenue (Woodbine Street), 718-935-0244, Mondays: 2:00PM to 3:00PM

If you are in grades 1-8 we can help you with your homework! FREE!

For more information call, 718-935-0244 or 718-230-2406

Public Health Solutions: Early Intervention Service Coordination

Are you concerned that your child has difficulty hearing, talking, sitting, crawling, walking or playing? We Can Help!

Our Early Intervention Service Coordination program (EISC) helps families with infants and children under age 3 who have known, or suspected developmental delays. Our program can help families meet the needs of their child at no cost to you. For more information call one of their borough offices: Bronx: 718-733-6100, Brooklyn & Staten Island: 718-852-5470, Manhattan: 646-619-6400 press 2, Queens: 718-206-1000

Silent Barn: Housing Law Forum at Silent Barn Public Meeting XI: Housing law, learn the basics of housing law in New York. Housing attorneys will be on hand to answer questions like:

What is the difference between rent stabilized and rent controlled?

When and how can your landlord evict you?

Can your landlord ever just raise your rent?

What are your rights as a rental tenant in New York?

Sunday, December 8, 4-6PM, 603 Bushwick Avenue (at Jefferson Street), Brooklyn, NY

Bushwick Free Community Concert: Featuring Grammy award-winning Salsa Musician Peter Nater & Associates

Date: Friday, November 22, 2013, Time: 6PM doors open, 7PM show begins

Place: Roland Hayes I. S. 291 Auditorium, 231 Palmetto Street (btw: Knickerbocker & Wilson Avenues) No outside food or drinks are allowed, refreshments will be on sale in the cafeteria

Presented by Coalition for Hispanic Services, www.hispanicfamilyservicenyc.org

Beacon Center for Arts and Leadership, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

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

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.