

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, January 15, 2014 monthly board meeting at 6:30PM.

Ms. Nadine Whitted called the first roll call.

Roll Call: 6:31PM 28 members present constituting a quorum.

Ms. Whitted asked for the acceptance of the agenda as presented. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Barbara Smith. All board members present were in favor.

Ms. Whitted asked for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous meeting's minutes was accepted by Rev. Grace Aytes and second by Ms. Mary McClellan. All board members present were in favor.

The District Manager will preside over the Community Board meeting due to the absence of the Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent who is in Albany and the 1st Vice-Chairperson Ms. Martha Brown who is ill.

District Manager's Report: 6:40PM

The District Manager wished everyone a happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the first Community Board meeting for the 2014 year.

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

1) Newly Elected New York City Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 34th Council District:

His district covers Williamsburg and Bushwick in Brooklyn and Ridgewood, Queens

New Location: 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206

The Councilmember just moved into his new office, his telephone number is forthcoming.

The Councilmember's main focuses in Bushwick are:

A) Education Enhancement – A rate of proficiency similar to that of the upper West/East side

90% of our children are not at grade level. Mr. Reynoso will focus on that issue.

B) Rezoning – To protect ourselves, gentrification and the displacement of the Bushwick residents. No development until the rezoning is complete.

C) Programming - Programs for the youth, afterschool programs and summer programs

Councilmember Reynoso introduced Mr. Kevin Worthington as his Bushwick's Representative and Ava Farkas as his Chief of Staff. They both will be meeting with the Community Board and they will be listening to the board in order to help get the needs of the community done. The Councilmember stated that he is so excited to work with the community board and they will be so happy with the end results.

Ms. Whitted thanked the councilmember and stated that she too is so excited to have someone that knows the system that knows the issues about communities and who spoke of collaboration building and respecting the leaders of our community. Ms. Whitted said that we need our local elected officials to work together.

2) Celeste Leon - Representing Councilman Rafael Espinal, Temporary location is 387 Arlington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208, 718-642-8664. Their permanent location starting next week will be in Bushwick at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue.

3) Yanuski Rodriguez Representing District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson, 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY , 718-250-2565

4) Evelyn Cruz Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, Ms. Cruz thanked Nadine Whitted and the board for the great work that they did last year, the work that you have done which enlightened and empowered the community

with vital information and action. She is looking forward in working with her friend Councilmember Reynoso and Kevin who last year was excellent in working with Diana Reyna. She said that we have come a long way and that is because of Ms. Whitted, Ms. Julie Dent and the board for their wonderful leadership.

- 5) Paula Melendez is the Constituent Manager for the Newly Elected Assemblywoman Maritza Davila. She is also the female District Leader for the 54th District.
- 6) Michael Olmeda Representing Senator Martin M. Dilan, 718 Knickerbocker Avenue (corner of Jefferson Avenue) 718-573-1726
- 7) Italia Granshaw, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY, 718-802-4032

The District Manager welcomed each and every one to the meeting and stated that she is looking forward to where they are going in this community because there is work to be done.

The District Manager included a current listing of the Elected Officials within the community district in her report. The list includes the elected official's phone number, address and their contact person.

NYC – Council Member Rafael L. Espinal, Jr. has extended an invitation to his inauguration ceremony on Saturday, January 18, 2014 to all Board members.

Representative from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Deputy Inspector Tasso, Commanding Officer of the 83rd Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue
The Commanding Officer wished everyone a Happy New Year. The 83rd Precinct statistically had a very good year for the 2013 year which they finished the year with at 6% down in crime. They had record crime drops in most of the crime categories including shootings; Bushwick had the least amount of shootings in Brooklyn. They had a good year and the commanding officer continues to look forward in working with the community board and the community in general for the 2014 year to continue to make Bushwick a safer place to live and visit.
- 2) Police Officer N. Robinson, 83rd Precinct Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 3) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch, 360 Irving Avenue, 718-682-7387
- 4) Maggie Mangual – Wyckoff Heights Medical Center -Positive Health Management Program, 342 Stanhope Street, Prevention Health Manager, 718-508-4669

Councilmember Reynoso: Diana Reyna is now the Deputy Borough President. North Brooklyn representation has really changed stated Councilmember Reynoso. We have a lot of opportunities and there are a lot of representatives that know the community well, so let us take advantage of it all and be proud of the fact that North Brooklyn is respected and well represented.

Nadine Whitted: As a District Manager she has the opportunity to meet with the other District Managers in Brooklyn monthly at the Borough Service Cabinet meeting. This month it did her heart well to see her former NYC-Council Member Diana Reyna taking charge at that meeting and she did it with the eloquence that we know her to exhibit. She was engaging as well as knowledgeable. Ms. Whitted said that we have a power house representing Bushwick (and the entire borough of Brooklyn) Borough President Eric Adams spoke as to Brooklyn as not being the forgotten part of New York City. Mr. Adams also spoke about the neighborhoods in Brooklyn feeling like they are second class citizens to more fluent neighborhoods. Ms. Whitted went on to say that we have some really powerful leadership working for us and she is excited because she thinks that it means good things for the community.

A lot of this she feels is contributed to a lot of the people that were present at the board meeting because they vote, they come out and they let the people know what their items are and they chose the people who they feel that would take their concerns and do the best that they can with it.

Mr. Robert Solano –CUFF (Churches United for Fair Housing):

- 1) Condo located at 782 Hart Street – A small workshop was done at St. Joseph's in which 25-35 people applied.
- 2) The deadline is January 21, 2014 for the 10 three family homes being built in Bushwick
- 3) Any clergy &/or their representatives present were asked to see Mr. Solano so that they may attend a meeting being held next week with all of their clergy members of his organizations. The three pillar organizations that they have are: St. Barbara's, St. Joseph's and St. Bridget's and they are looking to quadruple that in the next four months. Those who wish to be a part of this movement were asked to see him.

Ms. Whitted thanked Mr. Robert Solano for attending last month's meeting with the information that he gave out to those who were in attendance.

Due to the holidays and other reasons the board did not host any meetings since the last board meeting.

Homeownership Opportunity: Bushwick East Homes, a participant in the governmentally assisted affordable housing program and supervised by the NYC – Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), announces Applications for Newly Constructed Affordable Three Family Homes.

Residents of Brooklyn Community Board #4 district will receive preference for 50% of the homes. Eligible City of NY Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive a 2% preference for the homes.

The District Manager had applications available at the meeting for who were interested in applying.

NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) – Project NO. Red -369 replacing existing 20" water mains on Knickerbocker Avenue from Cooper Street to Grove Street. To facilitate the work the main water service may need to be shut down. When this is the case a notice is to be posted 24 hours in advance of the shut-down to affected residents. IF THE NOTICE IS POSTED ON YOUR BUILDING PLEASE SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH THE OTHER TENENTS IN THE BUILDING SO THAT EVERYONE AFFECTED CAN TAKE THE APPROPRIATED MEASURES. In the case of apartment buildings notices will only be places on the main door of the building, individual notices will not be given.

Play Street Applications for 2014 must be submitted to the community board by April 1st, 2014 deadline. The review process can take up to 2 months so applications must be submitted soon. The earlier you submit, the earlier you may receive a response and avoid or resolve any potential problems. Please note that you will need to obtain signatures from your local Community Board and police precinct.

City-Bench: The purpose is to install benches throughout the city to support transit use and walking particularly for elderly and mobility-impaired New Yorkers. The board would like you to identify sites that could benefit from bench installations. Typically the site should be a sidewalk at least 12 feet wide near a senior center, on commercial corridors and near municipal commercial and recreational destinations. Sidewalks must be at least 14 feet wide at bus stops. The benches are 7'6" long with seat dividers that prevent sleeping. NYC Dept. of Transportation will be responsible for the bench should an issue arise and will maintain the benches.

Currently a planned installation for a bench is to be in front of 319 Stanhope Street.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: Rising Wednesday

January 22, 2014, 5:30pm to 6:30pm, 5th floor conference room

Join them in their continuing series of community discussions, meet and greet the Wyckoff Dental Team

Opportunities For A Better Tomorrow (OBT) – Clerical skills training & High School Equivalency Preparation – New cycle starts February and the training is free. Included is transportation and lunch stipend. Training also includes:

- a) Preparation for two nationally recognized credentials-Microsoft Office Specialist Certification and the National Retail Federation Customer Service Certification
- b) Public Speaking and Communications
- c) College Access assistance
- d) Work readiness
- e) Job placement assistance
- f) High School Equivalency preparation

You can register now at one of three sites:

Sunset Park, 783 Fourth Avenue, 718-369-0303

Bushwick, 25 Thornton Street, Brooklyn, NY, 718-387-1600

Y-Roads, 161-04 Jamaica Avenue, NY 11432 718-630-9727

New York Restoration Project (NYRP): Apply to host a tree, giveaway with NYRP!

The NYRP is looking for local organizations to sponsor free tree as part of the MillionTressNYC initiative.

For more information on tree giveaways, visit www.nyrp.org/treegiveaways or contact Mike Mitchell, Community Initiatives Manager, at mmitchell@nyrp.org or call 212-333-2552

Citizens Committee of NY CCC: Spring 2014 Youth Action NYC Community Leadership Course begins March 3, 2014. Application deadline is February 12, 2014.

The District Manager asked for the acceptance of the District Manager's Report as written. The District Manager's report was accepted by Ms. Miriam Lamboy and second by Sharline Moore. All members present were in favor.

Announcements: 7:08PM

Hon. Evelyn J. Laporte, Criminal Court of the City of New York: Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse can affect a young person, women, a man and elderly persons. Elderly abuse are usually committed by a family member. Domestic Abuse affects our society and is about power and control of another person. The hospitals Emergency rooms are full of domestic abused persons and it is the most silent crime done in the world.

Judge Laporte is asking that community leaders be mindful of domestic abuse.

Italia Granshaw, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams: Community Board membership if interested please call 718-802-4032 or go online for an application at www.brooklyn-usa.org

Kings County District Attorneys' Office Kenneth P. Thompson presents Teen Dating Violence Conference: "Keeping it Real and Keeping it Safe". Understanding teen dating violence and sexual assault, social stigma, fear of retribution and the trauma of not being believed prevent reports of teen sexual abuse. Join us as we openly discuss the realities of teen dating violence and sexual assault within our communities.

On Tuesday, February 11, 2014 from 9:30am to 1:00pm, Registration from 9:15am -9:45am. Brooklyn Law School, Moot Court room, 7th floor, 250 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn NY 11201

Open to all Brooklyn High School Students, Attendance requires parental and school permission

Registration requires by February 4th, 2014, fax registration to 718-780-9616 or call Audace Garnett at 718-250-2463 or garnetta@brooklynda.org

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center – Positive Health Management invites you to our new clinic for: Sexual & Behavioral Health services (SBH)

Free services for gay & bi men aged 18-30 who have no medical insurance

Our new clinic offers:

- STD treatment & screenings

- Rapid HIV testing

- PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis)

- Hepatitis A, B, C screenings/treatment & hepatitis A and B vaccinations

- Short-term Mental health & substance abuse counseling

- Fun & informative health education services

- Referrals

Confidential & convenient location: 374 Stockholm Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11237 – between Wyckoff Avenue & Saint Nicholas Avenue. For an appointment please call: 718-509-3140

L train to Dekalb Avenue stop or B15 bus to Wyckoff Avenue

ASCEND: Enroll your child in an Ascend Public Charter School

Visit our schools, learn more about our program and meet our staff

Bushwick Ascend Lower School (K-5) 751 Knickerbocker Avenue: Wednesday, March 5th at 10:30am – 12:00pm

Saturday, March 15th at 11:00am – 12:30pm

Now enrolling K-8th grade! Apply by April 1st at ascendlearning.org/enroll or call 347-464-7600

Brooklyn Public Library: Need a Passport? Now you can apply for a U.S. passport and U.S. passport card at either of our two officially-designated passport application acceptance facilities. Applicants will need to bring the following:

- Proof of citizenship

- Proof of identity

- A photograph

- Separate payments for processing and passport fees made payable to US Dept. of State and Brooklyn Public Library.

The library also takes passport photos during service hours for a fee of \$10.00 for two photos.

Passport Services Hours:

Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, 718-230-2292- Sunday 10am to 4pm

Monday – Thursday 10am to 7pm

Friday & Saturday 10am to 5pm

Kings Highway Library, 2115 Ocean Avenue, 718-375-3037 ext. 128

Sunday –Friday 10am to 3pm

For more information visit us online at: www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/passport

Learn English – Free English Classes for Adults 17 and older

Registration: Wednesday, January 15th 10:30am to 12:30pm, Friday, January 17, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Washington Irving Library, 360 Irving Avenue @ Woodbine Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-628-8378

High School Equivalency (HSE) Free Pre-HSE (Pre-GED) Classes for adults 17+

Evening and Daytime class schedules available. Begin your High School Equivalency preparation at the Library. Practice reading, writing and math skills critical for HSE success, part-time and full-time schedules available.

Adult Learning: www.bklynpublic.org/only-bpl/literacy/ged-preparation

The Silent Barn: Upcoming event at the Silent Barn, 603 Bushwick Avenue (Jefferson Street)

For more information contact or visit: <http://www.silentbarn.org>

Contact: silentbarnispeople@googlegroups.com

Quebradillas Baseball Organization, INC.: Registration Every Saturday starting January 18, 2014; location Celestial Church of Christ, 1380 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237

Time: 11am to 4pm, all boys and girls age 4-12

Contact: Carlos Feliciano 347-251-1458 or Roberto Cervera: 347-920-0447

PO Robinson: 83rd Pct. Explorer's Program – work with the Police Department, \$10.00 fee, 718-574-1697 or 718-574-1735. Ages 14-21

Block Watch Program- The 83rd Pct. is trying to start the program again. Reaching out to block association's to get their information updated.

Ms. Whitted 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