

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, February 16, 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 Health – Green Carts Initiative: Representative Ms. Peggy Leggett  
In 2008 The New York City Council passed legislation and Mayor Bloomberg signed it in effect, to create 1000 New Mobile Food Vendor Permits specifically for the purpose of selling fruits and vegetables in neighborhoods across the five boroughs where there is low access to fresh fruits and vegetables which contributes to low consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.  
There are 350 permits for Green Carts in Brooklyn and all are encouraged to buy from these Green Carts to give them support.  
The Health Department conducted a survey and about 6% of North and Central Brooklyn was found to be eating the daily recommended fruit and vegetable intake. That means that over 90% are not eating the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables daily.  
In Bushwick out of 131 retailers there are 100 bodegas and only 10 supermarkets.  
The City has 200 green cart permits available. Green Carts are also a great job/business opportunity. Usually 2 or more individuals can handle a green cart and that could create at least 400 jobs.  
How can you help?

- If you are an organization and you have extra storage space and you would like to have a vendor near your organization perhaps you can store his or her green cart in that space for free.
- If you work with an organization or know of an organization that has space perhaps you can host a workshop to instruct people on the green cart process.
- If there is a green cart vendor near you, you can support them by shopping there and also by spreading the word to others so that they too can shop there.

Steps to Apply for a Green Cart Permit

1. Get a Mobile Food Vending License if you do not have one. For information, call 311 or go to [www.nyc.gov/greencarts](http://www.nyc.gov/greencarts)
2. Get a Green Cart Waiting List Application Form from the Citywide Licensing Center (42 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Manhattan), 311 ask for "Green Cart Waiting Application or [www.nyc.gov/greencarts](http://www.nyc.gov/greencarts)
3. Fill out the Green Cart Waiting List Application Form by the application deadline date and mail to: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 125 Worth Street, C.N. EHS 1000, New York, NY 10013
4. The Health Department will mail you a postcard with your waiting list number (s) and will send you a Green Cart Permit Application when you are selected from one of the borough waiting lists.
5. If you are selected from a waiting list, you will have 30 days to submit the Green Cart Permit Application and bring your completed form and other necessary documents to the Citywide Licensing Center. The fee for the permit is \$75 by certified check or money order.
6. You will receive a receipt when your Green Cart Permit Application is accepted by the Citywide Licensing Center. You will have 6 months to bring your mobile food cart to a Health Department site and pass inspection. Call 311 to make an appointment for an inspection.
7. If your cart passes the inspection the Health Department inspector will affix a permit decal to your cart and will give you a Green Cart umbrella for you the cart.
8. You will receive your permit document in the mail within 4 weeks

There is no fee for a permit if you are an honorable discharged veteran of the United States Armed Services and present a New York State Peddler's Certificate or are the surviving spouse or domestic partner of a veteran with this certificate.

2. NYC Department of Education – Achievement First Charter School: Representative Ms. Devin Humphrey  
Achievement First operates ten free college-preparatory public charter schools in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Fort Greene, Brownsville, Bushwick, Crown Heights and East New York. Achievement First has 2 schools located in the Bushwick Community:

- Achievement First Bushwick Elementary School – 125 Covert Street (co-located with IS 296) Grades K through 4
- Achievement First Middle School – 1300 Green Avenue (co-located with IS 383) Grades 5 through 8

The schools offer a rigorous academic curriculum and charter education program in which every scholar gains the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

Currently Achievement First is recruiting for Kindergarten, First and Fifth Graders, about 90 children per grade. Residents of the Bushwick Community have first preference for a seat at the Achievement First Bushwick School. Those who have siblings currently attending the school are considered first. Enrollment into Achievement First is done by lottery because they receive more applications than they have seats available.

What makes Achievement First unique are four (4) components:

1. Strong Academic Program – the day begins at 7:30AM and ends at 4:00PM. The school year starts in August and finishes in June. A strong academic focus on reading and writing and developing fundamental skills so that scholars are able to go to college.
2. Charter Education Development Program – This program stresses the importance of good scholars
3. Quality Teachers who believe in the mission which is that all children regardless of race or economic status should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. Achievement First is fulfilling the promises of “Brown vs. Board of Education”. All teachers must believe in that mission.
4. Parent Partners – must volunteer and commit to work with their child. Parents must sign a three fold contract. This contract must be signed by the teacher, the scholar and the parent stating that they will do whatever is required in order for the scholar to go college.

Achievement First also have special services coordinators available at all of their school, so if a child requires special services they can still apply at their schools.

Open House at Achievement First Bushwick Elementary located at 125 Covert Street, Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, March 3, 2011, 9-10:30AM. Due to space limitations attendees must RSVP for this event. To RSVP please contact [visitny@achievenentfirst.org](mailto:visitny@achievenentfirst.org) or call 718-623-2660 ext. 12646 by February 25, 2011.

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent recognized Detective Dennis Diaz from the NYC Police Department of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct.: Det. Diaz had with him 12 out of the 46 new police officers. The officers were accompanying him on a walk and talk tour of Wilson Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Decatur Street.

### 3. U.S. Social Security Administration – Representative Ms. Nilsa Deleon

How to Apply Online for Retirement Benefits? Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline)

Social Security should never be your only source of income when you retire. To live comfortably one would need additional source of monies.

When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits:

There is no one “best age” for everyone and ultimately, it is an individual choice. However an inform decision should be made about when to apply for benefits based on a persons individual and family circumstances.

a) Monthly payments differ substantially based on when you start receiving benefits. For example: If your full retirement age is 66 and your monthly benefit starting at the age is \$1,000. If you choose to start getting benefits at 62, your monthly benefit will be reduced by 25 percent to \$750 to account for the longer period of time you receive benefits. This is generally a permanent reduction in your monthly benefit. If you choose to not receive benefits until age 70, you would increase your monthly benefits amount to \$1,320. This increase is from delayed retirement credits you get for your decision to postpone receiving benefit amount at age 70 in this example is 32 % more than you would receive per month if you chose to start getting benefits at full retirement age.

b) Retirement may be longer than you think. When thinking about retirement, be sure to plan for the long term.

c) Your decision could affect your family. Your spouse may be eligible for a benefit based on your work record. Your children also may be eligible for a benefit on your work record if they are under age 18 or if they have a disability that began before age 22. For them to receive benefits you must be getting benefits also.

For more information to help decide when to start receiving retirement benefits use the Benefits Planners online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners). To apply for benefits online go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits). You can also call toll free at 1-800-772-1213 and for the death or hard of hearing call their TTY number at 1-800-325-0778. Questions are answered from 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday. Information by automated phone service is available 24 hours a day.

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

**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 Mr. Cyril Joseph and seconded by Mr. Austen Martinez. 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 Rev. Grace Aytes and seconded by Ms. Barbara Smith. All members present were in favor.

**Chairperson's Report:**

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the February 16, 2011 monthly Community Board Meeting. The Chairperson thanked everyone who took time from their schedule to join the Community Board this evening.

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

- 1) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 2) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 3) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands Avenue Office, 718-272-1175 cell # 718-309-9755
- 4) Bennett Baruch – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 34<sup>th</sup> Council District, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 5) Angelica Flores – Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 6) Rudsen Hernandez - Councilmember Diana Reyna, 34<sup>th</sup> Council District, 217 Havemeyer Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 718-963-3141
- 7) Manuel Burgos – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 8) Rafael L. Espinal – Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 9) Laurie Wheelock – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 718-963-7029

**Representatives from City or Federal Agencies:**

- 1) Evelyn Ortiz – NYC Department of Health Brooklyn District Public Health Office, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5636
- 2) Battalion Chief Conway – NYC Fire Department, 28 Battalion, 392 Himrod Street: Commend the audience for their cooperation in shoveling snow from around the fire hydrates. The cooperation that they received from the community has made it possible for their units to get through the streets during the recent snow storms. There are over 1500 fire hydrates located in the district and the Chief was appreciative for those who made it easier for his units to locate the fire hydrates.  
Due to City Hall Budget Cuts the Fire Department has lost their 5<sup>th</sup> man on an engine company, 60 positions City Wide have been effected. This means that when they respond to a fire or emergency 60 units are operating with 4 men instead of 5 men. The Fire Department is asking for the Community Boards help.
- 3) Oscar Heath – NYC Department of Health, Healthy Bodegas 347-495-5978
- 4) Wilma Mitey – La Providencia Family Health Clinic, 1280 Dekalb Avenue 718-455-9000

**Representatives from Community Based Organizations:**

- 1) Wayne Smart – Lock Down Control Inc., 917-620-8091
- 2) Ana Castro – RBSCC, 255 Wyckoff Avenue, 347-985-2000

- 1) The NYC Council Member Erik Martin Dilan shared that the following 3 streets co-naming request has been granted and signed by the Mayor
- Schaefer Street between Broadway & Bushwick Avenue in honor of the late Rev. John B. Elliott
  - Bleecker Street corner of Knickerbocker Avenue in honor of A. Chineda Carter
  - Central Avenue corner of Palmetto Street in honor of Anthony Delgado

These three items were voted on by Community Board #4 and have come to fruition. The Board will work closely with the sponsors of these name change requests to plan a ceremony.

Community Board #4 also endorsed the renaming of the Bushwick Ball Field at Putnam Avenue and Knickerbocker Avenue in honor of Barry Morrow. The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation has committed to a spring ceremony for this event. The Board will make sure that this is a reality as well.

2) The Mayor's Office of Community Assistance announced the launching of 311's new Service Request (SR) mapping capability, providing unprecedented access to location specific information about 311 complaints filed across 15 major categories including air and water quality, construction, noise, quality of life, snow, streets and sidewalks, transit and parking and more. The map part of the newest release of 311 Online, the web-based counterpart to the 311 Customer Service Center, shows all open and recently closed Service Requests lodged across the city over the past year. Users can click on a marked location or search by specific address, zip code, community board or City Council District and view a list of the service requests including the date it was opened, the current status and the last message sent to the customer. Community Boards have been interested in having this information across the city. This new feature will provide Community Boards with a full scale picture of the types of service request and complaints that are being filed. The Community Board is looking forward to more information concerning this latest development.

- 3) The office of Community Board #4 is in a state of disrepair. The City has been in contact for a new office space at 1420 Bushwick Avenue for well over 4 years. The following bureaucratic language is what we have been dealing with and must contend with prior to the move:
- Construction of the basement – due to the water damage from the previous leasers, there is significant amounts of water damage to the new facility and the Department of Buildings (DOB) is requesting that the contractors reconstruct the basement
  - Fire Safety Violations – DOB is requesting an update fire safety plan for the location. In proceeding to update the plan, FDNY will have to approve everything after going over the plan in detail before sending it over to DOB.
  - New Roof and Fire alarm plans – upon completion of the basement, DOB will request a new roof and fire alarm plan for the building.

After all of these steps are completed and the Department of Buildings completes their final walk through of the building Community Board #4 should be able to move in.

The District Manager and the Chairperson both have been diligent and persistent concerning the relocation, however things seem to be at a stand still. Hopefully the move will occur this year.

Ms. Dent asked that the representatives from each Elected Officials Office to inform them of the help that the Community Board needs in order to make this move possible.

The Community Board office is a safety hazards and no one should have to work in those conditions.

- 4) For any concerns, complaints, issues and ideas please bring them to the attention of Community Board #4 by contacting the board's office at (718) 628-8400.

#### **District Managers Report:**

January 25, 2011

USPS – Advisory Council Meeting: The District Manager is a member of the Advisory Council and she is able to bring pertinent information to their attention.

Currently she is addressing an issue regarding a no delivery request from a senior citizen.

Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting – The report will reference 10 new homes that will soon be constructed in the district with a 50% preference for Bushwick residents. If interested now is the time to get your credit rating repaired.

February 7, 2011

Health, Hospitals & Human Services Committee Meeting (See committee report)

February 8, 2011

Youth and Education Committee Meeting (See committee report)

February 9, 2011

Hosted the District Service Cabinet Meeting

Agenda Items: Contamination at the former Wolff-Alport site located at Cooper Avenue and Irving Avenue  
Found Thorium contamination at site from activities in the 1930 -1950's. A project team led an investigation on the site and surrounding areas: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Department of Design and Construction, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Conservation and the US Environmental Protection Agency

Current site usage/occupancy – K&M Auto repair, Primo Motor Cycles, Primo Flat Fix, Jarabacoca Deli, Primo Auto Body, S&M Contracting, Arctic Glacier and Apartment Rental on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

During 2009 Environmental investigations were performed by NYC & NYS EPA to determine the thorium contamination and radiological risks at this site. Surveys were conducted on the interior and exterior of the affected buildings, streets, sidewalks and the vacant lot behind the site. The included:

- Phase I site reconnaissance, historical research
- Phase II soil sampling for petroleum, semi-volatile organic compounds and metal contamination
- Radiological Scoping Survey –sewer, soil, radiation dose rates (indoors and outdoors)

Results at 1125-1139 Irving Avenue:

The soil on the site is contaminated with thorium – this is causing elevated radiation levels in several locations. There are some areas with elevated radiation dose rates on the site. These dose rates do not pose a short term risk to the workers at these businesses. But there are some interim safety measures that can be taken

Conclusions: Thorium contamination exceeds allowable limits – but this does not seem to be immediately dangerous for workers or for residents.

The full report is available at the board's office

February 15, 2011

83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Community Council Meeting – Items discussed

Cyclist Safety – Engineering: Designated bike lanes were created throughout the city to give bicyclists safety lanes to occupy. In Community District 4 the lanes are on Evergreen & Central Avenues. Cyclists must adhere to the flow of traffic and obey all the rules of the road. For example: Cyclists must stop at red lights, stop signs and they cannot ride down the wrong street way.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. distributed the 2011 locations where no street activities will be allowed.

The locations are:

1. Covert Street between Broadway / Bushwick Avenue
2. Decatur Street between Evergreen / Central Avenues
3. DeSales Place between Bushwick Avenue and the dead end street
4. Eldert Street between Broadway / Bushwick Avenue
5. Furman Street between Bushwick Avenue and the dead end street
6. Halsey Street between Wilson Avenue / Knickerbocker Avenue
7. Hancock Street between Bushwick Avenue / Evergreen Avenue
8. Hancock between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
9. Harman Street between Knickerbocker / Irving Avenues
10. Himrod Street between St. Nicholas Avenue / Cypress Avenue

11. Himrod Street between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
12. Linden Street between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
13. Locust Street between Broadway / Beaver Street
14. Madison Street between Bushwick Avenue / Evergreen Avenue
15. Menahan Street between Wilson / Knickerbocker Avenue
16. Putnam Avenue between Central / Evergreen Avenue
17. Putnam Avenue between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
18. Schaeffer Street between Wilson Avenue / Central Avenue
19. Schaeffer Street between Wilson Avenue / Knickerbocker Avenue
20. Schaeffer Street between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
21. Stanhope Street between Central Avenue / Evergreen Avenue
22. Stanhope Street between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
23. Starr Street between Knickerbocker Avenue / Irving Avenue
24. Weirfield Street between Broadway / Bushwick Avenue

Only seven (7) block closures will be allowed per day. No rain dates are available and no closure will exceed 8pm and sound permits will not exceed 7pm.

It is also suggested that each applicant apply online. Applicants can gain access to the SAPO by going to the Community Board #4 website at [www.nyc.gov/brooklyn4](http://www.nyc.gov/brooklyn4) and click RESOURCES or the SAPO website at [www.nyc.gov/sapo](http://www.nyc.gov/sapo).

Should you have any difficulty in applying the Community Board #4 staff can assist you.

Bridge Street Development Corporation is offering a night of empowerment on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6:30pm location 456D Nostrand Avenue. HPD and DOB staff will be on hand to answer general questions pertaining to property violations, permit and inspections.

Baseball seasons is approaching and the PRC will have a meeting on Monday, February 28, 2011 at the District's office: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 6pm

### **Committee Reports**

Health Hospital & Human Services (HHH), Ms. Mary McClellan – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, February, 7, 2011 at 4PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Items Discussed:

- 1) Social Security Administration Process
- 2) NYC Department of Health an Mental Hygiene – Green Carts
- 3) Wyckoff height Medical Center – Presentation on Wyckoff Hospital new “Smart Card” an innovation that can save time and hassle in registration and admission throughout the hospital. Once the “Smart Card” is swiped it can replace most of the forms needed for registration. The card contains a security encoded chip with all the information required for registration, thus saving time on every visit. Ms. Luna, in her presentation stated that in an emergency situation the “Smart Card” is very valuable.

A hospital representative will be willing to discuss the “Smart Card” at greater detail on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 Board Meeting. The District Manage enclosed a small booklet titled “Introducing the New Wyckoff Smart Card!” that answered some frequently asked questions regarding the card.

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLU), Ms. Martha Brown – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 6:30PM

Items Discussed:

HPD gave the HLUC an update of scatter site housing that is being developed for Bushwick by Shelter Rock Developers, LLC. This new building program falls under the “New Foundations Program” which falls under the City of New York – HPD. These homes are scattered throughout the Bushwick Community thus the name “scatter-site”. The homes will be three family homes that will sell for approximately between \$449,000 and \$549,000.

Each home will have three bedroom units and the inside layouts are typical of the other homes produced by Shelter Rock Developers.

Each of the units will have its own heating, gas and electric systems. The income levels according to the AMI for our metropolitan area will be geared to those earning approximately \$57,000 per annum to \$68,000/\$71,000 per annum to purchase the homes.

The proposed locations are:

62 Troutman Street	103 Bleecker Street
11 Dodworth Street	207 Palmetto Street
1132 Dekalb Avenue	205 Palmetto Street
84 Stanhope Street	203 Palmetto Street
1175 Greene Avenue	

The construction timeline is approximately 1 ½ years with the goal to begin in June 2011. The homes will be sold by lottery and residents of the Bushwick Community will be given 50% preference. There will be a rigorous selection process and credit checks and background checks will be run by the lenders.

The District Manager and the HLUC advised that there will be a need to be informational seminars in advance for prospective homebuyers and advice should be given will in advance as to how much money is needed for the down payment. Also now is the time to get ones credit score and finances updated and in check.

Youth and Education Committee (YEC), Ms. Virgie Jones – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 143 Himrod Street, 5:30PM

Items Discussed:

1) Achievement First Charter Schools – Ms. D. Humphrey Associate Director of External Relations

**Announcements:**

Council Member Diana Reyna & Southside United HDFC-Los Sures invite you to Celebrate Dominican Independence Day. Please join us: Friday, February 25, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at P.S. 19 – 325 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211 (Corner of Keap Street) Free face Painting for kids at 6-6:30pm. Dance contests, free raffles and much more! Please RSVP Maria Bautista at 718-963-3141

James Smith - People for Political and Economic Empowerment (P.P.E.E.): Offer training in basic construction safety, 10 hours in Osha, 4 hours in scaffolding and flagging. Training is done through Homeland Safety Inc. Job placement recruits are placed on construction jobs throughout Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. P.P.E.E. is also committed to working with community business and residents to become knowledgeable about and prepared to participate in the Local & Economic development that is taking place in their communities. Location: 1639 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11207 Phone #: 1-347-770-8343

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition: The coalition's monthly meeting is Thursday, February 17, 2011. The next meeting will be held at 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street) at 7pm.

Sharriff Geter, S & S Security Training & Services – Be eligible for immediate hiring of security officers! , 1198 Myrtle Avenue, for more information 718-919-2642

Italia Guerrero, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's Office: Board members whose term is about to expire are asked to send in their applications.

Ana Isabel Castro, RBSCC – Are you at risk of losing your home? The foreclosure prevention services program can help!!! Do not wait until it is too late!! We provide:

1. Free advise and counseling for home owners trying to modify or refinance their mortgage
2. Free legal assistance for home owners facing foreclosure

For more information call 347-985-2000 ext. 1800 or email: [afelix@rbicc.org](mailto:afelix@rbicc.org)

Angelica Flores - NYS Senator Martin Malave Dilan invites you to attend CUNY Citizenship Now! Free Citizenship Application Assistance

Experienced lawyers and immigration professionals will help evaluate your citizenship application. Saturday, March 5, 2011, 11am to 2pm. Bushwick Ascend Charter School, 751 Knickerbocker Avenue (Between Weirfield and Hancock Streets), Brooklyn, NY 11221

To RSVP or for more information please call Alexandra Pena at 718-573-1726

Karen Cherry, Congressman Ed Towns: Tax Season – Free tax service at 315 Grove Street (between: Knickerbocker & Myrtle Avenues) for person with income under \$50,000. For more information and to schedule an appointment call: 1-212-505-3482 or call Karen Cherry for more information at 1-718-272-1175

Also in attendance at the meeting were.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roll Call:** Meeting adjourned 8:10PM