

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

New Ridgewood Car Service, 1538 Gates Avenue near Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237
Livery Bill: This allows licensed TLC drivers to pick up street pedestrians.

Johnny Moreira: New Ridgewood Car Service has been in business for over 20 years. Previously they were called New Natasha Car Service after they broke away from Natasha Car Service. For more than 40 years they have been in the business of picking up passengers from the street. The new bill will allow them to pick up passengers from the street location without being ticketed by the TLC or the police. The passing of the Livery Bill Mr. Moreira says will save 6,000 teachers from losing their jobs as well stop fire houses from closing.

Why does the bill need to be passed? Mr. Moreira stated that in the 1930's the "Haas Act" bill was introduced which allowed only yellow cabs to pick up patrons from the street. At that time there were approximately 21,000 medallions and the city started reducing them because they did not feel that so many were needed. After the Great Depression and the post war era there were about 12,000 medallions available. During that time most of the medallion owners were staying in the New York City business district and not in the outer boroughs, therefore causing a need for gipsy cabs (as they were then called) to serve the public in the outer boroughs.

In 1971 the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) was established with jurisdiction over the city's medallion (yellow) taxicabs, livery cabs, "black cars", commuter vans, ambulettes and some luxury limousines. It was in 1971 that the TLC started to enforce and organize car services and thus causing car services bases to be formed. Yellow cabs now want to service the outer boroughs (Brooklyn, Staten Island, Bronx, Northern Manhattan and Queens) now that there is money to be made.

The passing of this bill will allow cab drivers who now service the outer boroughs not to have to buy medallions which can cost \$5,000 to \$1,000,000. Such cost will cause a driver to:

1. Take out a loan to buy a medallion
2. Can put them out of business because they can not afford to purchase a medallion
3. Can cause the price increase to be pass on to the riders

Mr. Moreira stated that the governor has had the bill for over 4 months and in his working with the governor he believes that the bill will be signed by him.

Mr. Johnny Moreira is asking for the governor to sign the Livery Bill and allow it to have dual usage which will allow drivers to:

- Pick up passengers from the street
- Allow customers to call the base for a driver

Cars that buy the permit must pay \$1,500 and purchase:

1. A GPS system
2. A taxis meter
3. A camera
4. Dividers

Mr. Moreira does not want the businesses that many drivers have worked so hard to accomplish to be taken away by yellow cabs or from those out side of the community.

Questions were entertained:

It is the big bases that do not deal with the community and that are against the Livery Bill; these car services have a basic starting fee of \$21.00 or more and their drivers do not live in the community.

There are two kinds of medallions; there is the owner/operator and the Medallion Fleet. Over the years many medallions once owned by individual drivers were sold to larger taxi fleets, fleet medallion are topping \$1,000,000 in 2011.

Taxi cabs servicing the outer boroughs are allowed to take a customer to the city but they are not allowed to pick up a customer from the city and bring them to the outer boroughs.

Ms. Dent thanked Mr. Moreira for presenting this important issue to the Community Board. The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted to call the first roll call at 6:40PM.

Roll Call: 24 members present constituting a quorum.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Saundria Simmons.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes. The previous meeting's minutes was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor.

Ms. Dent welcomed everyone in attendance to the Community Board #4's November 16, 2011 meeting. Due to a non-working bathroom, tonight's Community Board's meeting will be shortened, stated Ms. Dent.

The Chairperson asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Rita Pasarell Representing Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029,
Email: ritabeth@gmail.com
- 2) Italia Guerrero Representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 3) Abby Bello Representing Councilman Erik M. Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 4) Yamilka Mena Representing Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 5) Johnny Joyner Representing Senator Dilan, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 6) Barbara Medina Representing Assemblyman Rafael L. Espinal, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Zulma Novoa – NYC Dept. Of Health & Mental Hygiene, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5855
- 2) Jonathan Plaza – Wyckoff Heights Hospital, 342 Stanhope Street, 718-963-7312
- 3) Magdalena Mangual - Wyckoff Heights Hospital Medical Center, 718-508-4669
- 4) Judy Kamilhor – Brooklyn Public Library, 718-230-2014
- 5) PO White – 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1605
- 6) PO Fox – 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1609

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Raiza Torres – Assistant Program Director, Broadway House Woman's shelter, 1245 Broadway, CAMBA Organization, 718-453-4870

On behalf of the Dent and Morrow family, Ms. Dent extended a very special thanks to Community Board #4, Brooklyn Commissioner Jeffery at NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, and to New York City very own Councilman Erik Martin Dilan for making a dream a reality. On Thursday October 27, 2011 the Barry Morrow Ball field became a tangible part of history for friends, family and the community. Ms. Dent expressed appreciation and gratitude to Assemblyman Espinal, members of Community Board #4 and all of those who shared in the very special day for the Dent and Morrow family.

Ms. Dent recently had the pleasure to meet with Ms. Shacara McLaurin. Ms. McLaurin is the NYC Teen Ambassador for the national organization STOMP Out Bullying. Ms. McLaurin is from the Bushwick Community and she will address both the upcoming meetings for the Youth & Education Committee and the Civic & Religious Committee. Her story is a very compelling one and she will be making a presentation to youths in the district's schools.

Ms. Dent thanked the 2nd Vice Chair, Mrs. Victoria Fernandez for attending the Tuesday, November 1st Borough Board meeting in her behalf.

On Friday, December 2, 2011 the 83rd Precinct will host their annual fundraiser where community leaders are honored. Each year they choose outstanding leaders in various fields including from Community Board #4. This year Community Board #4's Ms. Elvena Davis is one of the honorees.

Ms. Davis is very committed to the community and all were asked to support her at this event.

A copy of the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities was attached to the Chairperson's report. Two important issues on the Expense Budget Priorities listing are:

1. Increase Manpower: 83rd Precinct, Housing Authority and Transit Authority
2. Purchase needed equipment for the Fire Department Personnel

The Chairperson requested that the community get in touch with their Elected Officials and let them know that these two priority issues are very important to the community.

Priority issue #10 (Provide additional resources for Day Care Centers) which is a issue that the Board have been working on for many years, was omitted from the Fiscal Year 2012 Adopted Budget Register Expense Budget Priorities listing concerning the 2013 Fiscal Year because monies for this priority is no longer available. In the past money for after school programs was funded by ACS, now it is being funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) or under a voucher system. Funding for this project will be put on the new budget affecting the 2014 fiscal year expense budget.

District Manager's Report:

October 24, 2011 – Attended a meeting regarding the SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) program that was hosted by Assemblyman Vito Lopez at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

October 25, 2011 – The USPS Advisory Committee Meeting – as a member of the Advisory Board the District Manager is able to take concerns back to the person in charge of the Brooklyn Borough. For concerns and/or complaints with Post Offices located in the District please supply the District Manager with the date & time the problem occurred and if possible the name of the person spoken to at the USPS office.

As of January 22, 2012 postal rates will increase. The Forever stamp will increase by 1 cent to \$.45. The new 45-cent price for Forever Stamps is among the price changes filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC).

- Letter (1 oz.) stamps will increase to 45 cents
- Letters additional ounces will be unchanged at 20 cents
- Postcards will increase by 3 cents to 32 cents
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz.) will increase by 5 cents to 85 cents
- Letters to other international destinations will increase by 7 cents to \$1.05

Prices will also change for other mailing services, including standard mail, periodicals, packaging services and extra services. Express Mail and Priority Mail will remain the same.

October 25, 2011 – Attended the Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting

October 27, 2011 – Attended the Barry Morrow: Ballfield Dedication Service

November 1, 2011 – Attended the Public Safety Committee Meeting

In lieu of the December Public Safety Meeting where the committee addresses NYS Liquor Authority Licenses, the committee will attend the Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes meeting to continue addressing the crime and quality of life issues within the 83rd Precinct area. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 3-4PM.

November 2, 2011 – Attended the Executive Committee Meeting

November 7, 2011 – Hosted the Health Hospitals and human Services Committee Meeting in the absence of the Committee's Chairperson.

November 14, 2011 – Attended a Health and Social Services Committee meeting of Community Board #5 regarding the siting of shelters, half-way houses in communities. The purpose of the meeting was to gather ideas from District Managers in Community Districts 3, 4, 8, and 16, representing Bedford Stuyvesant, Bushwick, certain parts of Crown Heights and Ocean-Hill Brownville on shelter in their communities.

November 15, 2011 –

- 1) Attended the Grand Street Settlement / Bushwick IMPACT partnership Breakfast to celebrate their collaboration and tour the Bushwick Child and family Center.
- 2) Attended the 83rd Precinct Community Council Meeting – A presentation by Mr. Marc Findler and Mr. Joe Perano from the Kings County District Attorney's Drug Enforcement Unit concerning children and illegal drug use. Literature which described the effects and packaging of marijuana, crack cocaine, cocaine and heroin was

distributed. They stressed that teen age children can be very creative while trying to keep their drug use from parents.

Parents should look for obvious signs in their children such as:

Effects of Marijuana use:

- Increase Heart Rate, Low Blood Pressure, Impairment of concentration/memory

Effects of Crack Cocaine use:

- Paranoia, Insomnia, Psychological / Mental Problems, depression or violent behavior

Effects of Cocaine use:

- Insomnia, Paranoia, Increase body temperature, Convulsions, anxiety, Restlessness, Illusions, Tremors

Effects of Heroin use:

- Risk of contracting Hepatitis and/ or HIV, Depression/Anxiety, Addiction, Physical Dependence, Decrease Kidney function, Overdose, Insomnia, Psychological/Mental Issues

If parents suspect drug use, they can have their child take a urine test. The DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) has a drug hotline number 1-888-374-DRUG

Other Issues

November 16, 2011 - NY Transit Authority, the news announced a very disturbing situation which occurred on the L train at the Myrtle Wyckoff Avenue Station. A young man was beaten by three persons while someone videoed the occurrence by use of a cell phone. According to reporters the incident occurred Tuesday, November 8th at approximately 2:00am.

Safety while traveling should be a major concern at all times. Riders are advised to be aware of their surroundings particularly during the late night hours. If at all possible do not travel alone and sit near the train conductor.

PlaNYC – The Partners of PlaNYC Schoolyards to playgrounds initiative are proud to announce that IS 383's schoolyard has opened to the public.

Committee Reports

Housing and Land Use Committee: Ms. Martha Brown, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 6PM Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor

Members Attended: Martha Brown, Anne Guiney, Gladys Puglia, Victor Villamar, Deborah Brown, Sharline Moore
Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, Anna Slatinsky and Winston Von Engel, Department of City Planning Brooklyn Office, Rob Lowe (RBSCC)

The Department of City Planning representative Ms. Anna Slatinsky discussed a short introduction to zoning in New York City.

Ms. Brown asked board members to read her minutes, look at the zoning map and to review previous material regarding zoning from past meetings.

Public Safety Committee: Ms. Barbara Smith, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 6PM Location: 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue

Members Attended: Barbara Smith, Rev. Grace Aytes, Elvena Davis, Freddy Fowler, Avellar Hansley, Linda Mckinley

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, PO Franco, Samantha Carter, Alan Heyman, Gregorio Pasan

Item Discussed:

NYS Liquor Authority Request for Licenses

- 1) Good Bye Blue Monday – Tavern located at 1087 Broadway
- 2) United Wyckoff Corp. – Restaurant located at 211 Wyckoff Avenue

The Public Safety Committee will attend the Kings County District Attorney's Meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 4:00pm

The next meeting where NYS Liquor Authority request are addressed will be at the January 2012 meeting.

Senior Citizens Committee: Ms. Saundria Simmons, Committee Chairperson, Monday, October 25, 2011 at 3pm Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street

Members Attended: Saundria Simmons

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, Assemblyman Lopez, other District Managers, Many Community Based Organizations, NYC Council Member Steve Levin, and many other NYC Council Members and/or their Staff
Item Discussed:

The SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) Program

Senior citizen tenants under rent control or rent stabilization may be entitled to an exemption from future rent increases under the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption Program. When a landlord raises the rent, tenants with SCRIE do not have to pay the increased rate. Instead of the increased rent, the landlord is eligible for an equivalent credit on his or her property taxes.

Tenant Eligibility Requirements:

- You must be age 62 or older
- You must be the head of the household (the person whose name is on the lease, or who is the “tenant of record”, or who is the older spouse of that person).
- You must live in either a rent controlled or rent stabilized apartment, or a rent regulated hotel unit.
- Your apartment or hotel unit must be your actual residence.
- Your total household income for the previous tax year can not exceed \$29,000. This refers to your household income after taxes-also known as your “aggregate disposable income.”
- Income must be disclosed for all individuals living in the apartment.
- Your monthly rent must be more than one-third of your monthly household income.

Ms. Simmons, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Committee would like to create a campaign to inform the general community that the SCRIE program is in existence by establishing an “Afternoon Seniors Day”, in which applications will be available at the Community Board #4’s office. The applicants will be allowed to fill/file applications on this day.

Volunteers for this effort will be trained before hand and some will have the ability of speaking another language such as Spanish and Chinese.

Quoting from a November 2, 2011 letter received from Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, Ms. Whitted stated that there are some problems with the program. The restructuring of the SCRIE program from the Department of Aging to the Department of Finance has created many difficulties for seniors reapplying for SCRIE. Several thousand seniors have yet to be recertified within the program and are in danger of being evicted. Even more problematical is the lack of services for walk-ins and limited resources for seniors who do not speak English. This present system discourages seniors from receiving the benefits they need, it adds to the problems society faces today such as homelessness, unemployment and threatens stability within communities.

In an effort to bring more awareness on this matter and to have further dialogue on the issues seniors are facing in regards to the administration of the SCRIE program, Assemblyman Vito Lopez as the Chair of the Housing Committee in collaboration with the Chair of the NYS Assembly Committee on Aging, Assemblywoman Joan Millman will sponsor a hearing on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 11:30am at 250 Broadway, New York, New York.

The Senior Citizens Committee Chairperson will have more information regarding the SCRIE program in the upcoming months.

Ms. Dent asked everyone to contact their Elected Officials and ask them to pass this bill. She stated that we must keep in mind that our seniors have paved the way for many and this is a time when they need the help and support. The Elected Officials will support the bill if the community let them know how important this bill is to them.

Recommendations:

Livery Bill: Assembly # 8496, State Senate #5825

Motion was made to give Mr. Johnny Moreira a letter of support in regards to the Livery Bill. The motion was made by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Mr. Cyril Joseph with the exception that the board receives a copy of the letter from Albany stating the Livery Bill State and Assembly numbers. Recommendation moved. All Board Members present were in favor.

The District Manager will furnish the Community Board with a copy of the letter that will be submitted to Ridgewood Car Service.

New Business:

Saundria Simmons: Organic vegetables vendor located on Broadway and Halsey Street. The vendor is there once a month, however starting May 2012 the vendor will be there every weekend.

Announcements:

Judy Kamilhor – Brooklyn Public Library now has new laptop computers available at the following locations for customer use: Washington Irving, Saratoga, Macon, Dekalb, Marcy, Bushwick, Brownsville and Stone Avenue Branches. In addition, customers at these locations can benefit from Computer classes: Job-readiness workshops, one-on-one job readiness sessions and staff on hand to provide assistance and answer questions. Adult patrons must have a valid library card and government issued photo I.D. Young adult patrons must have a valid library card and school I.D. Printing is available from these laptops; computers are for use in the library only. For more information, visit the BPL online at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or call 718-230-2100

Abby Bello, representing Councilman Erik M. Dilan: Announced that he will send the District Manager information on home foreclosures on November 17, 2011.

Yamilka Mena Representing Councilmember Diana Reyna: Speaker Christine C. Quinn and Councilwoman Diana Reyna hosting a Free! Self Defense Training Class on November 29, 2011, 6pm-8pm at the Bushwick United Methodist Church located at 1139 Bushwick Avenue between Madison Street & Putnam Avenue. There have been a number of sexual assaults over the past several months through our neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Learn Techniques to defend yourself. For more information call 718-963-3141

Citizens Committee for New York City – New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods: Grants for Community Improvement Projects Application deadline is January 31, 2012. Grants will be awarded of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects addressing a range of issues that they identify as important to them. For more information contact: www.citizensnyc.org/grants or call 212-822-9580/9568

Italia Guerrero, Borough President Marty Markowitz: Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz presents “The Brooklyn Parent Help Guide to Public Education New York City”. The purpose of this guide is to provide instant access to both websites and phone numbers at the Department of Education that will help you find your way to the services you need. Information such as enrollment, how to transfer, how to find your zone school or if you need to speak to someone about the many choices of programs available for your child and much more can be found in this little green and white booklet. The information is for Preschool to High School. For the electronic version of the Brooklyn Parent Help Guild booklet please go to the BP website at www.brooklyn-usa.org.

Amy Blumsack, ¾ Housing Organizing Project: A Tenant Union for residences that live or use to live in ¾ housing. This organization does not represent the owners of the ¾ houses, but represents their tenants that live there or use to live there. For more information contact: amy@neighborstogether.org or 718-498-7256

Jonathan Plaza, Wyckoff Heights Hospital Medical Center (Prevention Services): You are cordially invited to World AIDS Day 2011, Thursday, December 1st. Please join to reflect & show our Enduring Commitment to “Getting to Zero”.

- Zero New HIV infections
- Zero Discrimination
- Zero AIDS-related deaths

Complimentary dinner & refreshments will be served starting at 5:30pm. The program event will start promptly at 6:00pm. Please RSVP by November 25, 2011 by calling 718-963-7312/7130

Sgt. Tony Caggiano, NYPD Community Affairs Brooklyn Outreach Unit, One Police Plaza, 718-368-6507
They have 2 officers:

- 1) Whitman Ingersoll House that covers Brooklyn North
- 2) Kingsborough Community College that covers Brooklyn South.

The Community Affairs Brooklyn Outreach Unit is a little different than the Precincts Community Affairs Officers; they are like the parent of the Community Affairs Units. The 83rd Precinct’s Community Affairs Unit reports to both their Commanding Officer and to his Commanding Officer.

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

Nadine Whitted, Community Board #4 District Manager: December Holiday Party Celebration
Holiday Committee Members that will work with the Ms. Whitted and the Chairperson, Ns. Dent:

Cyril Joseph
Odolph Wright
Lucy Belardo
Raul Rubio
Saundria Simmons
Vernedeaner Shell
Luisa Jose-Olea
Joanne Grant

Cyril Joseph, Linden/Bushwick Community Garden: Hosting their Annual Festival on Saturday, December 10, 2011, 5:00pm. All are welcomed!!!

Odolph Wright, Miniature Golf Course: Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, December 2, 2011, 6:00pm

Location: Broadway & Putnam Avenue

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

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

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:00PM