

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

Ms. Martha Brown the 1st Vice Chairperson chaired in the absence of Ms. Dent.

-Public Hearing Items-

New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)/New York City Department of Design & Construction (DDC) – School Safety Program: P.S. 106, 1314 Putnam Avenue Corner of Wilson Avenue. R.B.A. Group Consultants- Randall Ide and Joseph Menzer

Mr. Menzer spoke about the implementation of school safety improvements at the PS 106. The school is located at 1314 Putnam Avenue in Brooklyn. The scope includes new upgraded curbs and sidewalks, pedestrian crossing time, high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian ramps, speed reducers, street lights and traffic signals and landscaping. The purpose of the School safety engineering Project is to assist the New York City Department of Transportation and it's School safety Engineering Program in providing a safe walking environment for children walking to and from school and to improve safety conditions around schools within New York City. Traffic conditions around school, including speeding and high traffic volumes, affect children crossing streets and being picked up and dropped off. One of the primary goals of the program is to improve traffic and pedestrian safety at and around the City's elementary and intermediate schools. DOT examines accidents histories around the city's 1,471 elementary and middle schools and established an initial list of 135 priority schools to be considered for traffic safety improvements. Each priority school underwent thorough study that included outreach to each principal, meeting with parents and other interested parties, collection and analysis of data concerning traffic conditions and student travel patterns and development, evaluation and approval of comprehensive short-and-long-term pedestrian safety improvement measures.

This is Phase 2 of the Construction of School Safety Recommendations around 12 schools, with P.S. 106 being one of them.

The project will concentrate on the 2 intersections on Wilson Avenue and the 2 intersections on Knickerbocker Avenue on the school site.

Excerpts from the Original School Safety Report:

Traffic Operation and Modes of Travel – P.S. 106

- 3% of the students attending the school use yellow school buses
- 1% of the students us MTA bus or subway
- 2% of the students get dropped off
- 94% of the students walk

Accident Summary – Within 700 ft. radius of the school (total accidents/pedestrian/fatalities/school related)

This summary was taken during school hours 8am-3pm and on school days

- 1998-2000 NYS DMV Summary (88 / 14 / 0 / 6)
- 2000-2004 NYPD Summary (161 / 25 / 0 / 6)

Analysis / Recommendations – P.S. 106

- Several Accidents
- Speeding on Wilson Avenue

Recommendation:

- Install Traffic Calming Measures

Mr. Randall Ide continues the presentation by explaining the design plans for P.S. 106:

Neckdowns is a curb that extends 6ft into the pedestrian's crosswalk. This will narrow the distant the pedestrian will be in the intersection and it will also narrow the roadway in order to calm traffic down.

Two neckdowns will be placed on Knickerbocker Avenue which is a one way thoroughfare between Putnam and Cornelia Street. Two other neckdowns will be placed on Wilson Avenue between Putnam Avenue and Cornelia Street.

Schedule:

Summer 2012 – Final Design Complete

Winter 2012 – Advertise / Bid

Spring 2013 – Award / Registration

Summer 2013 – Begin Construction

Schools which are also being study and/or previously had the traffic calming measures installed in the Bushwick Community are:

1. I.S. 296 (Halsey School)
2. I.S. 383 (Philippa Schuyler School)
3. J.H.S. 291 (Roland Hayes School)
4. P.S. 86 (Irvington School)
5. P.S. 106 (The Edward E. Hale School)
6. P.S. 116 (Elizabeth L. Farrell School)
7. P.S. 299 (Thomas Warren Field School)
8. P.S. 384 (Frances Carter School)
9. P.S. 274 (Kosciusko School)

Ms. Martha Brown thanked Mr. Ide and Mr. Menzer, The Department of Transportation and New York City Department of Design and Construction for their presentation.

The 1st Vice Chairperson, Ms. Martha Brown 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:

Ms. Brown asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Gladys Puglla-Jimenez. All board members were in favor.

The 1st Vice Chairperson Ms. Martha Brown welcomed everyone in attendance to the Community Board #4's January 18, 2012 meeting.

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

- 1) Alberto Gonzales Representing Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 2) Karen Cherry Representing Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands Avenue Office, 718-272-1175
- 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) Michael Olmeda Representing Senator Martin Dilan, 786 Jamaica 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) Magdalena Mangual - Wyckoff Heights Hospital Medical Center, 718-508-4669
- 3) Judy Kamilhor – Brooklyn Public Library, 718-230-2014
- 4) Sgt. Caggiano - NYPD Community Affairs Brooklyn Outreach Unit, One Police Plaza, 718-368-6507
- 5) PO Franco - 83rd Precinct Community Affairs Unit, 718-574-1697
- 6) Ben Colombo – Department of Buildings, 210 Joralemon Street, 718-802-3726
- 7) FDNY – Battalion 28, 392 Himrod Street, 718-965-8328

District Manager's Report:

Ms. Whitted brought attention to the recent fires in Bushwick. Sunday, January 15th there was a fire on Decatur Street where a little 7 year old boy lost his life, and on January 17th there was a fire on Himrod Street and Cypress

Avenue. The District Manager asked that everyone be careful when using heaters, lighting candles or utilizing stoves for heat. Please call 311 if you are having a heating issue so that they can assist you.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012 there will be a community meeting at I.S 296 to talk about the schools closing. The school has been recently renamed after the community board's former Chairperson Mrs. Anna Gonzales. The meeting will be held at the school which is located at 125 Covert Street (between Central & Evergreen Avenues) at 6:00PM. All concern persons are asked to attend.

The District Manager met with the operators of the Masonic Temple located at Bushwick & Gates Avenues. From the outside the building looks like a landmark building, however there is much needed work to be done on the inside. The members would like to let the community know that they are still there and that they are viable. It was suggested to them that they get involved by coming to the various meetings. To let the community know that they are trying to reorganize it was suggested that they do something that would help the seniors in the area or the community.

It was noted that no member from the Masonic Temple was present at tonight's community board meeting.

The Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC) will be scheduled to have a meeting soon and notices will be mailed out shortly.

The Health, Hospitals and Human Services Committee (HHH) will be scheduled to have a presentation from the NYC Department of Health regarding HIV and AIDS and the impact that it is having on the community.

The Housing Land Use Committee (HLU) will have its next meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue.

Committee Reports

Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee (EPT): Mr. Eliseo Ruiz, Committee Chairperson, Thursday, January 5, 2012, 10:00AM Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor

Members Attended: Eliseo Ruiz

Others in Attendance: District Manager Nadine Whitted, Willie Morales (Community Associate), Glorybee Taveras (DDC), Randell Ide (RBA Group), Kim Lua (DDC), Jorge Tua (DDC), Hanan Bashjarnish (DOT), Joseph Menzer (RBA Group)

Items Discussed:

NYC Department of Transportation Safe Routes to Schools – HWCSCH3E1 – P.S. 106, Edward E. Hale School

Ms. Martha Brown motioned to accept the Public Hearing Agenda Item regarding the NYC DOT/DDC School Safety Program Proposal for the Curb Extension at P.S. 106, located at 1314 Putnam Avenue on the corner of Wilson /Knickerbocker Avenues and the vicinity thereof.

The motion was second by Mr. Omar Lopez. All members present were in favor, motion was passed.

Public Safety Committee (PSC): Ms. Barbara Smith, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 6PM Location: 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue

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

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, DI Capasso & PO Franco (83rd Precinct), Yury Bekerman, Benjamin Warren, Lisa Gartner, Felix Garcia, Martha Rosado, Julia Huffman, Juan Vargas, Bienvenido Paulino, Chad Hensel, Derek Vernon, Jay Zimmerman, Patrick Agard

Item Discussed:

Request for NYS Liquor Authority Licenses

- 1) Baby Cobra Coalition – 6 Wyckoff Avenue Recommendation: On Hold
- 2) El Castillo Bar & Restaurant – 189 Wilson Avenue Recommendation: Approved with conditions
- 3) Dinorah's Bar & Grill – 1260 Myrtle Avenue Recommendation: Denied
- 4) Johnson's 369Corp – 369 Troutman Street Recommendation: On Hold
- 5) J.P.P. Industries, LLC – 1338 Bushwick Avenue Recommendation: Approved
- 6) Yursia LLC Restaurant/Bar – 247 Starr Street Recommendation: Approved
- 7) Restaurant (Name to be determined) – 4 Stanwix/44 Jefferson Street Recommendation: Approved
- 8) Golden Mullet LLC Restaurant – 1084 Flushing Avenue Recommendation: Approved

- 9) Acosta Food Corp. – 323 Linden Street Recommendation: Denied
- 10) The Bodega Tavern – 24 St. Nicholas Avenue Recommendation: Approved

Additional Recommendations:

Letters will be written to the New York State Liquor Authority concerning the following two locations at the request of the 83rd Precinct.

- 1) Mango's Tropical Lounge – 15 Jefferson Street
- 2) Cucharamama – 234 Knickerbocker Avenue

The District Manager stated that the board is concern with protecting the community. Any establishment known to be presenting a problem in the community and they have a NYS Liquor License please feel free to contact the Community Board's office with your concerns. Please call Ms. Whitted at 718-628-8400, 315 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237

Establishments that have a denied recommendation at present can be changed to an approved recommendation at a later date.

The 83rd Pct. Community Affairs Unit will follow up on any complaints concerning establishments that should not be selling liquor or causing any type of disturbance in the community. Please call Police Officer Franco at 718-574-1697

Mr. Omar Lopez stated that he felt/noticed that during meetings some people can get a little long winded and seem to talk in circles. In an effort to allow everyone to pay attention to what is being discussed he suggested that everyone keep their comments as brief as possible, keep it efficient and keep it moving.

Ms. Brown responded some evenings we can move along when people know what is going on; other times when some do not know what is going on taking the extra time to explain is necessary. The only question that is a stupid question is the one that is not asked she noted. So taking the time to do some explaining and ultimately, getting home a little later is fine; because this is a forum for our community. We do not want anyone leaving the meeting not understanding what went on and then calling the next day saying that they did not understand. We want everyone to be fully briefed on what goes on at our meetings.

Recommendations:

Mr. Cyril Joseph made a motion to accept the Public Safety's report as read. The motion was second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

Mr. Austen Martinez stated that he'd attended a meeting that Councilmember Eric Dilan attended along with the other council members that cover the Broadway area. Mr. Martinez stated that two of the council members were not aware of the lack of lighting on the Broadway towards the Eastern Parkway area. Mr. Martinez stated that Councilmember Dilan and other elected offices will put their monies together so that there will be proper lighting in that area. He believes that in a couple of months there will be a change on Broadway.

The District Manager responded by stating that the Community Board appreciates members going to other meetings because that is how we can get information. The board will stay close to Mr. Martinez as he communicates with the Elected Officials that were at that meeting so that we can get those lights that we have been requesting for 10 years.

Mr. Victor Villamar: Tax laws have changed!!! Make sure that your account/bookkeeper keeps proper records. His office can help.

Do you know of any undocumented Ecuadorians? The Ecuadorian government has a lot of new benefits that can help them with their situation. For more information call his office at: 347-995-3136 located at 695 Knickerbocker Avenue

Announcements:

Assembly Member Rafael L. Espinal Jr.: Hosting a Town Hall Meeting on "Public Safety" Informing the community about their agencies and working together to identify solutions. Guest Speakers: Senator Martin M. Dilan, Charles I. Hynes' District Attorney Office, Deputy Chief of 75th Precinct Jeffery B. Maddrey and Councilman Erik Dilan

Join us and let your voice be heard on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30pm, Cypress Hills-Fulton St. Senior Center, 3208 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208

Judy Kamilhor, Brooklyn Public Library: "What Do You Want To Plug Into? Making the News" Mondays January 23, 30 & February 6, 2012 at 4:00 -5:45pm Washington Irving Library, 360 Irving Avenue In this three-week series, explore what makes information news, who creates it and how news is changing with today's media? Participants will use current media such as print, video, podcasts and blogs to create their own news reports on subjects important to them. For students 13 to 17 years of age. For more information, visit the BPL online at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or call 718-628-8378

PO Franco, 83rd Precinct: "Cash for Guns"! Turn in an operable handgun, no questions asked. Saturday, January 28, 2012, turn in a weapon and receive a \$200 bank card for operable handguns and receive a \$20 bank card for operable rifles and shotguns. Drop off site open 10:00am to 4:00pm at Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, 1200 Dean Street (corner of Nostrand Avenue), Brooklyn, New York 11216, 718-467-0740

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) How do I bring a gun to the drop off site? Guns must be placed in a plastic or paper bag or box
- 2) Can I transport the gun in a car? If transporting the gun by car, the gun must be transported in the trunk of the car.
- 3) When do I get the cash card? After the gun is screened by officers and determined to be operable, you will be issued a cash card.
- 4) Can I surrender a rifle or shotgun? Yes, rifles and shotguns will be accepted. However, the payout for rifles and shotguns is only \$20.
- 5) How many guns can I surrender? You may surrender as many guns as you wish, but you will only receive payment for up to three guns.
- 6) Is there a phone number to call for more information? Yes, you can call 311 for information regarding the Brooklyn Gun Buy Back Program to Reduce Violent Crime.
- 7) Can any member of the public surrender a gun? Active or retired law enforcement officers and licensed gun dealers are not eligible to participate in the program.

Trenise Wright, Save the Date!!! "A Black Tie Affair": Saturday, April 14, 2012 for the First Pastoral Anniversary Banquet of Pastor Odolph Wright. For more information please contact Trenise Wright at 718-825-4672 Register at jubilee.2012@yahoo.com the first 50 people that register and attend the event will receive a free gift.

Heidi Kleister, Boswyck Farms: Boswyck Farms is a hydroponic research, development and education company based in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Their goal is to feed the brain, the body and the workforce through community empowerment to grow fresh produce. Ms. Kleister thanked the community because in one month they have raised \$16,540 to fund the greenhouse and to get them started. On February 25, 2012 there will be a tour and an after party at the Bushwick Campus High School located at 400 Irving Avenue For more information see www.egostationny.org

Maggie Finn, Bushwick Starr: Gonna See a Movie Called "Gunga Din" starting January 25-February 11, 2012, Wednesdays-Saturdays. Preview January 24 (\$10) all shows are \$15 and Veterans are Free Located at 207 Starr Street, Brooklyn, NY, for more information: www.thebushwickstarr.org An examination of aural stories collected from veterans layered against a visual journey that follows the archetypal characters of American War Film, Gonna See a Movie Called "Gunga Din" examines the cinematic depiction of the American soldier juxtaposed with stories shared by men and women who have served.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: At some point in life, we all need to reach out for a helping hand...Are you ready to see how we can help you? We provide the following services:

- Supportive Counseling and Referrals to mental health care, GED programs, job training & more
- Screening for Depression
- Screening for Substance and Alcohol Abuse
- Confidential Rapid HIV Testing
- Health Education & Free Condoms
- Free Services

342 Stanhope Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 (across from the Emergency Room) Monday to Friday 9am-4pm

Yamilka Mena, Representing Councilmember Diana Reyna - Citizen Community for New York, CBO can receive a grant for up to \$4,000 to start a project to improve your community. For more information contact Wilfredo Florentino at 212-822-9568 or call Yamilka Mena at 718-963-3141
The deadline is 1/31/2012

Local Sports Club opened at 435 Bushwick Avenue and Flushing for more information call 347-465-6305

Borough President Marty Markowitz: Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz presents "Calling All Sweethearts!" If you and your spouse are Brooklynites who have been married 50 or more years please join Borough President Marty Markowitz and Jamie Snow-Markowitz for a valentine's party to celebrate Brooklyn's senior sweethearts. Monday, February 13, 2012 at 1:00pm, El Caribe Country Club, 5945 Strickland Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Interested MUST RSVP to attend!!! RSVP:shd@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or by phone at 718-802-3530

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition: The coalition's monthly meeting is Thursday, January, 19, 2012. The next meeting will be held at 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street) at 7pm.

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

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

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:20PM