

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – April 28, 2009

### Attendance

David Alexander	Yolanda Matthews (E)
Renee Archer (A)	Sadie McNamara
Orlando Aupont (A)	Ted McQueen
Octavius Bamberg (A)	Rev. Joseph Norton
Sissi Benitez (A)	Marie Pierre
Josephine Blakeley (E)	Rev. Devon Ponds
Patricia Boone (A)	Mattie Pusey
Essie Duggan (A)	Melaine Rochford (E)
Samantha Dunn (A)	Linda Sanders (E)
Ivory Ellison (A)	Lashon Segar (A)
Helen Giles (A)	Tyrone Thomas (A)
Shirley Gonsalves	Ernestine Turner
Sarah Hall (E)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Jessie Hilliard	Alice Vines
Kofi Hormeku	Annie Walkes (E)
Michael Howard (E)	Herman Winston
Allene Ingram	Hazel Younger
Daisy Jackson	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Javonn Johnson (A)	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Troy Johnson (A)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Pamela Junior (A)	Christopher Lundy for Hon. Edolphus Towns
Eula Key	Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Danny King (A)	Nathan Bradley for Hon. John Sampson
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Mel Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Shawn Lewis (A)	Ry-Ann Hermon for Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Deborah Mack (E)	David Mann for Hon. Charles Barron
James Mack	Cathleen McCadden for Hon. Darlene Mealy

### MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and an invocation was said by Rev. Joseph Norton.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to waive the reading of last month's minutes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted two articles found in her report. The first was an article concerning the Summer Youth Employment Program. The second article highlighted concerned the sale of property tax or water/sewer bill liens by the City of New York.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Kofi Hormeku, and carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Younger congratulated our Municipal Arts Society Citimap Youth Worker, Mr. Dimitri Bartholomew, on his success in winning a recent honor and asked him to share with the audience the reason for the award.

Mr. Bartholomew stated that the award was given because of his entry in a graphic arts competition. The competition had three choices in media: web design, PowerPoint presentation, or photography. He selected PowerPoint for his medium and movies as his subject matter. He showed his winning presentation to the audience.

Chairperson Younger congratulated him again and recognized Ms. Corrine Turner for her efforts as his mentor in the Citimap Program.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Erin Maehr from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Maehr stated that she is an Urban Forrester with the Parks Department and is here tonight to further discuss what the Parks Department is doing to green the "Big Apple". New York City's landscape is made up of two primary categories - gray features and green features. The gray

features are the impervious areas such as concrete buildings and roads, and the green features are trees, shrubs, grass, and soil. Sixty-two percent of the City's landscape is made up of gray areas. Thirty-eight percent consist of green areas.

There are currently 5.2 million trees in New York City which represents a canopy cover of 24% for all five boroughs. The canopy cover for the Borough of Brooklyn is 21%, and is 15%, and 12% for Brownsville and Ocean Hill, respectively.

The canopy cover provides essential benefits for residents. These benefits include improving air quality, moderating climate (This reduces the cost of cooling and heating our homes and emissions placed in our environment by energy plants.), preventing storm water runoff, improving human health, both physically and mentally, and creating community pride.

Leaf area and canopy size have a direct correlation to benefits derived from the trees – a large healthy tree removes nearly seventy percent more pollutants from the air than a small or new tree. New York City summer air temperatures averages six to eight degrees higher than surrounding areas due to the urban island effect of all the gray areas that absorb and retain heat.

Annually, New York City trees remove 2,200 tons of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen monoxide, and particulate matter. These pollutants are associated within an increase in cardio-vascular and pulmonary diseases such as asthma.

On Earth-Day 2007, Mayor Bloomberg proposed planting one-million new trees. This is being done through partnerships between municipal, non-profit, and corporate entities. The plan is being implanted over the course of ten years. Trees will be planted on both public and private properties. Parks will plant two hundred thousand new trees, of which seventy thousand will be planted in Brooklyn. They are also expanding the City's urban forest by twenty percent, reforesting two thousand acres of park land, and creating 800 new GreenStreets. Sixteen percent of the new trees will be planted on the streets and other right-of-way areas. Forty percent will be planted in front of single-family homes, New York City schoolyards, botanical gardens, and other governmental properties. Their goal is to raise the stocking level (any location where a tree can be planted) from seventy-four percent to one hundred percent. The Brooklyn stocking level is currently sixty-eight percent.

There are many constraints to planting trees. Some of the constraints are the location of a building's entrance, the existence of another tree, streetlights, traffic control devices, regulatory signs, utility fixtures, and overall property structure. Parks typically tries to plant large canopy trees whenever possible. This is sometimes precluded by the existence of overhead wires. In those locations, they plant under-wire trees - trees that will not grow to over thirty-five feet in height. Attempts are made to maximize tree-pit size to five feet by ten feet to allow for healthy root growth while minimizing sidewalk trip hazards and aides in the absorption of storm water.

Upwards of sixty species including under-wire species are planted. By planting a variety of species they insure that blight (such as the Asian long-horned beetle) will not decimate the city's tree population. Trained Foresters survey the sites and select species that will thrive in their locations.

Once trees are planted, tree guards may be installed around the pit. However, Parks does not provide this service or furnish the guards. Individuals may contact the Borough President's Office which offers tree contracts every so often.

Trees are not required to be maintained by property owners. The City cares for the trees and they are under guarantee by the contractors for two years from the date of installation. If a newly planted tree dies, it will be replaced. Trees are pruned on a seven-year cycle. If you should feel that a specific tree is in need of pruning, you should call 3-1-1. The tree will be inspected and upon inspection the inspector will determine if immediate attention is required.

Other forestry requests that can be made through 3-1-1 include the removal of dead trees, tree stump removal, insect infestation, disease, and decay.

New trees are being planted throughout the City and their benefits outweigh their liabilities.

Someone asked if Parks has any programs that will involve young people in the tree planting process?

Ms. Maehr stated that they do offer stewardship programs and will visit groups upon request.

Ms. Maehr responded to the following questions that arose from her previous presentation to the Board:

Question 1: If a property owner objects to a tree being planted, will the City proceed to plant it? Will consideration be given to a senior citizen who doesn't want the tree planted?

Answer: An objection to a tree being planted at a particular location may be submitted to the Mayor's Office, however, the tree will most likely to be planted regardless to property owner's objection. It is felt the greater benefit to the City as a whole outweighs the desire of a single individual's objection.

Question 2: What species of trees will be planted? Can the property owner select the species?

Answer: A specific species cannot be promised. She does try to take the property owner wishes regarding species into consideration.

Question 3: What assurance can you provide that tree roots will not get into the pipes and break the sidewalk?

Answer: No assurance can be provided. Tree roots are typically found in the first eighteen inches of the soil and pipes are located below six feet. Roots will not enter pipes unless there is an existing entry point.

Question 4: Who determines where the trees are planted? What are the criteria?

Answered during tonight's presentation.

Question 5: Is advance notice given to property owners before a site is selected? If not, why?

Answer: Poster and fliers are normally posted in the area and white tees are usually painted onto the sidewalk where pits will be dug.

Question 6: Who will be responsible for pruning the trees and other care needed to ensure that the trees are maintained?

Answered during tonight's presentation.

Question 7: If the tree dies, will the tree be replaced? How soon?

Answered during tonight's presentation.

Question 8: Will fences (tree guards) be placed around the trees to prevent the curbing of dogs?

Answered during tonight's presentation.

Someone asked whose responsibility is it when roots enter pipes?

Ms. Maehr stated that it is the property owner's responsibility.

Chairperson Younger asked why should the property owner bear the cost of repair if the tree roots are supposed be in the first eighteen inches of soil?

Rev. Joseph Norton stated that overall he thinks the planting of trees is a good idea. One of the things he heard mentioned tonight was a sidewalk repair program. Does this mean that the City will assume responsibility for sidewalks that are damaged by street trees?

Ms. Maehr stated that sidewalk damage should be reported to 3-1-1 who will forward the report to the Forestry Division. An Urban Forrester will inspect the site and rate the damage. Based upon the rating, it is prioritized. The most urgent items are completed first but all will be repaired in time.

Rev. Norton stated the he asked the question because in the past, property owners would be fined for failure to maintain the sidewalk even if the damage was caused by a city tree. Will the owner

still be charged for the repair of the sidewalk?

Ms. Erin Roche of the Department of Parks and Recreation stated that damage to sidewalks by tree roots is easily identifiable and the City will not charge a property owner for this type of repair.

Chairperson Younger asked if protocol is for the City to repair the roots and leave the repair of the concrete to the property owner.

Ms. Roche stated that this is not the case. If the sidewalk damage is caused by the tree (this is not unusual, based upon the type of trees and the pit sizes that were used twenty years ago) they will take measures to make the sidewalk safe. They now avoid pruning roots as this tends to destabilize the tree.

Chairperson Younger asked how then are sidewalks made safe?

Ms. Roche stated that several technologies are employed, depending on the situation. The area can be ramped or the tree pit may be enlarged,

Mr. Tony Rosa of the Department of Parks and Recreation stated that the idea is to remove the trip hazard without causing harm to the stability of the tree.

Chairperson Younger stated that it is hard to envision how the hazard is removed without splicing the tree roots. She thinks that this is a matter that should be investigated further by the Board.

Mr. Rosa suggested that a meeting with the Parks Department, in conjunction with Ms. Ronda Messer of the Department of Transportation, can be arranged.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu asked who, if anyone, may plant flowers or shrubs in tree pits?

Ms. Roche stated that residents are free to plant around the trees.

Rev. Ukaegbu asked if the funds for Beautify Brooklyn are available for this purpose?

Ms. Roche stated that she is not familiar with the program.

Someone stated that with the additional trees there will be additional leaves in the fall and many of our property owners are senior citizens on fixed-incomes and the added burden of cleaning up the leaves will be a hardship. Will additional bags for collecting the leaves be distributed to property owners?

Ms. Roche stated that the Department of Sanitation is responsible for the collection of leaves during the fall. They generally set certain dates for the collection of leaves. She suggested visiting the Department of Sanitation's website ([nyc.gov/sanitation](http://nyc.gov/sanitation)) for additional information.

Ms. Allene Ingram stated that trees on her block are overgrown to the extent that they are encroaching into some of the homes on the block. In some cases, residents cannot open their windows because of the trees. One resident was fined for self-pruning a tree. It appears that the City is unable to keep up with the pruning of the current tree stock. How will they be able to keep up with new trees?

Mr. Rosa asked if the trees were reported to 3-1-1?

Ms. Ingram stated that they have been reported on many occasions.

Chairperson Younger stated that she appreciates the work and dedication of the Parks Department representatives present this evening. However, more needs to be answered. She requested that they return to their offices and inform their superiors of the community's desire to meet with someone with the power to act upon the community's concerns and not just direct them to 3-1-1.

Ms. Genese Morgan, member of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Thursday, April 16th, 2009 members of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) met with Woody Pascal, Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Liquor Authority, to discuss the

procedures for applying and maintaining a liquor license in New York State. One of the items discussed was the two hundred feet rule. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Law prohibits certain licenses from being issued if the location of the establishment is on the same street and within 200 feet of a building that is used exclusively as a school, church, synagogue or other place of worship. This restriction is commonly called the 200 feet rule and applies to any retail establishment where liquor will be sold for on premises consumption and any retail establishment where liquor or wine will be sold for consumption off the premises.

The Committee is continuously working on revitalization plans for the shopping area along Belmont Avenue and is proud that the storefront located at 5 Belmont Avenue has been occupied by a new business. This address was previously listed on the vacant storefront canvass. Please continue to support the existing merchants on Belmont Avenue.

Additionally, the Committee is happy to announce that Chanel Haliburton is the newest member of the EDC, please join them in welcoming her to the Committee.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that members of the Committee met with representatives of New Beginnings, Inc. on April 15, 2009 regarding their proposal to establish a comprehensive mental and primary healthcare facility at 1534 Broadway (corner of Hancock Street).

The primary purpose of establishing New Beginnings health treatment services is to ensure that the residents housed in the 10 transitional houses, sponsored by Forever USA, receive comprehensive mental, substance abuse, and primary healthcare services. According to the representatives, while New Beginning's primary focus is to provide services for the residents housed in Forever USA facilities, all comprehensive treatment and vocational services will be available to all residents of Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

The organization is seeking a letter of support from Community Board #16 to establish a comprehensive mental and primary healthcare facility at 1534 Broadway.

At this time, Mr. Lawrence Watts, Program Developer for New Beginnings, Inc., was requested to come forward and elaborate on their proposal for 1534 Broadway.

Mr. Watts stated that the proposed location was selected largely due to the statistical data found in reports provided to them by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. They know that the Board has gone to great lengths to address the health needs of the residents, but there is still a large portion of the community who are not being served. They believe that while there are many programs in the community, there is an insufficient number of comprehensive programs such as the one they seek to establish.

They looked at several locales and the site at 1534 Broadway, which has over 10,000 square feet of space, will allow them to offer both mental health and vocational counseling. The building is also near public transportation and this makes it convenient for the clients to get there. They will also transport clients and assure that they do not loiter in the community. New Beginnings will not be a place where clients receive short consultations and then sent on their way. They will engage their clients from three to four hours daily.

They believe that if they are going to be in a community they need to work with that community. They have also asked the Community Board to designate anyone of their choosing to become a member of the Board of New Beginnings. It is important to them that there is communication between New Beginnings and the community. They have also asked Community Board #16 to select individuals to be members of a Community Advisory Board that will ensure that they provide the services needed by the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Mr. James Mack, and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Resources Committee.

Chairperson Younger stated that New Beginnings' request for a letter of support from the Board to establish a comprehensive mental and primary healthcare facility at 1534 Broadway will not be voted upon tonight because the Board lacks a quorum. The matter will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met with representatives from Poko Partners, LLC. on April 14, 2009 regarding their proposal to renovate the former Loews' Pitkin Theatre building at 1501 Pitkin Avenue between Legion Street and Saratoga Avenue.

Poko is proposing to create 66 units of rental housing and 73,000 square feet of retail space. Conway Stores will be the anchor tenant.

Poko applied for a variance to the Board of Standards and Appeals to waive the required accessory parking (23 spaces) for the residential units of this mixed use building and the variance was granted.

Contrary to the Board of Standards and Appeals' decision to grant a waiver of the parking, the Committee empathically stated to Poko's representatives that there should be some parking for the residential units given that there is limited on street parking in the area.

Their response was that if they provide parking it would eliminate most of the retail space and the project needs the income from the retail space to be successful.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson, and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

Chairperson Younger requested that the Board members read the Parks and Recreation Committee report which was submitted by the Committee Chairperson, Mr. Kofi Hormeku, and included in their folders. Additional copies can be found on tonight's distribution table.

A motion was made by Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that on April 8, 2009, members of the Committee held a meeting to review some outstanding issues and plan an effective education strategy to ensure compliance and enhance the quality of life in our community.

A new Department of Sanitation combo truck picks up both the paper and bottles/plastics on one trip on the scheduled days. This is a new cost cutting strategy for the City. There has been great improvement in the general upkeep of our community. However, appropriate recycling and garbage disposal by residents of multiple dwelling buildings and businesses are still not at par. The use of containerization for multiple dwelling buildings and private carters for businesses are required for solid waste disposal and will be enforced.

If we as community members do our part, then we can honestly hold the Departments of Sanitation and Environmental Protection accountable.

As a part of the Committee's plan to educate the community at the Community Board meetings, a pamphlet entitled: "*Grease Disposal Tips to Help the City's Environment*" was disseminated. Ms. Marie Pierre, member of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, highlighted information from the pamphlet, including the following do's and don'ts.

**DO NOT** dump cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl.

**DO** place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage.

**DO** use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes, pots, and pans prior to washing them.

**DO NOT** dump used motor oil into street or house drains.

**DO** put used motor oil in a sturdy container, such as a plastic milk jug, and take it to your local service station for recycling.

The next meeting of Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee will be held on May 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee has been meeting to continue to plan for its annual Youth Conference under the umbrella of "The Ocean Hill-Brownsville Yes I Can Teen Movement".

The youth have come up with the theme, "A Second Chance". It will be a fair/celebration. They have done a fabulous job in putting together the kind of program they want. This event will take place at Teachers Preparatory High School, located at 226 Bristol Street on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Committee is truly grateful for the dedication and effort that both Brownsville Academy High School and Brooklyn Democracy Academy High School are expending in making this event a success.

The Committee is still in need of door prizes, refreshments and funds for decorations. Letters have gone out to all of our local elected officials requesting help with door prizes. Letters of request have also gone out to all the high schools to setup a resource table. A trophy will be given to the best table showcasing their school.

The "Yes I Can Teen Movement" has begun the "Let's Grow Green" Project. They met at the Phoenix Garden (Somers Street between Rockaway Avenue and Fulton Street) and began working Saturday past. They will plant melons, pumpkins, squash, strawberries, and herbs. They meet every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Garden. She thanked Tyler Hall from Brooklyn Democracy Academy High School for spearheading this project.

The next Committee meeting will be held on May 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Younger stated that in accordance with the By-laws of Community Board #16, at this month's meeting, she is to appoint members to a Nominating Committee which will meet and come back to the May 26, 2009 Board meeting with suggested names of members to serve as Executive Officers of the Board for 2009-2010.

She has asked the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee: Michael Howard, Allene Ingram, Eula Key, Elder Devon Pond, and Alice Vines.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Cathleen McCadden from the Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Ms. McCadden thanked audience members for their participation in the "Movie Night" given at Van Dyke Community Center on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The event allowed the tenant association to raise needed funds.

On Friday, May 1, the Education Committee of Councilmember Mealy's Advisory Council will sponsor a talent show and a resource event for youth at P.S. 40 (Ralph Avenue at Marion Street).

On Saturday, May 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., they will gather to revitalize the GreenThumb Garden located at Herkimer Street and Suydam Place. From 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. Councilmember Mealy is co-sponsoring a Spring Family Day / Health Fair on Utica Avenue between Church Avenue and Linden Boulevard. This event will feature radio personalities, presenters from the Fire Department, job recruitment opportunities, health care services, community-based organizations, and more. All are encouraged to participate.

Councilmember Mealy is also sponsoring a three-part series of housing information forums. The next event in the series will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> at their District Office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. There will be representatives from the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), and legal aid personnel to assist with any housing related issues.

Their next Neighborhood Advisory Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, also at their District Office. She can be contacted for additional information at (718) 953-3097.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Christopher Lundy from Congressman Edolphus Towns'

office.

Mr. Lundy stated that Congressman Towns now holds the post of Chairperson of the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee is the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and any matter with federal policy implications.

Amongst the issues that Congressman Towns is currently working on are housing, jobs, and transportation. Those topics are on the forefront because they have had two forums on the stimulus package, in the past three months. One was done in collaboration with Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and the discussion was about what the package means for the Borough of Brooklyn and New York State as a whole. The other discussed predatory lending and foreclosure with Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes and his staff were on-hand to answer questions on those issues.

Additionally, Congressman Towns is conducting investigations on AIG and its use of bailout monies, Limewire, and insuring that stimulus money goes where it should go.

The House of Representatives will sponsor a forum at St. Francis College, located at 180 Remsen Street, downtown Brooklyn, on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to discuss health care.

Congressman Towns will sponsor a job fair on Friday, May 8, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Brownsville Recreation Center, located at 1555 Linden Boulevard. There will be over four hundred jobs available. He asked that job candidates come prepared with at least four to five copies of their resumes.

He can be contacted by calling (718) 272-1175 or emailing christopher.lundy@mail.house.gov.

Chairperson Younger recognized Rev. Joseph Jones from Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes' office.

Rev. Jones announced that the District Attorney invites everyone to attend his 1st Brooklyn Gang Summit entitled: "Gang Activity, Prison and Public Safety: The Disturbing Connection", on Thursday, May 21, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Polytechnic Institute of New York City's Pfizer Auditorium, located at 6 Metrotech Center Brooklyn.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner from Assemblywoman Inez Barron's office.

Mr. Faulkner stressed the importance of property owners reaching out to the Department of Finance and the Department of Environmental Protection for assistance if they are in arrears, regardless of the amount owed. Failing to do so will result in a lien sale and may lead to the loss of the property.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Latrice Walker from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office.

Ms. Walker announced that Congresswoman Clarke will sponsor a grant writing workshop on May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Houses Community Center. Community-based organizations, churches and other faith-based organizations are encouraged to attend and find out how to prepare requests for federal grants. One of the things that they have noticed is that organizations are all fighting to receive funds and other allocations from the limited funds that their elected officials have to offer. There is, however, another path for acquiring financial resources. She encouraged the audience to spread the word to all the organizations serving Brownsville.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Ry-Ann Hermon from Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.'s office.

Ms. Hermon stated that she is proud to announce that they were able to secure nearly \$500,000 for Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center to provide quality health care services to the community.

She also announced that Assemblyman Boyland will again sponsor a job fair at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The previous job fair sponsored by the Assemblyman drew more than three-hundred participants.

Assemblyman Boyland is also working with an organization that provides no cost mortgage loan

modifications. They work with individuals who have fallen behind on their mortgages and are in foreclosure or in jeopardy of falling into foreclosure.

The Assemblyman hosts his advisory meetings on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. She can be reached at (718) 498-8681.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Nathan Bradley from Senator John Sampson's office.

Mr. Bradley stated that Senator Sampson, in association with the Performing Arts and Technology High School, will sponsor a round table discussion on the issue of domestic violence and its effect on our communities. The event will take place on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m..

The telephone number to the Senator's District Office is (718) 649-6553 and during the summer months their office will be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

Chairperson Younger recognized Deputy Inspector Samuel Wright, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Wright thanked the community for its assistance in helping to reduce the homicide rate in the Precinct. The murder rate has dropped by sixty-six percent and gun arrests are up forty-nine percent. He asks that the community continue to assist the Precinct because collaboratively, we can continue reduce the violence in the community.

Chairperson Younger recognized Detective Dean Elmore of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct's Community Affairs Unit.

Detective Elmore stated that Explorer meetings are now being held at 985 Rockaway Avenue at 4:30 p.m. each Friday. At their last meeting, they recruited a net total of 20 young people. The Precinct is actively seeking youth to join their Explorer program. The age requirement has been changed to allow youth from age twelve to twenty.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Christina Larkin from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Larkin stated that as of this afternoon, there have been sixty-four confirmed cases of the so-called swine flu in the United States. Forty-five of the cases are in New York State and forty-four are in New York City (they are expecting these numbers to increase). Thus far, the cases have been mild. Flu shots taken by some people this winter will not protect them from this strain of influenza. One needs to come in direct contact with someone who is infected in order to contract the virus.

The Health Department reminds New Yorkers to cover their noses when sneezing, cough into their elbows as opposed to their hands, and wash their hands frequently and thoroughly. If you become ill, do not go to work and remain home for seventy-two hours after you get well.

The Health Department is sponsoring their Safe and Sexy Summer Slam and is seeking organizations that work with young people to join them. The Healthy Brooklyn Task Force will host several Healthy Food and Fitness Expos. One will be held in Brownsville in conjunction with the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center's Health Fair. Informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Analyn Quiroz, representing the Leadership Prep.

Ms. Quiroz stated that Leadership Prep is one of two charter schools being introduced to the community in the fall at 364 Sackman Avenue between Sutter and Belmont Avenues.

Initially, Leadership Prep will enroll kindergarten and first grade students and add a grade each year until they have kindergarten through eighth grade. They are part of the Uncommon Schools network. Uncommon Schools is known for operate many successful throughout the country. Their schools emphasize college prep. Informational fliers and applications are available on tonight's distribution table.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Rev. Joseph Norton and carried to adjourn the meeting.