

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 –DECEMBER 22, 2009

Attendance

David Alexander	Yolanda Matthews (E)
Orlando Aupont (A)	Sadie McNamara
Octavius Bamberg (A)	Ted McQueen
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (A)	Genese Morgan (E)
Patricia Boone (E)	Davond Motes (A)
Margaret Brewer	Rev. Joseph Norton
Lynn Brown (A)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Essie Duggan	Marie Pierre (A)
Helen Giles (A)	Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Shirley Gonsalves	Mattie Pusey (E)
Sarah Hall	Melaine Rochford (A)
Jessie Hilliard	Wendy Rutheford (E)
Kofi Hormeku	Linda Sanders (A)
Michael Howard (E)	Tyrone Thomas (A)
Allene Ingram (E)	Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Prince Issachar	Ernestine Turner
Daisy Jackson	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)	Alice Vines (E)
Pamela Junior	Annie Walkes (E)
Rev. Eddie Karim (A)	Herman Winston
Eula Key	Hazel Younger
Danny King (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Charles Ladson	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Shawn Lewis (A)	Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Deborah Mack	Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
James Mack (A)	C. Sanders-James for Hon. Mike Bloomberg

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the public hearing to order at 7:12 p.m., followed with an invocation by Mr. Curtis Wallace.

IN THE MATTER OF an application made in behalf of Junius-Glenmore Development, LLC and Women In Need, Inc. for a variance to erect a ten-story, mixed use residential, community facility and commercial building in a M1-4 zone at 75-121 Junius Street (between Liberty and Glenmore Avenues). Women In Need, Inc. is proposing to build a 280 unit building consisting of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments as well as community facility and commercial space to service individuals and families of the building and community.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker requested the developers of the project, Women In Need, Inc., to step forward and give a brief presentation on their proposal.

Ms. Bonnie Stone stated that she is the President of Women In Need, Inc. (WIN) which is a not-for-profit organization housing homeless families and women who are in need of services. Since their focus is on families, they also service men who are a part of those families. She introduced their Vice President for Housing, Ms. Cathy Croft.

Ms. Croft stated that they believe that this project is very worthwhile to this community. It will offer temporary job opportunities during the construction phase and permanent positions for the community upon completion. It will consist of 280 affordable units of housing for non-transient individuals and families. It will provide a vast improvement to a site that has been vacant for nearly a century.

WIN has been a good neighbor in the community and will continue to be so with this project. As such, the proposed building will have 24-hours, 7-days a week security. It will feature commercial space on the ground level. They are seeking to occupy the space with a supermarket which they understand is needed in the community. Community space is incorporated in the design and they will have a community advisory board consisting of tenants of the building as

well as other community residents. They value the opinions and suggestions of the Community Board, but they strongly believe in this project and have already received many requests from people in this audience to become residents in the facility.

Ms. Jiulina Benedicty from Urban Architectural Initiatives, Inc. displayed schematic drawings of the project. The building will be 9-stories tall with a 10th-story setback so as not to overwhelm the block. There will be studios, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units along with greenery on the rooftop. Landscaping along the street edge will enliven the area. Consideration given to material use include the use of sound deadening windows.

Chairperson Younger asked who will be the primary tenants of the building? Will they consist of WIN's targeted population of homeless women and families?

Ms. Croft stated that they are proposing to set aside 80 units for individuals and families who are exiting homelessness. Fifty percent of the remaining units will be set aside strictly for community residents who may also occupy any number of the residual units. All of the apartments will be filled through a lottery.

Chairperson Younger asked how do they intend to attract working class persons to this desolate area which is located within an industrial park?

Ms. Croft stated that there are residences located within two blocks of the location of the project. They believe that the project is attractive and that people will want to live there.

Mr. Milton Bolton commented that the area is intended to be an industrial zone and should remain so. If we allow this project to set a precedent, others will follow and soon we will lose the ability to have industry in the area. We need to encourage industry to come to this location.

Someone asked who will get the jobs that will be created by the project?

Ms. Croft stated that jobs will be offered to community residents. No particular segment will be guaranteed positions. They expect to create approximately one hundred and fifty permanent jobs with the completion of the project. Commercial space is a part of the proposal. Additionally, this is a location wherein no development has taken place for one hundred years.

Someone asked what type of jobs are being proposed?

Ms. Croft stated that they expect to have security, maintenance, administrative, social services, and retail positions available.

Mr. Charles Ladson expressed a concern that when proposals are brought to this forum, we are frequently promised jobs for the community. However, these jobs never seem to come to fruition for community residents.

Ms. Croft stated that WIN has an established track record of hiring from the community. They not only talk the talk, they walk the walk.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if WIN has sites where they post their job positions?

Ms. Stone stated that they work with the Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center and they are open to other suggestions.

Someone asked what is the incentive for people to come and live in this desolate area?

Ms. Benedicty stated that the beautiful apartments, the green building, community space, and having access to a supermarket nearby are a few of the attractions to the building.

Chairperson Younger asked which supermarkets are being considered?

Ms. Croft stated that two chains have expressed interest, one of which is Western Beef. The design calls for a very attractive building; this along with the proposed streetscapes will be beautiful.

Chairperson Younger commented that one can build the Taj Mahal in the middle of Pitkin

Avenue, but it does not mean that people will want to go there.

Mr. Bill Wilkins, Director of Economic Development for the Local Development Corporation of East New York, stated that he manages the East Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone, the East Brooklyn Business Improvement District, and the East Brooklyn Empire Zone. He strives to promote industrial development in this area.

Approximately three years ago, Mayor Bloomberg commissioned a study which found that a large amount of industrial space (M-1 zones) in New York City was being lost primarily to residential conversion. The study concluded that conservation of the industrial zones is necessary to promote economic growth in the city. It is his mandate to advocate against further shrinkage of these zones.

Earlier, someone asked what is the view across the street from the building. If you look across the street, you will see manufacturers such as Primo Pasta which has been at the location for the past fifteen years. It is an industrial zone where hard working people rise early each day to position their vehicles along Junius Street in order to prepare for that day's deliveries.

The project being proposed this evening is a mammoth project. Two hundred and eighty units of housing means there will be somewhere around six hundred to seven hundred people living on a block meant to be an industrial zone. It is great to have a supermarket in close proximity, but what about the butcher and the baker in an industrial area. Additionally, one block north of the site is a metal recycling plant which uses Junius Street as a staging area for the raw products that they receive. It is great to assist people in need and provide nice apartments to people, but what can we expect their quality of life to be, living in an industrial zone.

Moreover, city services are limited in an industrial zone. There are no litter baskets, no garbage collection provided by the city. Snow removal and street sweeping are virtually the only services performed by the Department of Sanitation. Residents and their visitors would place an undue stress in the area for available parking space, further crippling economic development.

He commends WIN on their efforts to house people and for the building's design, however, the proposed site is not the right location.

The Local Development Corporation of East New York also develops properties. One of the things that they do is enter into a community benefit agreement with the areas that they develop in. It is easy to promise jobs to the community when speaking to the community. Signing a community benefit agreement makes the promise enforceable.

There being no additional comments, a motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to adjourn the Public Hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. Prince Issachar and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. Prince Issachar to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker highlighted an announcement found on page 1 of her report regarding U.S. Census jobs. A test will be administered on Monday, December 28th at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, December 30th at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Interested persons are asked to contact her as they must be pre-registered to take the test.

She encouraged everyone to read the entire report because it is informative and important.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 8, 2009 with representatives of Women In Need, Inc. regarding their proposal to construct a 10-story building containing 280 residential units at 75-109 Junius Street (Block 3676, Lots 1 and 10) between Liberty and Glenmore Avenues (as was heard earlier).

The Committee recommends that the Community Board vote in opposition to the proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) The site is presently zoned for manufacturing use as it lies within the East Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone. The existing zoning does not permit this kind of housing development.
- 2) The site abuts very active train tracks and a metal recycling plant which create an unhealthy environment for residents.

On October 28, 2008, Community Board #16 voted in opposition to the Women In Need proposal. Once again, the Committee asks that the Community Board reaffirm its opposition to this proposal.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to approve the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee report.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that copies of the report on the status of the district's parks and playgrounds can be found in every Board member's folder and also on tonight's distribution table.

Every month he and Mr. Rosa visit all of the parks and are asking anyone who would like to adopt a park to notify them or District Manager Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to approve the Park's Committee report.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 9, 2009 and reviewed the updated Sanitation Rules and Regulations. Several highlights are:

- 1) Property owners or other persons having charge of any lot or building must clean snow and/or ice from the sidewalk within 4 hours after the snow has stopped falling, or by 11:00 a.m. if the snow has stopped falling after 9:00 p.m. the previous evening.

If the snow or ice becomes frozen so hard that it cannot be removed, the sidewalk may be strewn with ashes, sand, sawdust, or similar suitable material within the same time limits. The sidewalk must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as the weather permits. Fine: \$100-\$150 – 1st offense; \$150-\$300 2nd offense; \$250-\$350 – 3rd and subsequent offenses.

- 2) Failure to recycle will result in a \$25.00 fine for first offense, \$50 for 2nd violation, \$100 for 3rd violation and \$500 for 4 or more violations within a 6 month period.

Recyclable Materials - The following materials must be separated from household refuse and set out for recycling collection: glass bottles and jars; metal cans; plastic bottles and jugs; beverage cartons; aluminum foil; aluminum foil products and metal items (i.e., junk mail, smooth cardboard, white and colored paper, manila folders, envelopes and soft cover books).

Recyclable Containers – All buildings that receive curbside collection service must put recyclable materials out for collection in labeled containers or clear plastic bags: For plastic, glass, metal and beverage cartons – use 18 to 32 gallon rigid containers, *preferably blue*, labeled on the sides and the lid with the words "**RECYCLING: BOTTLES AND CANS**" in letters at least 4 inches high or labeled with DSNY Metal, Glass and Plastic Recycling Program decals (blue decal); or use 13 to 55 gallon clear plastic recycling bags.

For paper use 18 to 32 gallon rigid containers, *preferably green*, labeled on the sides and the lid with the words "**RECYCLING –MIXED PAPER**" in letters at least 4 inches high or labeled with DSNY Mixed Paper Recycling Program decals (green decal); or use 13 to 55 gallon clear plastic recycling bags. Corrugated cardboard must be bundled and tied separately from mixed paper (unless broken down into small pieces to fit in a recycling container or bag).

The next meeting of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee will be held on February 10, 2010.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to approve the

Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee report.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, announced that the Committee has formed a Youth Leadership Council (YLC). They are requesting that the audience encourage youth between 13 and 19 years old who live in Community District #16 to attend an information session on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at the Brownsville Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston (corner of Dumont Avenue on the 2nd floor of the library) to learn about the YLC. Flyers were distributed to the audience by members of the Committee.

Chairperson Younger recognized Detective Mary Anne Petrizzo, Crime Prevention Officer for the 73rd Precinct.

Detective Petrizzo stated that she recently attended a meeting at One Police Plaza wherein they were informed that identity theft crimes are on the rise citywide. She offered the following tips to safeguard ourselves from becoming victims of identity theft:

- Do not give your social security number to anyone on the telephone unless you initiate the call. Your bank and other financial institutions you do business with already have this information and will not ask you for it when calling you.
- Know the date you should receive your bank and credit card statements. A missing statement could indicate a thief has changed your address and diverted your mail. Contact the bank or credit card company immediately if they are more than a few days late. Verify that the mailing address has not changed and that the balances are correct.
- Obtain and use a document shredder to dispose of your important documents and old credit and debit cards. One that shreds at a maximum of $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch and/or utilizes cross/diamond cuts is highly recommended – they make it harder for dumpster divers to piece together documents to recover sensitive information.
- Discard unwanted mail by shredding. Shred everything that identifies you including magazine labels and pre-approved credit card offers.
- Regularly obtain and analyze your credit report. (Look for red flags, such as incorrect mailing address, variations of your name in the header, companies that have accessed your credit report, companies that the credit bureau has mailed your credit report to, without authorization, and the listing of retail, telecommunication, or other accounts that you have not opened.)
- Never post identifying information about yourself or your family on social networking websites such as facebook or myspace.
- Be alert when using your cards. Criminals will sometimes lurk over your shoulder at ATM's in order to obtain your PIN (personal identification number). A device called a skimmer is sometimes attached to legitimate ATM's in an effort to collect information from the magnetic strip on the back of the card.
- All financial and phone accounts should have an access password or PIN number. Be very careful when choosing these. Passwords and PINs should be random and unique letters and digits. Although this makes it harder to remember, your accounts will be better protected. Do not use the following types of information as passwords or PINs:
 - Consecutive numbers or letters (example: 1234, abcd)
 - Date of birth
 - Mother's maiden name
 - Nickname
 - Pet's name
 - Spouse or child's name
 - Spouse's date of birth
 - Telephone number
 - The last four digits of your social security number
 - Wedding anniversary
- When ordering new checks, pick them up from the bank instead of having them mailed to

your home.

- When discarding computers, laptops, and their storage media, be sure to destroy the data that is stored on them. Physical destruction of storage media will protect your data from being stolen. (If the machine is to be donated, a good way to ensure total erasure of private data is to use a secure erase utility; these can be found online for most systems as free utilities.)
- Do not store passwords or PINs on an iPod.
- Take your card key with you when you complete a hotel stay or cruise. The card key may be coded with identifying information about you.

She also offered the following tips for crime prevention:

- When shopping (especially during the holidays) do not place your purchases in an unattended vehicle. Thieves are forming networks that furnish each other with information on your location and where your vehicle is parked.
- Be aware of your surroundings when using cell phones. There has been a rash of cell phone theft perpetrated by youths on bicycles.
- Do not place your phone, iPod, wallet, etc. on store counters.
- Do not leave your vehicle running unattended, not even for a minute.
- Con games are on the rise. Beware of anyone offering to let you have their “winning” lottery ticket. Never cash or claim a lottery ticket for someone you don't know or pay money to collect a lottery prize. Scammers may approach you in person, claiming to have a winning ticket, but tell you they can't claim the prize. These criminals will ask you to purchase their ticket or provide a "deposit" to claim the prize for them. But, they'll disappear with your money.
- Pickpockets often work in teams. Be on the lookout for their ploys such as getting on a crowded bus, one member of the team ahead of you may create a delay so that their partner behind you can get your wallet. Fights in public areas or other distraction are designed to take your attention away from your valuables, stay alert.

Various pamphlets on crime prevention are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Younger recognized State Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Senator Montgomery stated that she brought with her a petition for a campaign that she and some of her colleagues are supporting entitled: SOUND (Save Our Underfunded NYCHA Developments). The citywide campaign is a grassroots effort to secure more funding for New York City Housing Authority developments. She is encouraging all her constituents to sign the petition.

A recent report by the United States Department of Justice found that New York State, among others, was violating the rights of youths in the State's Juvenile Justice facilities. Many of the youth are incarcerated for what is less than a felony conviction. They are not youth who have committed some heinous offense. This is particularly disturbing when the State spends \$200,000 to jail each child. Many of the children are held in facilities that are too far away for their families to visit readily. New York State is under a court order to correct the system.

As Chairperson of the Children and Families Committee of the Senate, she will be focusing on the changes in the upcoming year. Like the adult justice system, the juvenile system's population is largely made up of black and brown children. In a recent incident, where students at a Long Island school were caught illegally selling prescription drugs, police and other officials got their parents involved. This intervention caused corrective measures to take place without burdening the children with criminal records. She favors this type of action for all children. Children of all walks of life will make mistakes. They deserve and should receive second chances.

She is pleased to hear about the Board's Youth Leadership Council and would like to have an opportunity to speak with them. A refrain that she hears from youth when they visit Albany is

”Why is the State spending \$200,000 per child on a system that does not work?”. If support is available for them when they return home, they stand a better chance of not returning to jail. We need to find methods that end the recidivism of youth involved in crime.

There is a fund called S.N.U.G. (“guns” spelled backward) that has been put in place by local leaders to address gang and gun violence issues amongst youth. Some Brooklyn-based organizations have made requests for funding. There will be one main organization who will in turn work with other organizations. Her support and recommendation went to Man Up, Inc., an organization out of East New York known for its work with youth.

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

Ms. Walker stated that at the last Board meeting inquiries were made about the possibilities of training being made available for prospective Census 2010 jobs. The matter was brought before Mr. Tony Vargas of the Census Bureau and she hopes that she will have information about the training at the next Board meeting. Congresswoman Clarke will sponsor an appropriations how-to course in January, particularly targeting non-profit organizations who are seeking federal assistance. If you have a non-profit organization or know of one that may be interested, please reach out to her by calling (718) 287-1142 or by email at latrice.walker@mail.house.gov.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James from the Mayor’s Community Assistance Unit who expressed holiday greetings and the desire to continue a good working relationship with the community in the upcoming year.

Chairperson Younger announced that Wayside Home Meal Delivery Program delivers meals to persons age 50 and older who are unable to prepare meals at home. Interested persons may contact their office at (718) 443-2574.

Chairperson Younger wished everyone a very safe and happy holiday.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.