

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – May 25, 2010

### Attendance

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

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

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m., followed with an invocation by Deacon Edna Massey.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted two of the time-sensitive articles found on pages one and four of her report regarding: 1) the availability of applications for 82 affordable housing rental apartments under construction at 211-227 Lott Avenue, 536-568 Watkins Street, and 547 Osborn Street, and 2) a blood drive being held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Applications for the apartments are available at the Board's office.

The audience was encouraged to read her report as soon as possible, as it contains valuable information.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Annie Walkes to waive the reading of the remainder of the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Ralph Blessing of the Department of City Planning.

Mr. Blessing stated that he is here tonight to speak about a proposed amendment to the Zoning Text from the Department of City Planning in reference to car sharing. Car sharing is basically a club where the members can rent a car on an hourly basis. They are currently in all of the U.S.; there are about 275,000 car share members and about two-thirds of them live in New York City. How it works is that people join a car sharing organization by paying an annual membership fee ranging between \$70 and \$75. Members may go online (or call a designated telephone number) to reserve a vehicle.

City Planning believes that car sharing is a good idea for several reasons. Most members only have need of a vehicle for a few hours a week or month, so they only pay for the time that they actually need a car and thereby bypass the cost of owning a vehicle – insurance, gas, maintenance, etcetera. Community benefits include fewer vehicles on the road and therefore greater availability of on street parking for those who actually own vehicles. Because car share members tend to consolidate their driving trips; rather than making several trips to run their errands, they plan ahead and combine trips. This reduces congestion and is good for the environment.

The Department of City Planning is now proposing to change the parking regulations to make it easier for car sharing companies to provide parking spaces for the car share program. The current parking regulations of the City were written in 1961 and did not anticipate the recent emergence of car sharing. The proposed zoning text amendment would define car sharing in the Zoning Resolution and establish clear rules allowing car sharing vehicles to park in public parking facilities, as well as in parking facilities to residential, commercial, and other uses, within appropriate limitations based on use and zoning district.

Under the proposal, individual parking facilities would be able to choose whether they wish to allow the storage of car sharing vehicles, within certain limitations:

- In public parking facilities, which serve a wide range of users, car sharing vehicles would be allowed to occupy up to 40 percent of parking spaces.
- In accessory residential parking facilities in medium- and high-density residential districts, car sharing vehicles would be allowed to occupy up to 20 percent of parking spaces or a total of five spaces, whichever is greater.
- A smaller number of car sharing vehicles would be allowed in larger residential group parking facilities within lower-density multifamily residential districts, as well as in accessory parking for commercial, manufacturing, and community facility uses. Here, in parking facilities that have at least 20 spaces, up to 10 percent of spaces could be occupied by car sharing vehicles.
- In one- and two-family residential districts, car sharing parking would not be allowed.

Details of the proposal can be viewed on City Planning's website ([nyc.gov/planning](http://nyc.gov/planning)).

On April 26, 2010, the proposed Car Share zoning text amendment was referred to all community boards for a 60-day review period. While a vote is not required by the community boards, they are interested in hearing their comments.

Chairperson Younger suggested that City Planning prepare a survey to invoke comments from the community concerning the proposed car sharing zoning text amendment.

Mr. Blessing agreed to share the suggestion with his office.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Thursday, May 20, 2010, members of the Committee met to continue the review of the New York State Liquor License renewal application of REMA, LLC D/B/A Rema Restaurant located at 371 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street, and to review the application of Glen Deli & Grocery located at 55 Hegeman Avenue.

The owners of both businesses returned the Community Board #16 Liquor License Application & Questionnaire for review. The Economic Development Committee reviewed the applications and were satisfied with the responses provided both written and verbal.

The physical reviews of the establishments were conducted by members of the Committee, and it was agreed that both businesses provide adequate service, and that both establishments and local revenue can benefit from having the liquor license.

Because of the aforementioned, the Committee recommends that the Board support both REMA, LLC and Glen Grocery in renewing their New York State Liquor licenses.

The Committee continues to work to develop a better and more reliable system to assist the businesses in our area, as well as extend invitations to other existing businesses, to open additional locations and work on appealing to new businesses to come to open in our Community.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to approve the Economic Development Committee report and its recommendations to support the applications for New York State Liquor Licenses by REMA, LLC. and Glen Grocery.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed plans to sponsor a health fair in September. As the Committee finalizes plans, the community will be informed.

On Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Brooklyn Perinatal Network will sponsor a Family Health and Wellness Fair at Betsy Head Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m..

On Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, the BMS Family Health Center will sponsor their annual Health Fair on Rockaway Avenue between Blake and Dumont Avenues from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

The Committee encourages everyone to attend these two events.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Alice Vines and carried to approve the Health and Human Resources Committee report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met with representatives from CPC Resources, Inc. and East Brooklyn Congregations on May 11, 2010 regarding a change in the housing project bounded by Watkins Street, Lott Avenue, Osborn Street and Riverdale Avenue. When this project was brought to the Community Board for approval in 2007, it was known as the Watkins Street Co-ops. They informed the Committee that while finalizing funding for the project, the economy changed and HPD discontinued the homeownership program. As a result, the project was changed to affordable rental housing.

An announcement regarding applications is in tonight's District Manager's report. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 15, 2010.

The Committee also met with a representative from the Department of City Planning regarding a citywide text amendment to the zoning resolution to create regulations to allow car share vehicles to park in off-street accessory garages and lots and in public facilities in all zoning districts.

Having heard the presentation earlier this evening from Mr. Ralph Blessing of the Department of City Planning, the Committee welcomes any comments you may have so that a written recommendation can be forwarded to the Department of City Planning.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee report.

Ms. Eula Key, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 18, 2010 and discussed names of Board members to fill Executive Offices for the period from June 2010 to June 2011.

The Committee's nominations are as follows:

- Chairperson – Hazel A. Younger
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson – Kofi Hormeku
- Treasurer – Sarah Hall
- Secretary – Sadie McNamara
- Parliamentarian – James Mack

A motion was made by Mr. Prince Issachar, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to accept the report of the Nomination Committee.

Ms. Key asked if there are any nominations from the floor?

There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Elder Devon Ponds and carried to close the nomination. A vote was taken unanimously electing the entire slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee.

Chairperson Younger thanked the Nominating Committee and the membership for their votes of confidence.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that he has not received any recent complaints concerning the condition of the parks and playgrounds in the District. He takes this to be a good sign that all is well at the locations. He anticipates that as the weather becomes warmer, the facilities will become heavily used and he requests that the audience takes upon themselves a certain amount of responsibility to report any issues to the Board's Office. A report is produced each month detailing the condition of Parks and Recreation facilities within Community District #16. The report is in every Board member's folder and also on tonight's distribution table.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey and carried to approve the Park's Committee report.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 5, 2010.

The Committee will request that the Department of Transportation review the Board's request to increase the wattage of street lights underneath the Livonia Avenue train tracks.

The Committee will continue to request the installation of an elevator at the Rockaway Avenue station on the IRT-3.

There have been complaints about buses along the B-14 route bunching together. The Committee encourages riders of the B-14 to complain to the Transit Authority at (718) 330-3322 or [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info).

You may also call the Community Board Office at (718) 385-0323 to report any transportation related complaints.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Elder Devon Ponds and carried to accept the Transportation and Franchise Committee report.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on May 18, 2010, the Committee held its monthly meeting.

The Washington, D.C. trip has been pushed out until September. Ms. Dawn Sidibie from Assemblyman William F. Boyland's office informed her that White House tours must be booked six months in advanced. The Committee greatly appreciates Assemblyman Boyland's efforts to make this happen for our youth.

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is going strong, having eight council members, and has identified issues and concerns. YLC representative Ms. Daney Forbes has informed the Committee that they would like workshops that address 1) Sex and STDs 2) Poverty, and 3) Preparing Healthy Meals.

In response to these issues, the committee has the following in place:

- Healthy Meals Workshop will be provided in a six-week course facilitated by Mrs. Regina Clark. The details will be hashed out on May 26, 2010.
- Committee member, Ms. Paulette Bazil, has offered an internship program to address Poverty and Economics. Her employer, World Financial Services, has offered ten internship positions.
- The Committee is awaiting a callback from Brownsville Multi-Service (BMS) Family Health Center as to when they can offer a workshop to address Sex and STDs.

The Committee's plans for a Career Festival in June have been cancelled due to time constraints.

Ms. Forbes has informed the Committee that jobs and internships are a high priority for them, as summer quickly approaches.

In response to this need, the Committee has contacted the Pitkin Avenue BID which will be reaching out to their merchants to obtain internship and employment opportunities for our youths.

The next YSPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 6:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms Alice Vines and carried to accept the Youth Services Planning Committee report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Migdalia "Frita" Zabala of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Ms. Zabala stated that the citywide library budget will be reduced by 25% which amounts to approximately twenty-three point six million dollars. This will mean that there will be no services offered on Saturdays at the Brownsville, Saratoga Avenue, and Stone Avenue branches of the Brooklyn Public Library, a reduction of their staff, and reduction of the services provided to the public. Furthermore, the cuts will mean the closure of sixteen branch libraries.

They are requesting that the public call 3-1-1 to express their desire to keep the libraries' budget intact.

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

Mr. Faulkner stated that the State Senate cast a vote earlier today concerning charter schools within the State. He has not had the opportunity to read the report in its entirety. He does, however, have some concerns about the outcome of some of the votes made by the Senators. It is imperative that the voice of our communities be heard. After all, our children's education will be impacted by these decisions.

New voting machines will be used beginning with the Primary Elections that will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The old voting machines have been retired. He encourages everyone to find an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new scanning voting machine.

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

Mr. Lundy announced that Congressman Towns recently co-sponsored a successful HIV forum at the Bed-Stuy Restoration Center. The community received helpful information from the HIV/AIDS advocacy organization known as Watchful Eye. He also hosted a Health Forum at Metrotech where the new health care legislation and how it will affect the citizens of his district was discussed.

He will again sponsor a Job Fair at the Brownsville Recreation Center on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be forums on job training and job readiness. Resumes will also be accepted. Last year's fair was extremely successful and they expect this fair will be successful as well.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Towns will host a Crime Summit at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Both Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes will attend. The summit will allow the community to ask any questions that they have concerning crime and law enforcement. Flyers for both June events are available on tonight's distribution table.

Mr. Randy Hudson stated that he would like to see legislation written wherein HIV test kits could be sold alongside of contraceptives as opposed to being available only at clinics as it is now.

Mr. Lundy suggested that Mr. Hudson reach out to Ms. "Dee" Bailey, Director of Watchful Eye, and speak to her about this concern. As an advocate on the issue, Ms. Bailey can assist him in reaching the right ears.

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

Ms. Walker stated that at last month's meeting the Board heard about the military service academies. Unfortunately, flyers were not available at the time but tonight she has flyers for the upcoming Academy Night that Congresswoman Clarke will co-host with Congressman Towns. One of the things that they have noticed is that few of the youth of our community apply for the academies. They are passing up on an opportunity for a first-rate free education. She encourages everyone to reach out to the youth who they know and encourage them to attend the Academy Night at St. Francis College on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

It has come to their attention that certain housing units for which residents of Community District #16 are suppose to receive preference through the application process is not being honored. They have contacted Mr. Mark Jahr of the Housing Development Corporation and are working on finding out what went wrong. If you are having a problem with an application for affordable housing in the district, please contact her.

Common Ground has begun a campaign regarding "stop and frisk". While stop and frisk can be a useful tool in combating crime, certain procedures must be followed. They are finding that out of every ten stop and frisk incidents that occur, only one leads to some type of police action (arrest, summons, etcetera). Information is collected from the other nine individuals and placed in a database even though they are innocent of any crime.

They will reach out to Commissioner Kelly to determine what can be done to stop the overuse of stop and frisk tactics in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. They will also seek out the help of the U.S. Attorney General for a possible investigation of the practice by the Department of Justice. She is also working with the New York Civil Liberties Union and would like to be contacted by persons who have been stopped and frisked and have no further police action taken, in order to have their information purged from the police database.

They are also seeking to have representatives from Medicare and Medicaid come to speak to the community, especially the seniors. She was recently asked some questions about the programs by her mother and thought that if her mother has these questions, chances are that others do as well.

Mr. Danny Goodine thanked Ms. Walker for her assistance in getting lights turned on for the basketball event that was held at the Van Dyke Community Center about three weeks ago. It prevented an embarrassing situation for our community.

Ms. Walker stated that after receiving a call about the lights being out, she was able to reach New York City Housing Authority personnel to have the lights turned on. This was for a basketball event where scouts from colleges and universities were present to evaluate the talent of some young women of the community. Happily, six young women were offered full scholarships to attend universities.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked if Congresswoman Clarke is doing anything about the recent rash of shootings in the area of the Marcus Garvey Village Apartments – there have been three shooting incidents in the past week.

Ms. Walker stated that she was contacted by the mother of one of the parties involved in the incident. Three persons were arrested and are awaiting arraignment at Central Booking.

Ms. Mattie Pusey asked for Ms. Walker's contact information.

Ms. Walker stated that she can be reach by calling Congresswoman Clarke's District Office at (718) 287-1142 or her cell at (347) 461-2258.

Chairperson Younger asked Mr. Goodine for the name of the person responsible for the Van Dyke Community Center.

Mr. Goodine stated that he is unsure of who is the responsible person, arrangements had been made for the game to take place there and he was present as a show of support of the young people. Once the call was made to Ms. Walker the problem was quickly resolved.

Someone stated that it is a New York City Housing Authority facility.

Ms. Walker stated that the contact person is Hugh Spence and if he is unavailable, Rhonda Forbes should be contacted.

Chairperson Younger commended the efforts of Ms. Walker and stated that it should not be necessary to call anyone. We need to assure that this sort of thing does not take place in our community. We need the responsible parties to do what is right.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan from Senator Velmanette Montgomery's office.

Ms. Duggan reported that Senator Montgomery continues to work on legislation to reform juvenile detention practices. Her current newsletter provides information on the cost of incarceration of our youth. The legislation would allow community-based organizations to develop and implement programs to mentor certain youthful offenders without them having to leave their communities. She is requesting the support of the community and that of her colleagues in the legislature.

There are seniors in our communities who are unable to prepare nutritional meals at home. The Meals-on-Wheels program can provide those in need with healthy meals delivered to their homes. In the Brownsville – East New York area, meals are delivered by Wayside Outreach Development Corporation. We should not allow any senior to go hungry.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Jakki Gilchrist from Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office.

Ms. Gilchrist stated that the Summer Youth Employment Program will continue to accept applications until May 28<sup>th</sup>. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, they will sponsor their second annual festival at Lincoln Terrace Park. On June 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, they will host small business seminars at Councilmember Mealy's District Office, located at 1757 Union Street.

Christian Crossroads Church, located at 130 Watkins Street, will host an anti-violence workshop for men only on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m..

She also encourages seniors to contact their senior centers to gather information about a luncheon cruise with Councilmember Mealy on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Randy Hudson.

Mr. Hudson stated that he has been active in the East New York – Brownsville community for a number of years as the organizer of the Showstopper Basketball Tournament and spearheading the IRT #3 Committee.

There have been changes to IRS filing rules that will affect some nonprofit organizations. Previously, small charities that brought in \$25,000 or less didn't have to file, but the new law mandates that all nonprofit organizations, other than churches and church-related groups, submit tax paperwork. (Failure to file for three years in a row automatically results in a loss of tax-exempt status.)

He is also the webmaster of the [bigtimebiz.biz](http://bigtimebiz.biz) website which provides helpful information affecting the Brownsville / East New York communities. The site now offers various items to help us brag about our communities. He invites the audience to visit the site.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Daney Forbes of the Ocean Hill- Brownsville Youth Leadership Council.

Ms. Forbes stated that she is the President of the Ocean Hill – Brownsville Youth Leadership Council and with her this evening is Ms. Toni Haliburton, Vice President of the Council.

Members of the Council learn about issues affecting the youth of the community and work on ways to resolve the issues that are problematic. Anyone who is interested in working with the group may speak to them or their Counselors, Chanel Haliburton or Erick Fischer, after tonight's meeting.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that they have recently received funding from some of the local elected officials

that will allow them to increase the number of activities that they provide to the community.

They recently hosted a spelling bee at the Beacon and one of their own eighth graders came in second place.

On Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (the eve of Fathers' Day), they will host an event for the men of the community at the Beacon's host school, I.S. / P.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Melaine Rochford of the New Life Cathedral Church.

Ms. Rochford announced that the Church will host a health fair at 110 Junius Street between Glenmore and Liberty Avenues, on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.. There will be various health screenings, Medicare/Medicaid registration, games, prizes, and more. Flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

The Pastor of New Life Cathedral has asked her to inquire about the status of the proposal by Women In Need to construct housing on the vacant land along Junius Street between Liberty and Glenmore Avenues. He would like to know if the Church should circulate a petition to voice opposition to the project.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that last month she and representatives of the East New York Local Development Corporation gave testimonies against the project at a hearing of the Board of Standards and Appeals. The matter has been laid over until next month. If the Church wishes to circulate a petition, she encourages it and asked that it be provided to her by next month.

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