

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – October 26, 2010

Attendance

David Alexander
Angela Alexander-Wilson (A)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith
Margaret Brewer
Adrainer Coleman (E)
Essie Duggan
Helen Giles
Shirley Gonsalves
Danny Goodine
Chanel Haliburton
Sarah Hall
Kofi Hormeku
Michael Howard (A)
Allene Ingram
Prince Issachar
Daisy Jackson
Minyarn Johnson (A)
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)
Carl Joseph
Pamela Junior
Rev. Eddie Karim (A)
Eula Key
Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)
Charles Ladson
Deborah Mack
James Mack
Yolanda Matthews
Linda Mayo
Sadie McNamara
Ted McQueen (A)
Genese Morgan
Rev. Joseph Norton
Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Marie Pierre
Rev. Devon Ponds (A)
Mattie Pusey (E)
Linda Rivera
Melaine Rochford (A)
Wendy Rutherford (E)
Beatrice Saunds (E)
Christina Serano (A)
Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Alice Vines
Annie Walkes (E)
Yvette Williams-Lawson
Herman Winston
Hazel Younger
E. Jane Coleman, ADM
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Hon. Darlene Mealy
Karen Cherry for Hon. Edolphus Towns
Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Maurice Roberts for Hon. Eric Adams
Renee Hasticks-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz

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 7:09 p.m., followed with an invocation by Rev. Joseph Norton.

Pursuant to the New York City Charter, Community Board #16 will conduct a public hearing to gather community views and requests with respect to the New York City's Fiscal Year 2012 Capital and Expense Budgets.

Ms. E. Jane Coleman, on behalf of District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker, stated that the capital budget allocates funds for physical improvements, land acquisition, and major equipment. The expense budget allocates funds for the ongoing operations of the City, which include personnel, minor equipment and materials, and anything budgeted on a year-to-year basis. The Board may submit up to forty capital budget requests and up to twenty-five expense requests.

She directed the audience's attention to the list of recommended Capital and Expense Budget requests and their suggested priority for Fiscal Year 2012 which are listed on the first six pages of tonight's District Manager's report. Copies of the report can be found in each member's folder and additional copies are available at the sign-in table.

Chairperson Younger opened the floor for comments and/or any new suggestions. There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to close the public hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

The audience was encouraged to read the Minutes and the District Manager's report in their entirety.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Devyn Humphrey from Achievement First.

Ms. Humphrey stated that she is the Associate Director for External Relations at Achievement First. Achievement First is a network of free public charter schools serving the Central Brooklyn community, including one in the Brownsville community (2021 Bergen Street). They opened their first charter school, Achievement First-Crown Heights, in 2005 and since then have expanded to ten charter schools, including Achievement First Brownsville.

The goal of Achievement First is to equip all of their scholars with the character and academic skills that they need to successfully obtain a college degree and become leaders in their communities. Their schools are characterized by a longer school day and a longer school year. Where ordinary schools may be in session from 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m., their school day starts at 7:30 a.m. and runs through 4:30 p.m.. Their school year begins in August and continues until the end of June. They provide a rigorous academic curriculum which includes language arts, mathematics, and some specialized courses.

They strive to build character into their young scholars by encouraging them to embody their REACH values which are Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship, and Hard work. They also encourage their scholars to display these core values as they travel about the community (If they encounter an elderly person carrying packages, they are expected to offer assistance).

All of their schools are college preparatory and they expect all of their scholars to graduate high school and succeed in college. A child enrolling as a kindergartener this year is immediately fostered with the idea of being a college graduate by 2028. Each of their classrooms is named after a college or university and they begin visiting colleges very early in their academic lives so that they understand the importance of college.

They are now accepting applications for new students from Kindergarten to eighth grade. Selection is through a lottery with preference given to residents of local school districts (School District #23 for the Brownsville/Ocean Hill area). Applications and additional information can be found online at www.achievementfirst.org.

Someone asked if they accept students with special needs.

Ms. Humphrey said yes; they accept students from grades K-12. Last year, they received approximately 3,000 applications for 600 seats. The application process is the same for all students.

Mr. Randy Hudson stated that every student who graduates from high school will not be attending college. There needs to be programs that will offer these students a career opportunity with competitive wages.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that there needs to be trade schools in the district.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that she agrees and the trade schools need to provide the students with the equipment and resources that will allow them to effectively compete in the current technology era.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner asked Ms. Humphrey if all of their schools are sharing space in public school buildings.

Ms. Humphrey said no.

Ms. Peltonbusch stated that everyone does not have a computer, nor is everyone computer literate. It seems that people without a computer will be left out because the applications are online.

Ms. Humphrey stated that their goal is not to leave anyone out. While the quickest way to complete an application is online, they also offer paper applications. They also use other resources to identify students within a specific age range who might be eligible to enroll in one of their schools.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Allison Jones, Community Relations Coordinator, for the Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center, (BMS).

Ms. Jones, on behalf of Ms. Marie Millet, Chief Operating Officer of BMS, who was scheduled to give a presentation at tonight's meeting, apologized for her absence due to illness.

Their main office is located at 592 Rockaway Avenue but they have satellite offices located in Districts 16 and 5.

BMS is sponsoring a Domestic Awareness Day on November 3rd, 11:00 a.m. at 592 Rockaway Avenue. They met with the Mayor's Office on October 9th and were advised that according to statistics the communities of Brownsville, East New York and Bushwick have the highest homicide rate due to domestic violence. After receiving this information, they invited Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez from the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, to attend their Domestic Awareness Day to talk about things the community can do to assist with reducing the domestic violence.

Free Mammograms will be offered on October 29th between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 592 Rockaway Avenue.

On November 1st, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will be giving a presentation on bed bugs at 592 Rockaway Avenue. They have been receiving quite a few patients, both adults and children, with bed bug bites.

This past Saturday, they had a very successful Harvest Fest in the parking lot adjacent to their facility at 592 Rockaway Avenue. Within the same lot, they sponsor a farmers' market which is in operation from July to November 15th. The farmers from upstate sell fresh fruits and vegetables every Saturday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. They accept cash, EBT cards, and Vouchers.

They welcome and will address any concerns regarding the farmers' market or any of the services that they offer. She can be contacted at (718) 345 5000, ext 1158 for a site tour of all of their facilities and programs.

Ms. Peltonbusch asked if the community benefits from upstate farmers selling their goods at the farmers' market.

Ms. Jones stated that the community benefits because BMS receives an incentive (a percentage of the money that the farmers earn) from the farmers which BMS uses to host different community events. They also have local farmers participating in the farmers market.

Someone asked if the fruits are organically grown. Are they certified organic?

Ms. Jones stated that she has personally eaten some of the fresh fruits without any problems and she is prone to allergies and other reactions to certain foods. However, she will note the concern for follow up.

Someone stated that they have a children's garden in the community and asked if they would be required to pay a percentage of their earnings if they wanted to participate in the farmers' market?

Ms. Jones said no. Sometimes schools do participate and they are not asked for a contribution because the understanding is that the money that they earn is put back into their respective school. BMS feels that the farmers from upstate are in a better position to pay than school students because the upstate farmers are saving on taxes and rental space.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Secretary of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, October 21, 2010, at Young's Video Games and Internet Services, located at 68 Belmont Avenue.

The Committee met to update information on the revitalization plan for Belmont Avenue and to review the Community Board #16 Liquor License Application Questionnaire for Best Class Foods d/b/a People's Choice, located at 41 Belmont Avenue.

Regarding the Belmont Avenue Revitalization Plan, several merchants of Belmont Avenue have come together to form "The Belmont Avenue Merchants' Association". This will be an extensive process, however, this is a move in the right direction.

In the past month, there have been complaints regarding the lighting on Belmont Avenue as well as the incomplete parking meters and parking meter time extension.

District Manager Greene-Walker has communicated the concerns to the responsible agency and received the following responses:

- The lighting on Belmont Avenue is being addressed by Con Edison. There seems to be technical electrical problems as opposed to a need to change a light bulb. The repairs will be addressed as soon as possible.
- Parking meters have been installed on Belmont Avenue with meter heads on all except the ones located in front of Slavin's Fish Market, which was due to construction. Once the construction work is completed, the meter heads will be installed. In addition, the metered times are standard throughout the borough at 20 minutes for 25¢.

Regarding the review of the CB #16 Liquor License Application Questionnaire for 41 Belmont Avenue, the Economic Development Committee met with Mr. Russell Fedele (owner) and was satisfied with the responses given, both verbal and written. The Economic Development Committee has agreed to move forward in the application process.

The Committee thanks the Board for allowing the members of the Committee to serve, trusting their judgment and appreciates its continued support.

At this time, the Committee will turn over the matter of review for 41 Belmont Avenue, Best Class Foods d/b/a People's Choice, to the Board for a formal vote.

A role call vote was taken for the Committee's recommendation to approve the Liquor License Application for 41 Belmont Avenue, Best Class Foods d/b/a People's Choice, which resulted in 33 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention by Mr. Herman Winston.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 with Ms. Poulette Olmos from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She informed the Committee that her agency has been awarded a 21-month New York State grant to work with schools regarding nutrition, physical activities and tobacco policies through the Healthy Schools Policy Program. This initiative was started in August of this year and will continue through the spring of 2012.

The Program's focus will be on training parents to become effective school food advocates for their children – specifically teaching them how to advocate for better and more nutritious meals in the schools, both private and public.

There will be a training program for parents on Wednesday, November 10th, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at P.S./I.S. 73 (Thomas S. Boyland School at 251 MacDougal Street between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard). The highlights of the training will be:

- Learning about the School Food Program
- Learning how to get tasty and healthy food into your school
- Becoming an advocate for your children

Dinner will be served and childcare and homework help will also be available. Please call 646-253-5709 for additional information (Fliers are also available on tonight's distribution table with additional information).

The Committee also met with Mr. Bruce Richard, Executive Vice President of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers, who provided the Committee with much statistical data about healthcare, both past and present, and the role that 1199 has played in providing and monitoring healthcare.

Free flu shots for persons over the age of 18 will be offered at the Van Dyke I Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 19th, 2010.

Everyone is invited to attend a Health Fair entitled, "Eat Healthy & End Prematurity", here in the Lobby of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street on Wednesday, November 17th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The Fair is being sponsored by the Health and Human Services Committee, in collaboration with the Brooklyn Perinatal Network Inc., Brooklyn Task Force on Infant /Maternal Mortality and Family Health, and Brownsville Action Community for Health Equality (BACHE).

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukagebu, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the Committee's report.

Ms. Pamela Junior, member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 with representatives from NYC Habitat for Humanity regarding their proposal to construct 12 condominium units on vacant City-owned land at 2396 Dean Street corner of Mother Gaston Boulevard. The proposed project will consist of four 2-bedrooms and eight 3-bedrooms. They hope to start construction in June of 2011.

The 2-bedroom units will be approximately 800 square feet and the 3-bedroom units will be approximately 1,100 square feet. The interest rate will be 2% for 30 years, with a possibility of up to 40 years. The borrower will need a down payment of 1% plus the required sweat equity. The total cost of the units will be between \$160,000 and \$193,000 and the income guidelines are as follows:

Family size	Minimum income	Maximum income
1	\$ 26,850	\$ 43,000
2	30,700	49,150
3	34,550	55,300
4	38,400	61,450
5	41,450	66,350

The Committee recommends that the Board approves Habitat for Humanity's proposal to construct 12 Condo units on vacant City-owned land at 2396 Dean Street corner of Mother Gaston Boulevard.

The Committee also met with Mr. Aeon Clark from Elmy Special Services, a private non profit organization that provides multiple services to individuals and families with mental and/or developmental disabilities.

They have been providing supportive housing, which includes funding for some staffing but not on a 24/7 basis, for three sisters living in an apartment at 128 Osborn Street for slightly over a year. Because of the change in the sisters' ages and medical needs, they require supervised housing which would provide them with 24/7 staffing instead of their current staffing level. They have applied to the State for supervised housing, even though they have been providing the services they were not getting the funding initially, but now they qualify for the funding. Therefore, they are requesting the Board to approve the residence at 128 Osborn Street for supervised housing.

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the request by Elmy Special Services to convert the apartment at 128 Osborn Street from supportive to supervised housing.

The Committee also met with representatives from the Federation of Multicultural Programs, Inc.. They are seeking support for their proposal to construct 66 units of low-income rental housing for senior citizens and special needs individuals on vacant City-owned property at 93-205 Riverdale Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Chester Street (Block 3586 Lots 1, 6-10, and 48-50). The proposed breakdown of the units will be five 3-bedroom apartments for the developmentally challenged, one 1-bedroom for the building superintendent, forty-five 1-bedroom, and fifteen studio apartments for low income seniors.

The Committee recommends that the Board supports the proposal.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Aeon Clark from Elmy Special Services who was asked to come forward and respond to any questions concerning his request.

Mr. Clark stated that his agency provides services to individuals with mental retardation and long

term developmental disabilities such as down syndrome and cerebral palsy. They currently operate a supportive apartment at 128 Osborn Street which they are seeking to convert into a 24 hour supervised program.

Ms. Brewer asked for clarification about the size of the unit at 128 Osborn Street. Is it one unit in the building, or is it the entire building.

Mr. Clark stated that 128 Osborn Street is a 3 family house and they rent one apartment on the first floor for three sisters between the age of 54 and 64 to live. The sisters are older and experiencing more medical needs and have ambulatory issues which require more supervision for safety issues.

Someone asked if Elmy Special Services will be providing the funding for the additional supervision.

Mr. Clark stated that the State provides the funding for the program and they provide the service.

Ms. Essie Duggan asked if 128 Osborn Street is a private home.

Mr. Clark stated that it is a private 3 family home and they have leased one apartment to house and care for the sisters.

Ms. Duggan asked if they plan to expand their program into the other units.

Mr. Clark said no. This is a supportive housing arrangement where they have been providing staff for a certain number of hours per day and now they will be providing staff 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, because of health and safety concerns.

Chairperson Younger stated that since Elmy Special Services is only renting one of the apartments in the 3 family house, who is occupying the other 2 apartments?

Mr. Clark stated that the other 2 apartments are occupied by other tenants.

Chairperson Younger asked why the sisters have not been placed in a better setting, such as an assisted living program.

Mr. Clark stated that their population is unique in that they provide specific services to meet the needs of their individual clients. They also work with the families of their clients who in this case did not want an institutional-like setting. Assisted living is a cookie cut approach to meet the needs of many. An assessment is made to identify the needs of certain individuals and the funding follows those identified needs.

Chairperson Younger stated that the question remains the same, isn't there a better route to take for the three sisters than the one being proposed for 128 Osborn Street?

Mr. Clark stated that the arrangements were made at the family's request and indicated that it is the best route to take for the sisters.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked how was the determination made for an apartment to be rented at 128 Osborn Street?

Mr. Clark further stated that the sisters want to remain in the community. They work with their clients and families, when possible, to create a familiar environment for them.

Ms. Brewer stated that while she understands the desires of the clients and family, it seems that the proposal would be very expensive.

Mr. Clark stated that his proposal is more economical than an institutionalized program. The three sisters are already living at the site and have been there for over a year.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if there will be a doctor on site to address the medical needs of the clients.

Mr. Clark said no. It is not that kind of facility. For medical emergencies, they would call 911 like anyone else. His clients are mentally retarded and have developmentally disabilities, but in

every other aspect, they are just like anybody else. They desire a normal life.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu asked why the Board is being asked to approve just one apartment in the 3 family building.

Mr. Clark stated that he has nothing to do with the other 2 apartments that are being utilized by regular individuals who have nothing to do with his program. What they try to do for the individuals that they work with is provide them with something called "Normalization". Therefore, any kind of normal living arrangements that their clients want is what they try to provide. He works through the State Office of People with Disabilities that provides funding for individuals and families with developmental disabilities which is the source of his funding. For any kind of service provided in the community, they must work through the local community board.

Mr. Danny Goodine stated that all that sounds good, but he feels that for Mr. Clark to come into this neighborhood and ask the Board to approve his proposal is inappropriate. He is not in agreement with putting 2 or 3 people in a building to get money, because that is all it is about, money. It is not right. If it were somewhere else, like an institution where their needs would be met with a doctor and other services, he could understand. To put 3 people in a house where other people will be living is a whole lot and he personally feels that the issue is something that the Board should not be voting on.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Goodine to consider how he would feel and what he would do if he had a family member or friend with a disability who expressed to him that they did not want to be institutionalized but wanted to live near family, friends and the neighborhood that they know regardless of the circumstances, what would he do?

Mr. Goodine stated that he and his family members would personally take care of the family member who needed special needs.

Chairperson Younger recommended that the matter be tabled until the next meeting, which will give the board members an opportunity to further discuss and review the request.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danny Goodine and carried for the Board to approve the Committee's report with all of its recommendations except for Mr. Clark's request to convert 128 Osborn Street from a supportive housing apartment to a 24 hour supervised program which will be tabled until the November meeting.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on October 19, 2010, he and Mr. MaccEAU Medozile, Manager of Parks for District #16, visited the parks and playgrounds in the District. Their findings are in each Board member's folder and also on tonight's distribution table.

He continues to need volunteers to adopt the parks and playgrounds in the District. Please contact the Board office at (718) 385-0323 to volunteer.

On Monday, October 18, 2010, the Parks and Recreation Committee met with representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation and reviewed the schematic design for the reconstruction of the Houston Playground which will include new play equipment, spray shower, sitting area with new benches and game tables, and new lighting.

He asked the representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation to come forward and present the design for the Board's approval.

Mr. Emmanuel Thingue, Senior Designer for the Capital Division for the Borough of Brooklyn, displayed the design and stated that the Houston Playground is opposite of P.S. 332. They had a scope meeting with Councilman Dilan and the surroundings residents approximately 9 months ago to discuss what the finished Playground should look like.

The site of the Playground has a lot of existing trees (approximately 80) along the perimeter of the park which is a great feature and will be incorporated into the design. The design includes spray showers, new benches, lights, drinking fountain and additional seating, synthetic turf field, and nature trails. The playground is being designed for children between the age of 5 and 12.

Councilwoman Mealy asked what kind of material is being used in the play area. Is there any

type of metal surface?

Mr. Thingue stated that the play units will be from Gametime with a safety surface underneath them and there will be a synthetic turf field.

Mr. Hudson stated that since there are a lot of children with skateboards, it would be a good idea to include hills, etc. for this activity.

Mr. Thingue stated that the design is intended to be a playground for the younger children, age 12 and under. They are doing a lot of parks for skating throughout the City.

It would be difficult to mix the two uses in the Houston Playground because of its size and safety concerns. It is a one acre site with 80 trees, which does not lend itself to skateboard activity.

You would need a much larger space to support that kind of activity, perhaps Powell Street Playground which is in close proximity to Houston Playground. Councilman Dilan has expressed an interest in the possibility of developing the Powell Street Playground for more active use.

Ms. Peltonbusch stated that it is nice that the Houston Playground is being renovated, but what about the parks in other locations such as the Betsy Head Park.

Ms. Portia Dyrenforth stated that in addition to the \$2.1 million dollars that Councilman Dilan allocated for the renovation of the Houston Playground, there are other Capital projects funded for the District. Councilwoman Mealy helped to secure over \$3 million for the Betsy Head Recreation Center. Also, Borough President Markowitz made an allocation of \$750,000 for the reconstruction of a portion of the Betsy Head Playground which is currently in design.

Mr. Danny Goodine stated that the District continues to receive funding for some of the smaller parks like the one adjacent to P.S. 150. Approximately \$1 million dollars was spent on a 70 yard field that does not service anyone but someone who wants to drink beer and engage in other negative activities. The District has approximately 4 national sport teams and none of the teams are able to play on the field in Betsy Head Park because someone came in and put down contaminated soil and left it there, even preventing joggers from utilizing the track. The District needs a multi service football field. The Mo Better Jaguars Football team is from the District and is nationally ranked but they play in New Jersey because they cannot play in Betsy Head Park. The District does not have a field for them to play in.

Councilwoman Mealy stated that she hopes everyone understands that if we are really talking about saving our children, all the elected officials should come together and get a dome for Betsy Head Park. Her vision for the Park is to get a dome so that our children can utilize the park during all seasons. The dome would cost approximately \$17 million and she is willing to earmark all of her capital funds for this project. She encouraged everyone to write letters to their elected officials, Federal, State and City, in support of a dome for the Betsy Head Park.

Her Advisory meetings are held the second Saturday of every month and she and Assemblyman Boyland are working to resolve the conflict in time because currently, both of their Advisory meetings are held at the same time.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Rev. Joseph Norton and carried to approve the Committee's report and its recommendation for the approval of the schematic design for the reconstruction of the Houston Playground.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 20, 2010 to review some outstanding issues on Residential Recycling and plan an effective education strategy to ensure compliance and enhance the quality of our lives in our community.

All New York City residents are required by law to recycle. The owner or manager of a residential building containing three or more dwelling units must notify the residents of the requirements of the New York City Recycling Law by, at a minimum, posting and maintaining one or more signs in the recycling collection areas. Residents must keep recyclable material separate from garbage and set them out for recycling collection no sooner than the evening before their designated recycling day.

As part of the Committee's plan to educate members of the community at the Community Board meetings, the Committee will continue tonight with a presentation on the law on "Residential Recycling" and its impact on our quality of life as highlighted on the attachment in the Board members' folders. Copies are also available on tonight's display table. If we as community members do our part, then we can honestly hold both the NYC Department of Sanitation and Department of Environmental Protection enforcement accountable with our complaints.

She highlighted the fact that all New York residents are required by law to recycle. Failure to do so can cause you to get a ticket.

A representative from the Department of Sanitation is scheduled to attend the November meeting to provide additional information about recycle and other sanitation issues.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to approve the Committee report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Assemblymember William Boyland, Jr..

Assemblyman Boyland stated that there are millions of dollars for cameras and fences for the schools in the District that are tied up in the budget that the Governor vetoed. He wants to see every school in the District with cameras.

He was informed that on yesterday, approximately 5 guys attacked a female at P.S. 156 while school was in session as part of a gang initiation. The guys involved in the incident are boasting about it online at World Star hiphop.com.

Since the Department of Education did not come to them, they took the initiative to visit the principals of the schools to find out what is happening. For example, P.S. 150 has been without a gym for quite some time, yet athletic courses are being held at the school. Some science labs are equipped with outdated resources and supplies and some schools do not have computers.

Mr. Maurice Roberts from the Office of Senator Eric Adams stated that legislation has been signed into law regarding a Peace Officer Training Bill that regulate, upgrade and streamline the requirements for the peace officers which includes police officers. The existing guidelines were outdated and had not been changed in approximately 20 years. The action of over zealous peace officers has resulted in the unnecessary loss of lives, particularly in our communities.

He can be reached at (718) 284 4700 with any issues of concern.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner from the Office of Assemblymember Inez Barron encouraged everyone to vote in the November 2nd General Election.

He is very much concerned about gang violence and Black on Black crime. The Clergy and police are working collaboratively to address this issue and on Saturday, November, 30th, a meeting will be held at the 83rd Precinct.

Ms. Renee Hastings-Motes from the Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz reported that free flu shots will be available at Borough Hall on Friday, November 11th between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m..

They are hosting a Brooklyn Volunteer Expo on Wednesday, November 10th, for persons age 55 and above. Please call (212) 273-5222 if you plan to attend.

The Borough President is hosting hearings for each educational district so that concerns about education, gangs, parks, etcetera, can be heard by the Department of Education. She has been asked to try and organize one for District 16 and would welcome any concerns or suggestions. She can be contacted at (718) 802 4091 with suggestions and also for additional information about any of tonight's announcements.

Ms. Latrice Walker from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clark stated that during the later part of November, Congress will be voting on whether or not to give seniors receiving Social Security benefits \$250 since they will not be getting a cost of living increase. She encouraged everyone to call the Congresswoman's office at (718) 287-1142 and let her know their feelings on the issue.

Ms. Karen Cherry from the Office of Congressman Towns stressed the importance of everyone voting on November 2nd. She can be reached at (718) 272 1175 with any concerns.

Ms. Essie Duggan from the Office of Senator Montgomery invited everyone to join the Senator at an education town hall meeting on Tuesday, November 9th from 5:00 p.m-7:00 p.m. at Medgar Evers College, located at 1650 Bedford Avenue.

Please call Wayside Meals on Wheels at (718) 443-2574 if you know of seniors or disabled persons who need a meal.

Mr. Randy Hudson "The Webmaster" announced that an African American Burial Ground was found underneath the New Lots Library and extends onto Schenck Avenue. Additional information can be found on his website at www.bigtimebig.biz.

Ms. Poulette Olmos from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene encouraged everyone to attend the training program for parents on Wednesday, November 10th, which was mentioned earlier in the Health and Human Services report. This will be an opportunity for parents to advocate for better food for their children in school.

Captain Abernethy from the 73rd Precinct reported that crime is down for the year. There will be additional police officers on foot and car patrol during Halloween.

Detective Mary Anne Petrizzo from Community Affairs stated that parents should be aware of the extreme methods that gangs are using to get youth to become members. They are staging fights and then giving the impression that they are rescuing the victim from an altercation that they deliberately initiated. She can be reached at (718) 495-5422 with any concerns.

Mr. Charles Ladson, First Vice President of the District's Community Education Council, invited everyone to attend a legislation breakfast at P.S. 327, located at 111 Bristol Street between Sutter and Pitkin Avenue 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m..

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Mr. James Mack and carried to adjourn the meeting.