

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – June 28, 2011

Attendance

David Alexander	Genese Morgan
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)	Terry Norfleet (A)
Margaret Brewer	Rev. Joseph Norton
Adrainer Coleman (E)	Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Essie Duggan	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Norman Frazier	Marie Pierre
Helen Giles (A)	Rev. Devon Ponds
Shirley Gonsalves (E)	Mattie Pusey
Daniel Goodine	Linda Rivera (E)
Chanel Haliburton (E)	Melaine Rochford (A)
Sarah Hall	Wendy Rutherford
Kofi Hormeku	Beatrice Saunds
Michael Howard (E)	Melina Terry (A)
Allene Ingram	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Prince Issachar	Ernestine Turner (E)
Daisy Jackson	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Minyarn Johnson (E)	Annie Walkes
Carl Joseph (E)	Jennifer Williams
Pamela Junior (E)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Eula Key	Herman Winston
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Hazel Younger
Charles Ladson	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Deborah Mack (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
James Mack	Hon. Eric Adams
Yolanda Matthews	Hon. Darlene Mealy
Linda Mayo (A)	Latrice Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
John McCadney, Jr.	Sam Pierre for Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Sadie McNamara	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Ted McQueen	Rene Hastick-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz

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

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed with an invocation by Rev. Joseph Norton.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Roseanne Fogarty of the United States Census Bureau.

Ms. Fogarty stated that she is with the Partnership and Data Division of the Census Bureau. When the 2010 Census process began, the Bureau set a goal of releasing the collection data by April 1, 2011. They fulfilled their goal and began to release the data in January 2011. Her division performs outreach to their partners in the communities. Packets were placed on the Board members' seats containing information on how to contact the Bureau and a list of services that they provide free of cost to the community. It also provides information about how they collect data and keep the information private. A sheet showing the largest counties and cities in New York State indicates that Brooklyn (Kings County) continues to be the largest county, and New York City is the largest city in the State. The sheet also contains racial breakdowns and other demographical information for Brooklyn. This is what they are terming the portrait of the area. More data will come. By looking at this sheet, one can begin to see what Brooklyn looks like by age, sex, race, country of origin, income, etcetera. As more data is inputted, the picture becomes clearer. She encourages the audience to visit their website often as they update the information weekly. The Census Bureau did their best to ensure that every household received a questionnaire and that it was returned from each household. The New York City Department of City Planning also worked with them to get as many people counted as possible citywide, boroughwide, and at the community level. They provide assistance with addresses and tabulated census tract information in the form of Neighborhood Tabulation Areas (in which Brooklyn 79 and 81 represent Ocean Hill and Brownsville respectively).

The Census Bureau continues to work even after the decennial census. They work everyday collecting more information that make the portraits of neighborhoods come alive. They are in Brooklyn every day of the week taking one survey or another. The surveys are not like the census, they are not sent to every address. The data from these surveys are collected at times

because they are required to do so and at times at the request of another agency. They may collect data to get a picture of unemployment or crime rates for other agencies.

One survey that she likes to highlight is the American Communities Survey. The survey is sent to a sample of addresses in a community (never a specific person) and more detailed information is gathered about that household. The household that answers a Communities Survey is actually representing about forty households in the area. The statistical data is made available for interested persons (no personal data is ever given). The information is helpful to parties that may be interested in establishing a business in an area, someone seeking to move into an area, or an organization seeking to provide services to an area. There are a myriad of reasons why people may want to look at the information that the Census Bureau produces at a local level.

The Census also makes itself available for presentations to groups. Presentations are of various lengths, from fifteen to twenty minute presentations to two to three hour workshops for those who may be interested in how to extrapolate data from their website. The presentations are free of charge. Your taxpayer dollars were used to gather and tabulate the data and will be used to disseminate it; so why not use it to make sure your community receives all that it should?

Ms. Bernadette Williams thanked Ms. Fogarty for the information and asked if she can determine the number of voters in an area.

Ms. Fogarty stated that some information that is asked on the census form is administrative, such as your name, number of persons living there, whether this is your principle residence, etcetera. Then they ask: your age and date of birth; your race; are you of Hispanic origin; whether the home is owned with or without a mortgage, rented, or occupied without rent. There are no questions about voting. The American Communities Survey does ask many more questions – it asks about ancestry, income, employment, and detailed information about housing. The information, while detailed, is only used for aggregate statistical data and not for gaining information on an individual. City planners in Westchester County have used the data for things such as planning bus routes in areas where the survey indicates that personal cars are not in great availability. Religious institutions have used the data to determine the type and placement of their facilities.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if job postings are available on their website.

Ms. Fogarty stated that each of the Regional Offices (There are twelve nationwide.) has a web presence. It is found on the left side of their main webpage – census.gov. There you may click on the regional office desired. The federal government also maintains a listing of federal job openings at usajobs.gov. The Census Bureau hires frequently but not always for permanent positions.

Chairperson Younger thanked Ms. Fogarty for her presentation and requested that new members of the Board step forward.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy administered the oath of office to Mr. Norman Frazier, Mr. John McCadney, Jr., and Ms. Jennifer Williams. She thanked them for committing to the service of their community.

A motion was made by Rev. Joseph Norton, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted articles found in her report concerning the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's prescription drug program and stated that a representative is with us tonight.

Ms. Novoa stated that the Big Apple Rx card is now available to anyone regardless of age, income, citizenship or health insurance status. The cards will save an average of 47 percent on prescription medications and can be used by anyone who lives, works or visits the City. This drug card program will help all New Yorkers (with or without insurance) get the most cost effective medication.

New Yorkers can instantly download and print the card, access educational information about prescriptions, compare drug prices and locate the nearest participating pharmacies. The Big Apple Rx card also has an iPhone application that allows consumers to locate their nearest pharmacy and present the card to pharmacists right from the phone.

New Yorkers who suffer from diabetes can save up to \$831 per year on generic glucose control medication, while those with asthma can potentially save \$667 by using the BigAppleRx card to fill their inhaler prescriptions. Allergy sufferers, those who use birth control, people who take medication for high cholesterol or to help manage heart disease can all benefit from BigAppleRx's discounts, up to 15 percent on brand name drugs and 53 percent on generic drugs.

More than 2,000 (85 percent) of the City's pharmacies will accept the BigAppleRx card. Any New Yorker or organization interested in learning how to get or distribute the BigAppleRx card should visit www.bigapplerox.com or call 311.

A motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Mr. Ted McQueen and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's report.

Ms. Essie Duggan, in behalf of Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 16, 2011 and discussed names of Board members to fill Executive Offices for the period from June 2011 to June 2012.

The Committee's nominations are as follows:

- Chairperson – Hazel A. Younger
- 1st Vice Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace
- 2nd Vice Chairperson – Kofi Hormeku
- Secretary – Sadie McNamara
- Treasurer – Sarah Hall
- Parliamentarian – Marie Pierre

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

At the Board's May 24, 2011 meeting, additional nominations were made as follows:

- Chairperson – Deidre Olivera-Douglas
- 2nd Vice Chairperson – Chanel Haliburton
- Treasurer – Charles Ladson

A roll call vote was taken wherein Hazel A. Younger was elected Chairperson by a vote of 24-in favor, 1-opposed, and 6 abstentions; Kofi Hormeku was elected 2nd Vice Chairperson by a vote of 22-in favor, 1-opposed, and 8 abstentions; Sarah Hall was elected Treasurer by a vote of 24-in favor, 1-opposed, and 6 abstentions.

The Secretary was instructed to cast a vote appointing the remaining nominees to their respective positions.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 16, 2011 to continue discussing economic development and revitalization efforts within our community, specifically Belmont Avenue, and to review the liquor license application for Ooh La La Lounge, located at 391 Howard Avenue.

In their April 26, 2011 Committee report, they reported on the possibility of having Hunter College work with the Committee to complete a studio project on Brownsville in which graduate students would provide assistance to the community by helping to design a full proposal for revitalizing the neighborhood. Unfortunately, after following up with Hunter College, the Committee has learned that the project will not go forward in the coming school year. This is due to the interested instructor's inability to obtain necessary work permits in time to begin the project at the start of the coming school year. The project will be given re-consideration once an available instructor with interest in the Brownsville community can be secured to oversee the project.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed one "change" application for a liquor license from beer and wine only to beer, wine and liquor. The establishment is a lounge and is located at 391 Howard Avenue.

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit by the Committee.

- The Committee has determined that the establishment currently holds a liquor license for beer and wine only; this application was not brought before the Board for approval.
- The establishment is located within 200 feet of a place of worship (Mt. Ararat Baptist Church). The Committee are in receipt of a letter from Pastor Steven Carter in opposition to the liquor license application.
- The establishment is located within 500 feet of a school building (P.S. 12).
- The establishment is located very close to two senior citizen buildings (Berean Gardens and The Domenech).

In light of the above-mentioned statements, the Committee suggests that the Board not support this application.

The Committee will continue to meet throughout the summer months on the 3rd Thursday of July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan (genesemor@aol.com).

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to accept the Economic Development Committee Report.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. Prince Issachar and carried to support the Committee's recommendation not to support the change application for a liquor license for Ooh La La Lounge at 391 Howard Avenue.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 14, 2011 with Mr. Jack Hammer from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) regarding the agency's "Proactive Preservation Initiative".

According to HPD, the decline in the economy and housing market over the past few years has led to disinvestment and rising distress in neighborhoods across the City. These troubling signs have prompted the City to think about ways to prevent further decline in buildings that threaten the stability and health of surrounding neighborhoods. Over the past three decades, HPD has invested billions in over 350,000 units of housing across all five boroughs and brought the City back from the brink of serious devastation in the 1970s and 80s. Proactive Preservation is all about protecting those investments and never letting the housing stock sink to those depths again.

HPD has launched a new, comprehensive *Proactive Preservation* initiative to identify and address deteriorating physical conditions in multifamily buildings throughout the City before they reach a state that endangers the health and safety of residents and threatens the quality of the surrounding neighborhood.

Approximately five hundred buildings will be surveyed in the initiative's first year. Primarily, buildings are selected by HPD because of an increase in the number of emergency violations issued over a period of time.

- Within those parameters, most buildings will be randomly selected
- Areas of high-HPD investment will be more heavily sampled
- Building Exclusions:
 - Less than six units
 - In the Alternative Enforcement Program (another HPD program to correct emergency violations in the City's worst buildings)
 - In active litigation with HPD
- Referrals from community partners and elected officials will also be considered

Contact Information:

For building referrals, email: hpdproactive@hpd.nyc.gov (include "Proactive Building Referral" in subject line) or call (212) 863-7278.

For general information email: hpdproactive@hpd.nyc.gov or call (212) 863-8942.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee Report.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reminded the Board members that copies of the Committee's Inspection Report may be found in their folders each month detailing the condition of each of the District's Parks and Recreation facilities.

The Committee is dedicated to doing what it takes to ensure that our parks receive the necessary resources. He invites anyone who shares this conviction to join the Committee.

The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2011 at 6:30 sharp.

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the Parks and Recreation Committee Report.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy stated that she plans to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the City's proposal not to open Howard Pool this summer. She is challenging their findings that the pool is underutilized. She will make sure that the funds are put back in the budget to open Howard Houses Pool this summer.

Mr. Hormeku thanked Councilmember Mealy for championing this cause and looks forward to working with her.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 15, 2011 and continued their review of pending legislation such as the Mitchell Lama bill and the Tenants' Bill of Rights.

The Committee plans to offer a series of educational workshops for the community.

As of May 23, 2011, a local law went into effect to prohibit smoking in pedestrian plazas and public parks.

A leaflet about the effects of PCB's on reproductive health and comments from parents, teachers, and students who are trying to fight for the Department of Education to clean up PCB's in schools was disseminated.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held on July 20th, at 6:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the Legislative Committee Report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 8, 2011 with Mikelle Agate from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection regarding a green infrastructure and storm water control project that they are undertaking. Ms. Agate is present tonight to give a brief presentation on the plan.

Representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) were asked to come forward and address the audience.

Ms. Margot Walker stated that they are from DEP's Office of Green Infrastructure. She and her colleague had hoped to do a PowerPoint presentation on a DEP storm water management project to take place along Junius and Powell Streets between Belmont and East New York Avenues. They will return at a later date to deliver the PowerPoint presentation.

The objective of the project is to create some storm water controls along the sidewalk areas and perhaps some of the public properties in the area to help control combined sewer overflows occurring in Jamaica Bay. They look forward to making a PowerPoint presentation at the September Board meeting.

Ms. Annie Walkes, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 15, 2011 and discussed future agenda items.

Beginning in September, the Committee will meet with the directors of senior citizen centers in our community to keep current on issues affecting our senior residents and to advocate for more resources.

The Committee will also compile a list of senior centers in the community and the resources they

offer.

Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21st, 3:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Allene Ingram and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, the Committee met to review the plans for the community survey that had been discussed recently. The Committee has decided to forgo the proposed plan for a door to door survey since others are conducting similar tactics to gather community information in our area. They will instead "Piggyback" and share the collected information gathered from reports, due to two reasons: 1) manpower and 2) funding.

The Committee has been looking into becoming a member of The Women's Funding Network (TWFN) which is an umbrella organization that includes The Association of Black Foundation Executives, African Women's Development Fund and the Atlanta Women's Foundation (which has been referred to as "The New Age Civil Rights Organization").

She has looked into the Women's Funding Network to learn more about the resources available for us as a community in need, as well as to position us to bring order, understanding, attention, and productive direction to Brooklyn's Community District 16.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to encourage the audience to take interest in serving on a committee. Preferably, the Women's, as it can serve as a key to the families in our district, a chance to provide knowledge, self help, and support directly to those who need it to strengthen them as a family unit. This will also enable us as leaders to bring this to the leaders of the households who will in turn bring positive changes to Community District 16.

All who are interested are invited to sit on the Committee and work for the betterment of the District. Even if you are not a Board member, there is a place for you as a community resident. You too have a voice, with the proper articulation and presentation, your idea for the community may be the next big move we make.

You may contact the Community Board's office at (718) 385-0323 to reserve your seat at the next Committee meeting.

The Women's Committee meets every 1st Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2011 in the Community Board office at 6:30 p.m..

The Women's Committee is proud to serve the community.

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 21st to discuss the Summer Youth Initiative and the FLEX Program.

Four youth have successfully completed a twelve-hour job readiness workshop as of Saturday, June 25th. They received a package containing a certificate of completion and their resume. Interviews have been set up for them this week with the merchants of the Pitkin BID.

The Committee also discussed the FLEX program (an educational and cultural enrichment program for youth between the ages of seven and thirteen) which is currently underway. The Committee is in the process of formalizing the details of the program.

They will be meeting over the summer months to finalize the details of the FLEX program and begin brainstorming feasible projects for the coming year.

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be held on July 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Rev. Devon Ponds and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Younger read the following resolution and asked for the Board's support:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Community Board #16 has been notified by the Executive Director of CAMBA in a letter dated December 20, 2010 that CAMBA is applying through the Department of Homeless Services' Open-Ended Request for Proposals (RFP) process to develop a Transitional Residence for Homeless Single Adult Men to serve this population, and

WHEREAS, the proposed facility is located at 1424 Herkimer Street and will have a capacity of 202 beds, and

WHEREAS, a meeting was held with CAMBA on May 26, 2011 where residents vehemently expressed opposition to CAMBA's proposed facility, and

WHEREAS, CAMBA presently operates a facility for 200 men at 2402 Atlantic Avenue which is within two blocks of the proposed facility at 1424 Herkimer Street and within 5 blocks of 2 transitional facilities housing 216 families, and

WHEREAS, Community District #16 has 10 similar facilities, and

WHEREAS, Community District #16 is clearly over saturated with homeless shelters, and

WHEREAS, Community Board #16 in its mission to provide a better quality of life for the residents of our community, has aggressively worked with the City Administration and our local elected officials to address the need for affordable and permanent housing and have succeeded in rebuilding much of our housing stock and stabilizing our community, and

WHEREAS, it greatly distresses us when organizations such as CAMBA, which may have good intentions but somewhat of a myopic view, continue to focus on transitional housing as opposed to permanent housing, and

WHEREAS, these facilities are negatively impacting upon our resources such as the 73rd Precinct, local fire companies, Department of Sanitation and other municipal services,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board #16 vehemently opposes the CAMBA facility proposed for 1424 Herkimer Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to adopt the resolution opposing the CAMBA facility proposed for 1424 Herkimer Street.

Chairperson Younger stated that District Manager Greene-Walker has put forth much effort to stop the shelter from coming in. She urges the members of the 1400 Herkimer Street Block Association to come to an understanding that the powers of the Community Board are somewhat limited in these matters and that they reach out to their City Councilmember Eric Dilan and the Department of Homeless Services Commissioner to let them know how much they disapprove of the proposal.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy applauded the Board members for their commitment to service and congratulated the members elected to serve on the Executive Board. She extended a special commendation to Board member Daisy Jackson for her undying commitment to making her Committee's summer youth employment initiative work. She did not just talk about it, she did what she needed to do to see it to fruition.

With regard to the PCB legislation mentioned by Ms. Pierre, the City Council has allocated six million dollars toward remediation of the PCBs in city schools within two years.

She voted against the ban on smoking in city parks. She received considerable flack for her position on the issue, but while she is not a smoker, she believes our laws should be written for all and not just those with some dollars and a cause. She also voted against the Planned Parenthood Intro, she believes that life should also be a choice and noted that the highest rate of abortions are here in this District.

She recently sent out approximately 1500 notices to persons who are in jeopardy of having tax liens on their properties sold and only about 100 persons responded. There are about thirty days remaining before the City takes action to sell the liens and it is important that persons affected do not procrastinate. She urges anyone in her district struggling with a water bill that is out of control to reach out to her office for assistance.

Her Summer Sizzler Series is taking place on each Thursday throughout the summer. She encourages everyone to participate. She also asked for consideration of one's neighbors as parties and other festivities are planned and given. Keep the noise (music) at reasonable levels and end the activity at reasonable hours.

She encourages residents to call 3-1-1 when they see large numbers of beds being moved into previously vacant buildings. (This is usually a sign that the building is becoming a shelter.) At that point City inspectors will be dispatched to at least ensure that proper certificate of occupancies, sprinklers, etcetera exist to occupy the building in such manner. Legislation is in the works to require that entry be allowed into any property by city officials when public safety may be at risk.

She invited everyone to attend her Community Advisory Board meetings which will be held on the second Saturday of each month for the months of July and August. They will resume to the first Saturday of each month in September.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas stated that youth who were unable to find employment through the Summer Youth Employment Program should visit the Department of Youth and Community Development's website (nyc.gov/dycd) for some alternatives to that program.

Chairperson Younger thanked Ms. Olivera-Douglas for the information.

She recognized Senator Eric Adams.

Senator Adams stated that he can be reached via email at voicesofconcern@aol.com. He personally answers each of his emails before delegating to his staff for action. He rarely attends Community Board and Precinct Council meetings, however, when he is in town from Albany he frequently visits some of the constituents in his district who are unable to get out to these meetings.

He is the father of a fifteen year old son and gets butterflies in his stomach when he sits down to consider how he will manage to finance a college education for him. He understands the struggles of his constituency. This is his seventh meeting today and he is scheduled for twenty-two graduation appearances this summer. As a representative for over 350,000 New Yorkers he is spread thinly. He is not surprised when he hears people say that they don't see him or his colleagues such as Councilmember Mealy, as they must balance their time. They are working hard to meet the needs of their districts with limited staff, limited funding, and limited volunteers. He asks that the audience realize that they are not Messiahs and cannot wave their hands and make problems disappear. He encourages everyone to give ten percent of their time as volunteers, as this would go a long way towards resolving some of the issues plaguing the community. There is nothing wrong with a teacher donating time to tutor children, a nurse volunteering to do prenatal care, or a banker volunteering at a foreclosure prevention seminar. He applauds Ms. Jackson for her effort at finding jobs for youth, we each need to do our part and stop the finger pointing. If he's not doing a good job, tell him before he fails and let him know how you can collaborate with him to do a better job.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Rene Hastick-Motes, representing the Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Ms. Hastick-Motes stated that she can be reached at (718) 802-4091 and she invites the audience to reach out to her for assistance and welcomes visits to their office.

There were many concerns regarding the last Community Board meeting. In each Board member's folder is a memo from the Borough President's office regarding the concerns.

She presented perfect attendance certificates for the calendar year ended December 2010 to Ms. Essie Duggan, Ms. Sarah Hall, Ms. Eula Key, Mr. James Mack, and Ms. Marie Pierre.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Latrice Walker, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Ms. Walker stated that Congresswoman Clarke's office is currently looking at legislation that seeks to eliminate the ability to obtain sugary drinks when using food stamps. They decided to go to the neighborhood markets to see what is being offered for sale. What they found were ten colas for one dollar and no healthy alternatives. If what is being offered cannot be obtained using the food stamps, what choice is given to the neighborhood residents? Food coops within Congresswoman Clarke's district are proponents of the legislation because they feel that it will lead to healthier food choices. They are seeking the community's feedback on this issue to determine how to vote on the issue. Congresswoman Clarke's office can be reached at (718) 287-1142.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan, representing the Office of Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Ms. Duggan stated that Senator Montgomery continues to champion causes of at-risk youth of the community and welcomes conversations with the community on this issue.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Sam Pierre, representing the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit.

Mr. Pierre stated that he spends quite a bit of time with the community boards across the Borough and works diligently to find alternative sources of funding to implement their programs. Anyone with comments or concerns may call him at (212) 788-7406 or visit their website (nyc.gov/cau).

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Maurice Cole of the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA).

Mr. Cole stated that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHLPP) application period will soon come to an end. EHLPP provides mortgage assistance to eligible homeowners experiencing a drop in income of at least 15 percent, directly resulting from involuntary unemployment or underemployment due to the economy and/or a medical condition. The mortgage assistance covers past-due mortgage payments, as well as a portion of the homeowner's mortgage payment for up to 24 months or \$50,000, whichever comes first. While there is a prequalification process, the funding is done on a lottery basis. If you or someone you know may be eligible for the program, please contact BNIA at (718) 773-4116 Monday to Friday. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Younger recognized Brother Paul Muhammad.

Brother Muhammad stated that he is a member of Mosque 17, located on Pennsylvania Avenue in East New York. They will be more active than they have ever been in the East New York and Brownsville communities with an initiative called "Close the Gap". Close the Gap seeks to empower Blacks to become consumers and providers of their own goods and services and thereby become less dependent on others. They look forward to working with the community.

Chairperson Younger recognized John Wilson from the Active Citizen Project.

Mr. Wilson stated that there are a quarter million working age youth in the city and only forty thousand summer youth jobs. He has been here before with a group of students from Thomas Jefferson High School back in 2009, which is they first started in the area. They now have five active sites in Brooklyn.

Through their gardens, they are able to employ youth farmers at a rate of \$12.00 per hour (The Summer Youth Employment Program pays the minimum wage of \$7.25.). They are able to do this by selling fifty percent of their crops to high-end restaurants at lucrative prices and selling the other fifty percent to local residents at about fifty percent market prices (most selling for \$1.00 to \$2.00 a pound). They make use of vacant lots to grow their produce and there are many vacant lots in the city. In District #16, along Livonia Avenue, there are many vacant lots which HPD (Department of Housing Preservation and Development) is not utilizing – each acre of land can generate \$250,000 a year. They have the capability of being thriving businesses owned by the community. They currently grow in two gardens in Brownsville and seek to expand. During the summer they sell produce at the Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center's Farmers' Market, located at Rockaway and Blake Avenues.

There being no further business discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to adjourn the meeting.