

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 25, 2011

Attendance

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

PUBLIC HEARING

First Vice Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the public hearing to order at 7:05 p.m., followed with an invocation by Ms. Marie Pierre.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Ms. Zurana Horton, a mother of twelve children who was gunned down last Friday, and Mrs. Helen J. Greene, mother of District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker, who passed earlier today.

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 2013 Capital and Expense Budgets.

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 2013 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. Most of the items were included in the previous years' budget request list but were not funded. It is her hope that by continuing to request the items, they will become a priority to City administrators, elected officials, and others.

First Vice Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace 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. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Prince Issachar and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted articles found in her report concerning the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) upcoming deadline to enter a claim for uninsured damages incurred during hurricane Irene this past summer. Also, the New York City Parks Department, Department of Education, and the non-profit Trust for Public Land have announced that P.S. 183's schoolyard, located at 76 Riverdale Avenue, has opened to the public. The Board and the partnership are requesting that the community utilize the facility and help keep the new playground clean by picking up litter and obeying its rules.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's report.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Saleen Shah of the Citizens Committee.

Mr. Shah offered kudos to Ms. Pierre on her invocation and condolences to the families who have experienced losses. The Citizens Committee was established in 1975. They are the only New York City group that gives grants to organizations that may not have a 501(c)(3), as well as neighbors coming together for the first time. Citizens Committee empowers New Yorkers to improve their communities by providing micro grants.

There are currently two grants being offered. The first is the Love Your Block Grant, a grant for volunteer-led neighborhood groups that wish to beautify and revitalize their blocks. Existing and newly-formed groups such as block, tenant, and civic associations, as well as community gardening and school gardening groups, are invited to apply. Officials from city agencies such as the Departments of Transportation, Sanitation, and Parks and Recreation, engage with group members and listen to their block improvement requests. The city agencies then proceed to carry out the requested services which may include anything from repairing damaged or missing street signs/streetlights to a replacement of worn-out/missing litter baskets to conducting tree, bike rack, and speed bump surveys. With grant money, the selected groups purchase equipment and supplies and roll up their sleeves to carry out their own brand of block beautification and repair, whether it be painting a mural or sprucing up the length of the block with brand-new planters and saplings. And as a result of the neighborhood coming together to accomplish the goals they've set, the grassroots energy that has always characterized our city's blocks is rekindled.

The other award is the New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods grants program. Grants are awarded for creative community projects that bring neighbors together to improve their neighborhoods. Eligible groups can receive a grant of \$500-\$3,000, one-on-one project planning assistance, enrollment in their skills-building workshops, and access to their equipment loan library. The groups get to select how the funds are used – they believe that community residents know what is best for their own communities.

They also offer workshops on organizing grassroots organizations, navigating City government, raising funds, and more. He can be reached at sshah@citizensnyc.org or (212) 822-9566.

Rev. Joseph Norton asked how long after an application is received will a group be notified if they have been approved for a grant.

Mr. Shah stated that the application deadline is November 8th. Responses will be given shortly after Thanksgiving and checks will be mailed in January and February. There will be an award ceremony in July where many groups gather and invite their elected officials.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that there are many tree guards placed around tree pits in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. How can they be placed in the Brownsville and Ocean Hill communities?

Mr. Shah stated that years ago, Borough President Markowitz had a tree guard program that was taken advantage of by many property owners. The program is no longer active but one of the workshops that are offered by the Citizens Committee teaches people how to build tree guards out of wood for about \$100. The guards (while not as sturdy as the ones in the Borough President's program and cost \$700 to \$800) are very nice and blueprints are given to attendees so

they can be replicated.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Shah for his presentation.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussions for economic development and revitalization efforts within our community.

At this meeting, a guest presenter, Mr. Alex Bibb from the U.S. Financial Diaries Organization, presented information to the Committee about the U.S. Financial Diaries project which is scheduled to begin in the Ocean Hill/Brownsville area starting November 2011.

This project is a yearlong study being conducted by New York University, Bankable Frontier Associates, and the Center for Financial Services; funded in part by Citi Foundation. The study has been conducted in India, South Africa, Bangladesh, Mexico, Columbia, Kenya and Uganda and will be the first of its type to take place in the United States. The purpose of the study is to understand how certain families with limited income survive throughout the month. Additionally, the results of this study will be used to help lobby for changes in financial policies that exist in the United States which regulate funding resources for low income families.

The study will consist of thirty (30) undisclosed working class African-American families earning 200% above the poverty line with an income range of \$20,000-\$40,000 per year, at minimum. Families will meet with Mr. Bibb every two weeks to provide updated information on their family spending habits and resources utilized to fund their consumptions. Some compensation and/or gifts will be provided for families that agree to participate.

Mr. Bibb will provide progress reports to the Community Board and seek to connect with community organizations in his outreach efforts. Additionally, the Committee will seek to incorporate the information captured by the study into the final Community Banking Opinion and Proposal which will follow at the end of its Community Banking Survey.

The Community Banking Survey is now available online at surveymonkey.com/s/CB16Banking. The purpose of the survey is to allow the community at-large to provide input for the Community Banking Opinion and Proposal which will address the need for better banking and financial service options within the community. The Committee encourages your online participation. The survey responses are completely anonymous and the Committee will make hard copies available for community residents without access to the online version.

Additionally, Joe Blankenship of Pratt Institute has begun his yearlong internship on the Belmont Avenue project with the first step being an in-depth survey of land use on Belmont Avenue. Hunter College graduate students have presented the first draft of their yearlong work plan for the Ocean Hill/Brownsville Studio project. The Committee is in the process of reviewing the work plan and providing feedback for revisions. The Committee will continue to keep the community abreast of all economic development projects which are currently in progress.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan (genesemor@aol.com).

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 12th, with representatives from BACHE (Brownsville Action Community Health Equality) for an update on their efforts to reduce infant mortality in the Brownsville community.

Representatives of the BACHE program were scheduled to give an updated report on their project, however, they were unable to attend tonight's meeting and will be rescheduled.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 19th, and engaged in a discussion about various proposed legislation and the importance

of community input.

At last month's meeting, copies of the proposed legislation on the Tenants Bill of Rights and Intro 494 were included in each Board member's folder for review, and comments to be submitted to Ms. Viola Greene-Walker at bk16@cb.nyc.gov or to her at mypierre@aol.com. Since no comments were received, she again asks that Board members take a few minutes to review the proposed legislation and forward comments via email to her or Ms. Greene-Walker. Please contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323 if you need additional copies.

The Committee is pleased that Ms. Keturah Suggs has joined the Committee. As the Committee responsible for reviewing and commenting on various proposed legislation that can affect our daily lives, it is imperative that the makeup of the Committee adequately reflect the residents of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Community. Therefore, in addition to Board members, she asks anyone from the community who would like to become a member of the Legislative Committee to please contact the Board's office and they will receive a notice of the next meeting date.

Rev. Norton noted that he submitted comments on the proposed legislation.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the Legislative Committee Report with the noted correction.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that the Committee's Inspection Report can be found on tonight's distribution table and can be read at your leisure.

Work has begun on the Nehemiah Playground and the Committee looks forward to seeing the results as well as future projects at other parks in the community.

Committee members were reminded that a meeting is not being scheduled for November, however, they may be called upon if action is needed on any proposals.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack and carried by a vote of 27-in favor, 0-opposed, and 0-abstentions to accept the District Manager's recommendations for the Capital and Expense Budget requests and their priorities for Fiscal Year 2013.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy thanked District Manager Greene-Walker and her staff, Ms. Sarah Hall, and Rev. Leonard Hatter for their assistance in helping her obtain information regarding the shootings that took place last Friday.

The alleged shooter and two others have been apprehended by the police.

It is our duty as a community to come together and address the issues ourselves and not allow outside influences to dictate how we handle them. If the community wants press conferences, they should call them. She is opposed to having people of the community paraded in front of cameras to suit the needs of others because in the end it will be the Community Board and local elected officials, such as herself, who will have to deal with the issues. The community needs to unite and act as one and let their elected officials know what they need. There will be a town hall meeting wherein the legislators representing this community will gather to hear your voices. She will follow the lead of Senator Sampson. She urged everyone to attend the meeting because the time to act is now, before another tragedy occurs.

She invites everyone to her Advisory Board meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 1753 Union Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). Some of the New York City Housing Authority complexes in the community now have security cameras in place as a result of tenants from the complexes attending advisory meetings and demanding that they be installed.

Mr. Charles Ladson commented that the cameras are effective and suggested that they also be placed outside of school buildings.

Councilmember Mealy stated that when we work together, these are the kind of things that can

happen. She has heard that the "Occupy Wall Street" movement is looking for more people of color to participate. She respects the movement and what they are doing but her response is to let them join us here first in an "Occupy Brownsville" movement. Get some things done here and then we can march with them on Wall Street and in Washington.

Ms. Sadie McNamara stated that we need to find out where the youth are obtaining the guns.

Councilmember Mealy commented that there are no gun manufacturers in the five boroughs of New York City, so we know that they are coming from outside the City. However, we need to do our part. In some cases, we know that a young person has a gun inside our homes but don't say anything. We should be turning them in, she did it to her nephew. To this day, he is still not talking to her but he is alive and has not been involved in any gunplay. She is not going to sugar coat it, the guns are in the hands of our sons, daughters, nephews, and cousins. Someone will end up dead and it could be you if the guns are not removed from them.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Senator John Sampson.

Senator Sampson stated that he concurs with Councilmember Mealy in that we need to do more than just press conferences when tragedies occur in our community. Prior to last week's killing, there had been seventeen others. He, along with Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr., and Councilmember Mealy will work on a comprehensive package to deal with these issues. Crime is out of control in this community. After all the cameras are gone, they are left to deal with the issues.

He has been working tirelessly to make certain that Brookdale Hospital remains open. He is communicating with both the administrators and employees of Brookdale to determine the issues at hand. The Bergen Commission, which is responsible for (in a manner of speaking) the life line of the hospitals, is scheduled to meet in the next few weeks. He will be recommending that they look at consolidating some of the medical services offered by the various medical facilities serving the community. In the current economic and political climate, this is the only way he sees Brookdale surviving. The federal, state, and city governments no longer have the funds to keep all these facilities open. They were built at a time where hospital beds were always full. Today, they only bed two hundred to three hundred patients which is not enough to sustain a hospital.

Brookdale is the life blood of our community and to survive a merger must take place. We must also educate our residents on not using emergency rooms for primary care. We must ensure that they have access to enough primary care physicians so that they do not need to visit emergency rooms for primary care.

As the holiday season approaches, he is again reminded of the unemployment in our community, especially amongst our young men. He is seeking to entice businesses to look at the community as a place for their business and increase the tax base as well as reduce unemployment.

Mr. Ladson stated that he frequently advocates for the children of the community and is appalled by the lack of community participation.

Senator Sampson commended Mr. Ladson for his diligence in advocating for the community and stated that we need to outreach to the people who do not come to meetings and get them involved. We need to take back our streets. It has been done elsewhere, but for whatever reason, it always seems to get stymied in Brownsville. Shootings are not new to Brownsville, stopping violence in the community is something that has been spoken about as long as he can remember. We have to get tough on crime, even if it means sending some of our young men and women away for a long time, then so be it. Enough is enough, we can no longer tolerate the violence.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if Interfaith Hospital is in jeopardy of closing.

Senator Sampson stated that Interfaith, Brookdale, Wyckoff, Kingsbrook Jewish, and Downtown Brooklyn Hospitals are all in jeopardy of closing. The reason for this is that healthcare has modernized and in-hospital recovery times have gotten shorter. As long term stays have decreased, more and more beds are empty and spaces are underutilized. He has been talking to the administrators of Brookdale about coming up with ways of making use of their underutilized space to generate income. He would like for each of the hospitals to specialize in a different aspect of medicine. Perhaps one campus can specialize in heart disease, another in kidney disease, and instead of fighting for the same patient, they would each seek patients with different

ailments. For instance, Brookdale is known to be an excellent trauma hospital - it could become the trauma hub for Brooklyn.

Mr. McCadney stated that insurance companies dictate much of what happens with hospitals. As a retiree from the Transit Authority, he is covered by United Healthcare which will not cover him at Brookdale hospital except in a life threatening situation. Furthermore, he believes that there are disparities in the quality of medicine offered in Brooklyn versus what is available in Manhattan.

Senator Sampson stated that he disagrees. Many people are of the opinion that they receive better care at a Manhattan hospital. He was once one of them. His late mother used to tell him not take her to Brookdale should she become ill. However, when she did become ill he brought her to Methodist Hospital which is a renowned hospital in Park Slope and was disappointed with the level of care provided to her and brought her to Brookdale where he feels she received superior care. There are many excellent doctors and other professionals working in our local hospitals, do not be fooled into thinking otherwise. The two best trauma hospitals in New York State are Kings County Hospital and Brookdale Hospital. It is a misconception that our hospitals are inferior.

Ms. Marie Pierre asked if they are reviewing the management of the hospitals.

Senator Sampson stated that every aspect of the troubled hospitals is being examined. In order for these facilities to survive, all parties must cooperate. In speaking to Local 1199, he has advised them that if the hospitals close down they will be out of work. Therefore, it behooves everyone to cooperate and work things out. If this means that management must change, then they will just have to do that. It is not about them; it is about those who use the hospital.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the development of job training facilities in Brownsville has ever been considered.

Senator Sampson stated that he and Councilmember Mealy have discussed the issue. Not everyone has the aptitude for higher education so it is important that the Department of Education teach trade skills to our youth as well. It is a fact that some trades people earn more than so called professionals.

Mr. Alexander asked could we not develop training programs ourselves if the Department of Education is dragging their feet on this issue.

Senator Sampson stated that while we can develop programs, we should be insistent with the Department of Education to offer programs in our schools. This is what Councilmember Mealy was referring to earlier when she said that we need to speak in one voice to get things done.

When the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements began, no one paid attention, but acting as a united front they are making a difference. The Tea Party changed the complexion of Congress.

Ms. Mattie Pusey asked if Social Security is still at risk.

Senator Sampson stated perhaps a representative of a Congressperson can speak in detail on that subject, but everything is on the table as budgets are being discussed. The nation's economy is in a difficult state due to the housing crisis. We are feeling the brunt of the sub-prime mortgage burst. The President announced a new initiative for people who are having difficulty with their mortgages. He encourages everyone to take advantage of programs offered by government and private sources.

Someone asked if the teachers' aides who were laid off due to budget cuts will be rehired.

Senator Sampson stated that they will most likely not be rehired as cuts were made and education and healthcare already represents 51% of a \$133,000,000 budget.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Ms. Walker stated that the federal appropriation process is currently taking place which means that the federal government is discussing the operating budget for the next fiscal year. The

make-up of the current Congress leaves Congresswoman Clarke with the opinion that our communities will be hurt the most by cuts.

President Barack Obama's proposed American Jobs Act includes a provision for a "Super Committee" consisting of a number of elected officials charged with finding 1.3 trillion dollars in cuts to the federal budget over the next ten years. Many of these cuts will come in the area of housing, including Section 8. Two different types of Section 8 programs are found in our communities. One is the Section 8 voucher program and the other is building based. Both will be affected. If you are in a building based program, you may find increased issues of maintenance, higher rents, and more landlord/tenant issues burdening the courts. Voucher holders may find themselves responsible for a greater portion of their rent. Congresswoman Clarke asks that we advocate against the proposed cuts.

Last week the White House announced that 40,000 soldiers will be returning home by the end of the year. How many will be coming into this community is unknown at this time. If you know of a returning veteran please contact Congresswoman Clarke's office so that her staff can assist the veteran with making a smooth transition into to the community. The telephone number for Congresswoman Clarke's office is (718) 287-1142.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Rene Hastick-Motes, representing the Office of Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Ms. Hastick-Motes announced that tomorrow Borough President Markowitz will be meeting with local elected officials and clergy to discuss what can be done to stop situations like last Friday's shooting from reoccurring.

She asked the members of the Board to consider why they were appointed to the Board by Borough President Markowitz and Councilmembers Barron, Dilan, and Mealy. In our democracy, we often look to our elected bodies for help. Certainly they can help, especially as it relates to funding, however, the energy must come from the grassroots. Councilmember Mealy and Senator Sampson spoke of the need for the community to speak with a unified voice. Board members are the eyes and ears of the elected officials in the community. If there are issues in the community that are unknown to the elected officials, it is up to the Board to make sure that they become informed.

The doors to her office are always open to people of the community. If there are any types of programs that you think will help the community, call her to discuss them. She can submit them to Borough President Markowitz. Do not just come to the meeting and listen to someone tell you about available grants and services and not have anyone take advantage of them. Reach out to your neighbor and let them know about the services and grants. She can be reached at (718) 802-4091.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Ms. Duggan stated that Senator Montgomery continues to work on ways to give opportunities to our youth. There is a program in place that will allow high school students to receive college credits. A child participating in the program can earn enough credits for an associates' degree while still attending high school.

She is happy to see the elected officials agreeing to work with each other. As was expressed by each representative, we as a community must do our part. She calls upon the churches to do more than praise, sing, and shout. Encourage your congregations to take action and offer hope to the youth. Help guide the youth to right paths by correcting them when they need it and encouraging them by letting them know that they have bright futures. Let them know that going to jail is a detraction from their future as certain doors will be closed to them should they be convicted of crimes. Education on the other hand is their ticket to reach for the stars.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Allison Jones of the Brownsville Multi Service (BMS) Family Health Center.

Ms. Jones stated that Senator Sampson touched on a bit of what she is here to speak about, the need to establish a relationship with a doctor. One of the things that she notices at BMS is that many of the patients come in as walk-ins instead of by having forged a relationship with a primary care doctor. Having a primary care doctor who knows who you are is better than seeing

a different doctor every time you need one. They know your history and can sometimes send in your prescriptions to a pharmacy without the need for an office visit.

BMS also offers wellness programs to prevent and reverse certain diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. They do screenings of a movie entitled "Forks over Knives" which shows some steps that you can make in your diet to help your body. Pilates classes are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays they work on abs, Wednesday they have a program called Start Your Engines, and Fridays they offer a salad bar.

She can be reached at (718) 345-5000 extension 1158 or via email at ajones@bmsfhc.org.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Crystal Simmons of Wayside Senior Center.

Ms. Simmons stated that she is the Director of Wayside's Meals on Wheels program. They serve seniors in Community Districts 5, 16, and 18. About twenty percent of the meals that they deliver are in Community District #16. They know that there are many residents of Community District #16 who are over the age of 60. They encourage those who may be eligible for the program to call them. The service is free to eligible seniors and takes one or two days before delivery starts. She can be reached at (718) 443-2574.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Police Officer Dawn Townsend of the Community Affairs office of the 73rd Precinct.

Officer Townsend announced that three young men have been arrested in the shooting that took place last Friday. Two of the young men arrested have been terrorizing the community for some time and one was previously arrested on gun charges but was released. The arrests were made possible through information provided by the community. They urge the continued cooperation between the community and the police.

Overall crime in the 73rd Precinct is down by 5.3%. Shootings are down year-to-date, 75 this year versus 84 the previous year. Of course any shooting is one too many.

In the days to come, there will be several coalitions meeting and working to find solutions to the violence in the community. There is much segregation between the Housing complexes in Brownsville and they are asking anyone who has the ears of the young men to encourage them to agree to a round table discussion on the issues at hand. They want to work with them and get to the root problems and perhaps workout a truce.

We all want to be able to walk in our neighborhood without being afraid of being shot.

First Vice Chairperson Kollock Wallace requested Pastor Reginald Baachus of Mt. Ollie Baptist Church to offer a closing prayer.

Pastor Baachus accepted and also thanked District Manager Greene-Walker for her attendance at his Installation ceremony.

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