

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 24, 2012**

Attendance

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

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

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Acting Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and requested Deacon Curtis Wallace to give an invocation.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted articles found in her report concerning a Request for Proposal by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, in partnership with the Department of Probation (DOP) and the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), seeking qualified vendors to provide Arches: A Transformative Mentoring Intervention. Arches will serve young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are on probation in six targeted communities: Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, East New York, Jamaica, Harlem, and the South Bronx. Applications are due by Wednesday, February 21, 2012, 2:00 p.m. and may be delivered to 33 Beaver Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York City. There will be a Pre-Application Conference on January 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. OR 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 33 Beaver Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium New York, New York 10004.

Community Tax Aid, Inc. (CTA) provides FREE tax preparation for New York City's low income taxpayers.

CTA will prepare tax returns for 2008, 2009, 2010 as well as the current year of 2011.

To qualify for this FREE service, you must:

- Live in New York City; or
- You have children; or
- You pay for child or dependent care; or
- You had income; or
- Your income and rent meet certain guidelines.

CTA's Brooklyn location is:

Flatbush Dutch Reform Church  
890 Flatbush Avenue at Church Avenue  
Saturdays (February 11th, 18th, 25th;  
March 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st;  
April 7th and 14th)  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

No appointments are available, participants are served as "walk-ins" only.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that her report also contains information on available grants and she urges everyone to read it and take advantage of the offerings.

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

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Ralph Blessing from the Department of City Planning.

Mr. Blessing stated that last November, City Planning made a presentation to the Community Board regarding the Sustainable Communities Grant that they received. Brownsville is part of that study area. As part of the study they are exploring ways of developing affordable housing in the area. They are looking at access to job centers and creation of local jobs. They've done a lot of research, and met with stakeholders and elected officials. They participated in a Verde meeting in the East New York / Cypress Hills community which was well attended. Attendees let them know what they wanted to see happen and what was unwanted. They plan to have a similar event in the Broadway Junction area soon. Informational flyers are on the distribution table and they contain contact information for them. They look forward to receiving input from the community.

City Planning is also introducing a Green Zoning Text Amendment. While it does not require a vote by the Community Board, they are interested in hearing the Board's comments. He gave a brief overview of the zoning changes. The amendment will incentivize developers and property owners to better insulate their buildings by allowing up to eight inches of insulation to be installed without decreasing floor space calculations.

The use of awnings in certain conditions will now be allowed. These horizontal and vertical projections can help reduce air-conditioning needs and lighting bills by providing glare-free natural light, while adding interest to the building's façade. Current zoning often does not allow sun control devices to project over required open areas.

The amendment will allow solar panels on flat roofs anywhere below the parapet, regardless of building height. Portions of taller solar installations that are higher than 4 feet would be subject to limits on roof coverage and height. On sloping roofs, panels would be allowed to be flat-mounted (less than 18" high). Other low-lying features such as green roofs, recreational decks, other stormwater detention systems and skylights anywhere below the parapet, regardless of building height would be allowed up to 3'6" above the top surface of the roof. On buildings taller than 100 feet, a wind turbine assembly may rise up to 55' above the rooftop (including the pole and rotor), provided it is set back at least 10 feet from any property line. On waterfront blocks in medium- or higher-density residential districts, commercial or manufacturing districts, all buildings maybe equipped with rooftop turbines up to half the height of the building or 55 feet, whichever is less.

NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) also offers incentive for property owners who improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Rebates are offered to property owners who install renewable energy equipment. They also offer low or no cost energy audits. The Department of City Planning does not administer the programs.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Dedra Wade from Community Partners Commission Association, Inc..

Ms. Wade stated that she thinks that when an organization is allowed to enter a community they should from time to time tell the community what they have done since they have been there.

Community Partners Commission Association, Inc. (CPCA) was established as a not for profit resource and referral service in 1996. The organization now offers direct services at the CPCA, Inc. Community Enrichment Center at 2318 Atlantic Avenue. CPCA, Inc. has no service boundaries and any one in need can be serviced at their locations.

The comprehensive multi-service programs include:

- Senior Housing - Coretta Scott-King Senior Apartments
- Adult Education - GED & Basic Education
- Driver and CDL Commercial Drivers License Training
- The District Attorney's Back-on-Track Program
- Center for Court Innovation - Youth Court
- Re-Start Middle School - Brownsville Education Academy
- Youth Services - Summer Program
- Computer Classes (employment skill and technology)
- Exercise & Yoga Programs
- Substance Abuse Service
- Health Insurance Enrollment
- Space rental for events and professional services

In the past year, they have served 12,680 Brownsville residents in a range of services.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid from the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Ms. Devonish-Leid, Director of Community Relations Bureau, stated that the Back-on-Track program is an initiative of District Attorney Charles Hynes. The program targets young people, ages seven to twenty-one, who reside in the Brownsville community and who are in danger of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Back-on-Track addresses the social service needs of youngsters who are chronically truant and thus pose a higher risk of dropping out of school and committing crimes. As was mentioned by Ms. Wade earlier, it operates out of CPCA's facility at 2318 Atlantic Avenue.

She introduced Ms. Mary Hughes, Confidential Assistant to District Attorney Hynes, and stated that she was very instrumental to the launching of the Back-on-Track program. Anyone who wants additional information about the program may contact her (Ms. Devonish-Leid) at (718) 250-3470. You may also contact one of the site's social workers, Ms. Joanne Robinson or Stacey Michael at (718) 342-3168.

There was a major drug takedown effort in Brownsville last week conducted jointly with the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and the District Attorney's office. She congratulated all who were involved and introduced the Chief of their Major Narcotics Bureau, Mr. Marc Fliedner, and stated that their Major Gang Bureau also played a major role.

There will be a gun buyback event on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, located at 1200 Dean Street at Nostrand Avenue. Their last buyback was held in Cypress Hills and yielded 240 guns. Some people may feel that the gun buybacks are not worthwhile, but a gun that may have once belonged to a retired law enforcement officer may be sitting in a closet and if stolen when a home is broken into could become a weapon on the street. If that same gun is turned in, it will never harm anyone.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Kai Smith.

Mr. Smith stated that he is the Executive Director of GRAAFICS (Gang Diversion, Re-entry and Absent Fathers Intervention, Centers, Inc.). He formerly was part of the Cleanup NYC program which was responsible for cleaning many of the littered lots and graffiti removal in the Brownsville area. The program was funded through "Stimulus" funding which is no longer available. When that program ended he recognized some of the issues facing the community, stepped out on faith, and started GRAAFICS. Since he started the non-profit, the results have been phenomenal and he thanks the community for their support.

The Program has two basic components, during the day – from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., they are inside schools. Since the inception of the program in September, he is proud to say they are in seven middle and high schools in the metropolitan area. Here in Brownsville, they are in P.S. 332, located at 51 Christopher Avenue. He thanked Mr. Danny Goodine for introducing him to the Principal, Ms. Mickisha Goss. The program is going well at the school. They have thirty 7<sup>th</sup>

and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have signed contracts with them. They have agreed to wear uniforms and not to get into fights in school. He invites the community to visit them at 51 Christopher Avenue on any Wednesday of their choosing to see the program in action.

The second component of the program involves subcontracting their services to other non-profit organizations. GRAAFICS is too small to qualify for many grants, but by subcontracting their services they are able to provide life skills training services, which they have mastered, through other programs that are not well equipped to provide those services. Informational flyers are available on tonight's distribution table and he encourages everyone to reach out to him for more information.

He recently met with the Youth Services Planning Committee and offered to bring his services for youth to this building at no cost. He realizes that there is a gang violence issue plaguing the community and would like to see that end. He does not have all the answers but believes that by working with people such as Ms. Mary Hughes, and Mr. James Broderick of the Center for Court Innovation, they can help bring the situation under control.

He is sometimes asked why does his program work where others do not? The program works because it was designed by him and run by him, after having been in prison for sixteen years. He was released in 2002 and after his brother was shot in the face six times and shot in the chest three times as part of a gang initiation. Instead of retaliating for his brother's death, he took that energy and put it into turning his life around. Since his release in 2002, he has earned two Bachelors and two Masters Degrees.

When he speaks to principals he asks them not to take him at his word, but to be skeptical and come visit his program and witness for themselves how the program is working.

The program works because he has former gang members on his staff who can look at a guy and say "You're not ready for this, when you are ready to get out of the streets, come back and we'll exhaust all that we have to help you." This is an intervention program. They don't receive any governmental funding. The program is run out of his pocket. The money he earns working is put into the program, tax refunds are also put into the program. However, he does welcome any type of donation whether it be space, a ream of paper, a computer, cash, or your time - all are appreciated.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and his work in the community. She encouraged the audience to assist as they can.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 19, 2012 to continue discussions regarding community economic development and revitalization efforts within the community.

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., she attended a hearing of the State Liquor Authority regarding the Ooh La La Lounge, located at 391 Howard Avenue. This hearing was also attended by District Manager Viola Greene-Walker and Pastor Steven Carter of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. Each gave testimony at the hearing in support of the Board's opposition on granting a full liquor license to Ooh La La Lounge due to the establishment being located within 200 feet of a place of worship (Mt. Ararat Baptist Church); within 500 feet of a school (P.S. 12) and within close proximity to Berean Senior Housing. All testimonies and evidence provided at the hearing will be reported to the Commissioner of the State Liquor Authority and she expects to attend another hearing before a final decision is rendered. The Committee will keep the community abreast of additional updates regarding this issue.

The time for youth to explore options for summer employment is now and listed below are opportunities for summer employment:

- Brooklyn Summer H.E.A.T applications are due by March 15, 2012. Please visit [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org) to get the application.
- For summer jobs with Federal agencies please visit [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). Application deadlines vary by agency.
- For NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and alternatives to SYEP, please visit [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or call 1-800-246-4646.

The Committee reviewed the grants awarded to New York City, specifically projects in Community District #16 through the New York State Economic Regional Councils. \$1.6 Million was awarded to Dunn Development Corporation for the development of sixty-six affordable units of senior and developmentally disabled adult housing in Brownsville. \$1.1 Million was awarded to Herkimer Street Residence for 54 rental units in Ocean Hill. As part of the Committee's work to identify and seek funding, they are asking that anyone with grant writing skills to please contact the Community Board office or the Committee. In addition, the Committee is continuously exploring economic development opportunities to strengthen the community's economic structure.

Hunter College Students would like to meet and interview residents, business owners and other stakeholders of our community as part of the studio plan currently being constructed on the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community. This plan is part of the Committee's revitalization efforts for our community and retail corridors. The Committee is requesting that members of the community who are knowledgeable about the community and can help provide insight concerning community conditions from the last few decades to please participate in this important interview process. If interested, please provide your contact information to Genese Morgan.

Several options for free income tax preparation are available throughout the tax filing season for individuals earning \$50,000 or less. Individuals who meet the income guideline can contact Community Tax Aid, Inc. to get additional information at [www.communitytaxaidnyc.org](http://www.communitytaxaidnyc.org) or call (646) 200-5080 or 311 for the nearest tax preparation location. The Internal Revenue Service's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program is also available. Please contact [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call (800) 906-9887.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 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](mailto:genesemor@aol.com)).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior 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, January 18, 2012 with representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Healthy Start Brooklyn. They are seeking to engage the community in a forum to develop a program to reduce infant mortality in Brownsville which has the highest rate in New York City at 9.9 deaths per 1,000 births. A date has not been set for the forum. When the information becomes available, the community will be informed.

Healthy Start Brooklyn offers free professional support to mothers during labor and delivery through their Doula program.

To find out more information about the program, call Mary-Powell Thomas at (646) 253-5866 or email her at [mthomas7@health.nyc.gov](mailto:mthomas7@health.nyc.gov).

The Committee also received an update on the BACHE project. Ms. Lorna Fairweather was asked to come forward and give a brief update on the BACHE Project to the audience.

Ms. Fairweather stated that she works for Brooklyn Perinatal Services and they meet frequently with the Health and Human Services Committee. She asked that the audience be cognizant of the proposal of Brookdale Hospital being taken over by Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital.

As was stated by Ms. McNamara, the Brooklyn Public Health Office is developing a program to reduce the infant mortality rate in Brownsville and are forming an advisory board. Oftentimes, in public health the parties that make the decisions are not part of the community being served. They would like it to be different this time and encourage members of this community to participate on the board.

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

Ms. Pamela Junior, member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 10, 2012 with Ralph Blessing from the Department of City Planning and

Samuel Biele-Fisher from the Pratt Center.

Mr. Blessing informed the Committee about the Zone Green text amendment which seeks to modernize the Zoning Resolution to remove impediments to the construction and retrofitting of greener buildings.

The text change will allow building owners to: 1) add up to 8 inches of insulation to the exterior of their buildings, 2) install awnings or sun shades that protrude 2 feet 6 inches over the required open area, 3) install split units or roof air condenser units, 4) create renewable energy by using solar panels regardless of building heights and wind turbines on certain buildings higher than 100 feet, and 5) install greenhouses on roof tops of certain type of buildings.

Mr. Biele-Fisher informed the Committee about incentives and tax credits available from the City, State and Federal governments to lower your heating and electricity bills by making your home or business more energy efficient.

For ideas on saving energy, contact the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Energy Smart Coordinators for New York City at (718) 637-8644.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 18, 2012 and reviewed bills that were enacted into law during 2011. Ms. Pierre is pleased to report that one of the bills that was previously reported on concerning the notification of information related to PCBs in schools was enacted into law on December 27, 2011.

The Committee will continue to review bills in Committee such as:

- 1) a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to the creation of a temporary task force to evaluate the epidemic of diabetes in the City of New York, and
- 2) a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to the establishment of an emergency repair program for elevators.

They will offer comments to the City Council and keep the community informed about legislation that will affect our residents.

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

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that overall, the parks in the District are in good shape. However, the two recreation centers are not. He has been promised that work to repair them will begin in April. If you have respiratory problems, he recommends that you stay away from the pool area at the Brownsville Recreation Center as bad mould conditions exist there.

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on January 21, 2012 and discussed the Sanitation updates, examined the outstanding issues on Residential Recycling, especially with multi-residential buildings, focused on the outcome of the recent Committee meeting with the Management and Tenants of Atlantic Towers Housing Complex and prepared an effective strategy to ensure compliance towards enhancing the quality of our lives in our community.

After one failed scheduled meeting attempt, a Committee representative met with the Management, Board of Directors and Tenants of the Atlantic Plaza Towers Housing Complex on January 17, 2012 to inform them of the New York City Recycling Law and allow them to explain their noncompliance to the Law.

At this meeting, where management, approximately 50 tenants, and the Board of Directors were present, management agreed to discuss the mandated recyclables laws and develop a solution

that will bring the development into compliance for recycling. Management also agreed to attend a Sanitation and Environmental Committee meeting to provide the Committee with an update and a suggested resolution to the problem.

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.

The Atlantic Towers and Marcus Garvey managements will be invited to the next Committee meeting to further discuss and educate them with update of the NYC DSNY Residential Recycling Law and Requirements and the DEP Grease disposal stipulation. After which, hopefully the Marcus Garvey and Atlantic Towers Complexes will establish a recycling program that will comply with the Recycling laws.

The next Committee meeting will be on March 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that the next Women's Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> in the Community Board office. Anyone interested in joining the Committee is invited to attend.

Mr. Ted McQueen, Vice Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 17, 2012 with Kai Smith, Executive Director of GRAAFICS (Gang Diversion, Reentry and Absent Fathers Intervention Centers, Inc.). The program provides services to persons ages 14 to 18 years old who are affiliated with gangs and want to get out of them. The program operates in several schools in Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan. Mr. Smith provides services at P.S. 332 at 51 Christopher Avenue.

For additional information about GRAAFICS, call (646) 226-2522.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Inspector Samuel Wright, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Inspector Wright stated that there are some positive things happening in Brownsville. Agencies such as the Brownsville Youth Court, District Attorney's Office, the Community Board and clergy are all working towards the improvement of the community. This cooperation has led to a reduction of crime in the Precinct. One of the concerns he heard about last year and continues to hear about is of a poor relationship between residents and the police. In 2012, he will work towards bridging this gap and have the community and the police work in unison. He is happy to report that last year the number of civilian complaints for the Precinct went down by 32%. This is an indication that the community and police are beginning to work better together.

They have been assigned sixty-six new Impact Zone officers and are fortunate that they did not lose any of their old Impact officers. The total number of officers working the Impact Zones in the Precinct now stands at 168. He realizes that the number of officers is not the most important issue – it is how the officers work with the community to resolve issues. Tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. (January 25, 2012), there will be a meeting here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street to address issues of gang violence in the community and how best to use available police resources to combat the issue. He invited members of the audience to attend this meeting.

As was mentioned earlier, there was a large takedown operation that took place recently. This is a good and bad thing; it is bad that in many instances these are youth who are being arrested. However, it is good that the arrests will stem-off some youth joining gangs.

He heard many positive plans from some of tonight's speakers and looks forward to working with these organizations and making Brownsville a safer place for all.

Someone asked if there are plans to hold another Safe Surrender event in the community?

Ms. Devonish-Leid of the District Attorney's Office stated that there are plans in the works for another event in the near future.

Mr. Randy Hudson stated that he understands the need to eliminate criminal elements from our community. However, he has concerns about the "stop and frisk" operations and its effects on innocent young Black men. They are being stopped, frisked and left with a record for minor infractions which would not have happened had they not been randomly stopped. He gave an example of young man being stopped and frisked and was found to be in possession of a knife. The officer issued a desk appearance ticket without taking into consideration that he was on his way to his job which requires the use of the knife.

Inspector Wright stated that this is a valid concern and one of the things that he has been working on since being in the 73<sup>rd</sup> is to have officers use greater discretion. Are they 100% accurate? No. But there have been improvements. The thing about stop and frisk is they are often intelligence based. The Department will receive information that a crime might take place at a certain locale with a description of the perpetrator. As a hypothetical example, they may receive information that a shooting has been planned to take place in the area of Stone Avenue (Mother Gaston Boulevard) and Sutter Avenue about 2:00 p.m.. The suspect's description comes over as a male Black approximately twenty years of age, wearing dark jeans, white tee-shirt, and a jacket. Unfortunately, that description will match many persons in that area, therefore, innocents may well be stopped, and in the example given by Mr. Hudson, there is a possibility that they will be charged with possession of the knife. He is working with the officers so that in instances such as this, they use discretion to say "yes, he is in possession of the knife but he uses it in his line of work" which is where he is likely headed so there is no need to charge him with anything. Balance is needed; the police need to do their job, but they also need to have a greater respect for the residents.

Mr. Hudson asked if the Department has a scanner that can detect a weapon on someone as they are walking down the street.

Inspector Wright stated that he saw such a device on television but has not seen one in person.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas stated that the Board has a Public Safety Committee that discuss matters such as stop and frisk. The Committee's meetings are open to anyone. You do not need to be a Board member to attend.

Ms. Tammy Braithwaite, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that Councilmember Mealy requests that we each resolve to do more for our community for the coming year.

She hosts her monthly Advisory Board meetings on the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at her office, located at 1757 Union Street - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (between Utica and Rochester Avenues). As was stated last month, several of the local elected officials will host a combined advisory meeting and as plans develop they will advise the community.

Councilmember Mealy will sponsor a couple of Valentine's Day events at local senior centers, on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Mount Ararat Senior Center and on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Tilden Senior Center. Please contact her office at (718) 953-3097 for additional information.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that she had discussed with Councilmember Mealy the possibility of holding some advisory meetings on a different day of the week than Saturday so that Sabbath observers may be able to attend. She would like Ms. Braithwaite to remind Councilmember Mealy of this and to hear her decision on the issue.

Residents of her block are seeking to shut down the men's transitional shelter that was recently established at 599 Ralph Avenue. She understands that Councilmember Mealy met with the operators of the shelter and they would like to know the outcome of this meeting.

Ms. Braithwaite stated that she will follow up.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that she is very pleased to see the outstanding turnout for this evening's meeting; indicating to her that the community is very interested in what is happening in their neighborhood.

Ms. Rene Hastick-Motes, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, stated that applications for reappointment to the Community Board are due by March. If you believe that you are due to be reappointed and have not received an application, please contact her.

As was mentioned by Ms. Morgan in her Economic Development Committee report, the Borough President's Summer H.E.A.T. employment program applications are now being accepted and are due by March.

Ms. Dale DeGale, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clark, stated Congresswoman Clark is seeking to have free tax preparation provided at the Van Dyke Community Center as well as the Stone Avenue Library and the plans should be finalized by next week. Meanwhile, free tax preparation is available at the Linden Boulevard Library, located at 22 Linden Boulevard at Flatbush Avenue, on Fridays and Saturdays through the end of March.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Bernadette Mitchell of the 1400 Herkimer Street Block Association.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she is a resident of Herkimer Street and President of the Ocean Hill Residents Association which consist of the 1400 Herkimer Street Block Association, the Jardine Place Block Association, and other residents of the Ocean Hill community. The group is in opposition to the opening of a 200 bed women's shelter at 1424 Herkimer Street which opened in December 2011. Two hundred women who have been diagnosed with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues are being housed there. While they are sensitive to the needs of these women, they cannot allow the City to continue to dump shelters into our community without fairly exploring other avenues.

Since its opening, there has been an increase of garbage on the streets, instances of sexual solicitation, and the Fire and Police Departments dispatched to the location on a daily basis. They are still fighting to keep the shelter from changing the dynamics of their community.

They have filed suit against the City and the developer/operator of the shelter and the Judge hearing the case has expressed great concern that the City has not totally complied with its obligation under the City Charter to not saddle our neighborhood with more than its fair share of shelters. The court has authorized them to take discovery to ascertain how the City sites its shelters, whether it properly considered other neighborhoods, and why it did not use its power of eminent domain to locate other sites. They have reason to believe that the court will shut the shelter down or certainly prevent the siting of any further shelters in the neighborhood if they are able to prove that the City violated its fair-share obligations.

They have retained the services of a law firm to fight the battle on their behalf and are pleased with the initial results. They have been able to raise \$12,000 for their battle but unfortunately they need to raise more. Recognizing the economic strife that besets all of us, they decided to hold a raffle to raise funds. First prize is a 40" flat-screen television, second prize is two prime location tickets to a Mets game, and the third prize is an Amazon Kindle.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Howard.

Mr. Howard stated that he had the privilege of working with the late Hon. Shirley Chisholm for forty-four years. This year marks the fortieth anniversary of her running for the Presidency of our nation. She was the first African-American to do so on the ticket of a major political party. He invites everyone to join Borough President Markowitz, Congressman Charles Rangel and other elected officials on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall to commemorate the occasion.

Ms. Chisholm represented this District forty years and some of the issues that she fought for then are still relevant today. There will be some film shown of Congresswoman Chisholm in action - some of the footage has never been shown in public. Information on how to RSVP for the event can be found on fliers on tonight's distribution table.

District Manager Greene-Walker made the following announcements: The Transportation and Franchise Committee of Community Board #16 will meet on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board office.

Senator John Sampson will host a forum addressing the proposed shutdown of Brookdale Hospital on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Kappa V, located at 985 Rockaway Avenue.

District Attorney Hynes will host a meeting to address issues facing the Brownsville community on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at Back-on-Track, located at the CPCA, Inc. Community Enrichment Center at 2318 Atlantic Avenue.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Emi Wang of Citizens Committee for New York City.

Ms. Wang stated that Citizens Committee for New York City offers grant awards (up to \$3,000), skills-building workshops, and project-planning assistance to grassroots groups such as block associations, tenant associations, gardening groups, and groups that do not have a 501(c)(3) status— working on quality-of-life issues.

Citizens Committee conducts skills-building workshops to support your community building ideas and initiatives. Their Neighborhood Leadership Institute is for members of volunteer-led neighborhood groups or those interested in carrying out community improvement projects. Participants who complete the four-workshop series, offered in the fall and the winter, will receive a certificate of completion. Their next workshop in Brooklyn will be on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in East New York. For more information, please pickup a flier from the distribution table.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy of Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Kennedy announced that the Brownsville Partnership is sponsoring a workshop with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Brownsville Recreation Center in their effort to make our streets safer for bicyclists by installing bike lanes on certain streets. She encouraged the audience to attend.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Amy Blumsack representing MFY Legal Services.

Ms. Blumsack stated that she is here as part of the Three-Quarter House Tenant Organizing Project. The project is a coalition of residents and former residents of so called three-quarter houses who advocate for improved conditions and better services for residents. There are a number of the houses that operate in the Brownsville community as well as other areas of the city and there is much misconceptions about the houses and their occupants.

The project seeks to make this a regulated housing industry for low-income residents of the city who are looking to get back on their feet. They are interested in working with the community and seek to have conversations with people who have questions, complaints, or suggestions on three-quarter housing.

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