

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MARCH 27, 2012

Attendance

David Alexander

Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith

Margaret Brewer-Seck (A)

Adrainer Coleman (E)

Essie Duggan

Norman Frazier

Helen Giles (A)

Shirley Gonsalves

Daniel Goodine (A)

Chanel Haliburton

Sarah Hall (E)

Kofi Hormeku

Michael Howard (A)

Allene Ingram

Min. Prince Issachar (E)

Daisy Jackson (E)

Minyarn Johnson

Carl Joseph

Pamela Junior

Eula Key

Bettie Kollock-Wallace

Charles Ladson

Deborah Mack

James Mack

Yolanda Matthews

Linda Mayo

John McCadney, Jr. (E)

Sadie McNamara (E)

Ted McQueen

Genese Morgan

Terry Norfleet

Rev. Joseph Norton (E)

Deidre Olivera-Douglas

Blanche L. Peltonbusch (A)

Marie Pierre

Rev. Devon Ponds

Mattie Pusey (E)

Linda Rivera

Melaine Rochford (A)

Wendy Rutherford (A)

Beatrice Saunds (E)

Melina Terry (A)

Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie

Ernestine Turner

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)

Annie Walkes (E)

Jennifer Williams (A)

Yvette Williams-Lawson (E)

Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager

E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager

Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant

Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery

Maurice Phillips for Hon. John Sampson

Tammy Braithwaite for Hon. Darlene Mealy

Rene Hastick-Motes for Hon. Marty Markowitz

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

Acting Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and requested Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie to give an invocation.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted the following articles found in her report:

- a request for proposals for qualified vendors to operate the AIM (Advocate, Intervene, Mentor) program by the NYC Department of Probation (DOP), in collaboration with the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO),
- an invitation by the New York City Department of Health to residents, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and businesses to come together and develop a program specifically tailored for Brownsville to address poor birth outcomes in our community,
- and Project Safe Surrender's event to take place on Friday, April 6th and Saturday, April 7th, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, located at 212 Tompkins Avenue (corner of DeKalb Avenue). Wherein clergy, pastors, lay members, and Defense Attorneys and the Court will be available to help resolve outstanding warrant issues.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Marilyn Ellis from My Sister's Keepers.

Ms. Ellis stated that My Sister's Keepers was formed by a group of ten women who willingly lend themselves to the commitment of mentoring girls ages ten through sixteen in the community. Their mission is to provide mentoring, leadership and guidance to young women in our community. My Sister's Keepers commitment is to foster a bond between generations of

sisters for the enrichment of our communities.

They are located in the Brownsville Recreation Center (1555 Linden Boulevard) and offer their services free of charge. They offer skill building workshops, seminars, and monthly field trips to allow the young ladies to see what is beyond Brooklyn. They ask that the audience help them to reach their enrollment goals by directing girls, ages ten to sixteen, to them either by visiting their location or through their website (mysiskeepers.org).

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Ben Smith from the Brownsville Community Justice Center.

Mr. Smith stated that they have been in the community since February. Their main goal is to help 16 to 24 year olds become involved in their community and to help them with their employment goals. Amongst the projects they have done so far are cleanup of the Betsy Head Park and outreach for an upcoming youth fair.

He introduced Mr. Sean Turner, one of the youths in the program, who stated that the program has been beneficial. By participating in the cleanup of Betsy Head Park, he sees how it helps our community. He is enrolled in an internship to be a veterinarian. They have placed him in an art show since he also enjoys drawing.

Mr. Smith stated that fliers on the program are available on tonight's distribution table.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized representatives of the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens' Council (RBSCC) HomeBase Program.

Ms. Shamonique Brown stated that the RBSCC HomeBase Program serves residents of the Bushwick and Brownsville communities. Their services include eviction prevention, legal assistance, job training (They focus on mostly security and home health aide jobs.), and GED (General Education Equivalency) training.

Mr. Gariath Faber stated that they also assist veterans at their 90 Beaver Street (Williamsburgh) location. They assist homeless veteran families to leave shelters and secure affordable housing and prevent at-risk veterans from becoming homeless. Free services available to qualified households include:

- VA and NYC benefits advocacy
- Housing placement services
- Housing for homeless Veterans in shelter
- Third party mediation
- Legal services
- Emergency rental assistance
- Tenants' Rights Workshops
- Community referrals for supportive services
- Financial Literacy Courses

Their Brownsville location is at 1442 Pitkin Avenue (between Eastern Parkway and Howard Avenue) and the telephone number is (718) 221-4404.

Someone asked if they work with individuals or families?

Mr. Faber stated that they work with both.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., the Economic Development Committee held a meeting with merchants of Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard to continue discussions of improving Belmont Avenue. The merchants expressed concerns about safety, property taxes and parking as factors that are contributing to the decline of Belmont Avenue. In addition, some merchants expressed concerns about big retailers coming into the community steering customers away from stores on local corridors and the lack of business incentives such as tax credits. The Committee has asked the merchants to consider the benefits of forming a merchants' association to help improve marketing and communication to area

consumers as well as partake in beautification efforts such as planting to make the business corridor more inviting to customers. Mr. Joe Blankenship is continuing to survey community residents and Belmont Avenue merchants. Please complete a survey if you have not yet completed one. Your input is valuable to improvements on Belmont Avenue.

Additionally, on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., the Committee held a community revitalization focus group in conjunction with Hunter College Graduate students as part of the Studio Project which is currently in progress. The group discussed community concerns related to accessibility, transportation and zoning, economic development, crime and safety, and perception and portrayals. Some of the concerns expressed by attendees were a lack of community space and resources for youth, over-saturation of business corridor with repetitive stores, need for trade schools, better exposure for home based businesses, longer store operating hours, more friendly interaction with police officers, and better use of community spaces such as parks to encourage community participation.

The Committee is asking businesses and community-based organizations that are interested in hiring summer youth to contact Deidre Olivera-Douglas at thebvilleadvocate@gmail.com or Ms. Morgan at genesemor@aol.com to register as a work site to employ our youth this summer. It is very important that the opportunities for summer employment are diverse to expose youth to industries that they might want to consider as a career choice. Currently, six organizations have agreed to employ youth this summer.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of the Committee's report, please feel free to contact Ms. Morgan at 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.

In lieu of a report by the Health and Human Services Committee, Ms. Sharon Marshall-Taylor of the Brooklyn Perinatal Network gave an update on the Brownsville Action Center for Health Equality (BACHE) Project.

Ms. Marshall-Taylor stated that she is the Associate Project Manager for BACHE which is funded through a grant issued by the Center for Disease Control. They do not provide direct services but work with service providers such as Kings County Hospital, BMS Family Health Center, East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center, and Brookdale Hospital to find ways to improve the delivery of services to Brownsville families.

They are seeking ways to improve the screening process for pregnant women when they first enter the health care system for prenatal care. They would like to see the providers screen for more than the usual risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, etcetera. Those factors are very important but they should also be screening for some social risk factors such as homelessness, domestic violence, and employment status of their partners as well. These high stress factors can have an impact on the pregnancy as much as the ones for which women are usually screened.

They are hoping to have medical providers screen better and connect their clients to social health services in the community and surrounding areas. They are seeking to collect data on a monthly basis to assess what the real issues are and try to better use the limited dollars that are coming into the community for health care resources. Anecdotally, BMS was aware that teen pregnancy rates were high in the community, however, when they actually saw the number of pregnant teens coming to their clinics, it caused them to consider targeting services for this particular group. Unfortunately, teens give birth to premature infants disproportionately to the general population. Premature births make up a large portion of the infant mortality rate (The number of deaths per birth in the first year of life.).

They are progressing with their web-based linkage program with the biggest obstacle being getting the providers to adapt to the new protocol.

Last Thursday, they collaborated with Brookdale Hospital to present an event called Charting the Light which focused on the Affordable Care Act (currently in the news as a case being heard by the United States Supreme Court with particular emphasis on the mandate for all residents of the country to have health insurance coverage) and what it means for our communities. The Keynote Speaker was Yvonne Graham, New York State Associate Commissioner of Health and former Brooklyn Deputy Borough President. The attendance was excellent.

During the week of March 5th to March 9th, they trained their first group of Community Health Advocates. The group consisted of fifteen local residents. They are pleased that six members of the group are men and of them, five are between the ages of 19 and twenty-three. They are important to reach out to their peers. One of the women who took part in the training told the audience about her experience with the training. She will be using the skills that she learned to advocate for the community.

Mr. David Alexander asked if they take into consideration whether or not a client is involved with substance abuse and/or homelessness.

Ms. Marshall-Taylor stated that they do.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met jointly with the Health and Human Services Committee on March 13, 2012 to hear a proposal for a new social service program in the community. Because the sponsor was not present, the proposal was tabled until their April 10th meeting.

The Committee did meet with a representative from the Brooklyn Housing and Family Services which provides help with: landlord/tenant mediation, tenant rights and responsibilities, New York City Housing Authority applications, Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), public assistance and food stamp applications, Disability Rent Increase Exemption, lead poisoning prevention education, mortgage modifications, and other housing related matters. The service is free. For more information and assistance, call (718) 435-7585.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 21, 2012 and revisited the legislation to raise the minimum wage in New York State. The Committee proposes the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the minimum wage in New York State is presently \$7.25 per hour, and

WHEREAS, the cost of living has outpaced the earnings of employees who make minimum wage, and

WHEREAS, the cost of food, clothing, shelter and medical costs continue to increase, and

WHEREAS, the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour is not a sufficient income for workers and their families,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #16 supports legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board #16 urges the New York State legislature to vote in favor of increasing the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour.

The Committee also discussed the living wage bill which is in the New York City Council. The Committee proposes the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care continue to increase, and

WHEREAS, the Living Wage Bill goes a long way to help lift families out of poverty, and

WHEREAS, the Living Wage Bill would standardize a living wage for employees in jobs created through tax dollar subsidized projects, and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars a year in taxpayer-financed subsidies are provided to private developers by the City of New York,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #16 recommends that the living wage in New York City financed projects be increased to \$12.50 per hour with benefits and

\$15.00 per hour without benefits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board #16 urges the New York City Council to vote in favor of increasing the living wage to \$12.50 per hour with benefits and \$15.00 per hour without benefits.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and unanimously carried to accept the resolution and the report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that work is being done at the Brownsville Recreation Center, Betsy Head Playground, and Nehemiah Playground. He has not been able to get any firm commitment as to when the work will be completed. He continues to urge that for the sake of one's personal safety, individuals do not enter the comfort stations alone.

Much work goes into his monthly reports, visits to and inspection of each of the facilities in the District and discussions with the Department of Parks and Recreation Manager for the District to name a few of the things done. He asks for the assistance of the audience by reviewing the report and informing him of any discrepancies. He assured them that if they ask him a question about a park in the District he will have an answer for them by the following meeting.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on March 4, 2012 with the Manager and staff of Atlantic Plaza Towers and the Superintendent and Tenant Association President of Marcus Garvey Village to discuss recycling.

They had a very fruitful meeting and are pleased to report that Atlantic Plaza Towers is recycling, however, there is room for improvement and they will continue to work with management to increase the recycling rate.

Marcus Garvey Village's recycling plan also needs improvement. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Manager on April 4th to continue discussing ways to improve recycling.

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

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 19, 2012 and discussed a request from the Commanding Officer of the Transit Police District #33 to co-name the block of Van Sinderen Avenue between Fulton Street and Broadway in memory of Police Officer Irma Lozada, a member of the New York City Transit Police Department who was slain on September 21, 1984, becoming the first female police officer to die in the line of duty in New York.

The Committee recommends that Community Board #16 supports the request to co-name Van Sinderen Avenue between Fulton Street and Broadway in memory of Police Officer Irma Lozada.

The Committee also met with a representative from Brownsville Partnership who gave an update on their proposal to improve walking and biking in Brownsville.

There was a community meeting on February 18th and suggestions were made to place bike lanes on streets such as Mother Gaston Boulevard, Pitkin Avenue, and Thomas S. Boyland Street. Additional suggestions will be reviewed by the Committee before a recommendation is made to the Department of Transportation.

The next meeting of the Transportation and Franchises Committee will be on April 16th and she invited the audience to join them at the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Margaret Brewer-Seck, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, to discuss the following:

The organizing of a Community Health Screening event in the month of June. The Women's Committee would like to stress the importance of good mental and physical health by committing to the health and well being of our residents for the month of June. To headline this event, they have invited the Project Renewal's "Scan Van" to conduct various health screenings for our community residents, many may be under or uninsured or for some other reason haven't gone for screenings. The event will be made open for other activities and service providers.

The Committee was formally invited to attend a Women's History Month spirited program being held at Atlantic Plaza Towers, 216 Rockaway Ave, titled "Women on The Move", on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m..

She asks that all Women's Committee members who are available to attend do so.

The Committee also needs a Co-chairperson. With the season changing to a more active one, the Committee will need to focus attention to many efforts in our community. Your assistance is needed and would be appreciated.

The Committee thanks you for your time and attention and invites you to attend their monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Next month's meeting will be held on April 4th, 2012. They hope to see you there.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Mr. Ted McQueen, Vice Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 20, 2012 with members of My Sister's Keepers which is a mentorship group. As you heard in their presentation earlier tonight, they are recruiting girls ages 10 to 16. The Committee encourages parents to take advantage of this program and enroll their young ladies by contacting Marilyn Ellis at (347) 254-9145.

The Committee also met with Ben Smith from the Brownsville Justice Community Center who you also heard from earlier tonight.

The Brownsville Justice Community Program works with 16 to 24 year olds who have had some involvement with the Justice System in the last twelve months. The program helps participants with GED and college assistance, internship placement, and involves them in community benefit projects.

For additional information, contact Ben Smith at (347) 404-9585.

The Department of Probation, in conjunction with BMS Family Health Center, will sponsor a health fair on April 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Tammy Braithwaite, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Ms. Braithwaite stated that at the last two Community Board Meetings she has been announcing that Councilmember Mealy and Senator John Sampson will host a combined advisory meeting in April. She is pleased to announce that the venue has now been set and the meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Tilden Senior Center, located at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard. Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr. will also take part in the meeting.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Councilmember Mealy will present "Brownsville to Broadway" Tap and Jazz Masters - Harlem Blues and Jazz Band on April 19, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue. This program is free.

Earlier this month, Councilmember Mealy invited the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic

to provide information to persons and organizations interested in obtaining 501(c)(3) status and information on funding sources for 501(c)(3)s. The presentation was well received and Councilmember Mealy has decided to do a "part 2" on April 25th at her District Office, located at 1757 Union Street - 2nd Floor, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. For more information on any of these events, please call her at Councilmember Mealy's office at (718) 953-3097.

Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that on April 21, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Senator Sampson, in collaboration with Weill Cornell Community Clinic, will sponsor a free health screening day at Sunrise Adult Day Health Care Center, located at 9517 Avenue J (between 95th and 96th Streets).

The merger of Brookdale Hospital with Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center is about to be completed. With the influx of a portion of 428 billion dollars being allocated for hospitals by federal and state government, he feels that Brookdale will remain open to serve our community for the foreseeable future.

A court battle is about to ensue pertaining to the addition of a 63rd State Senatorial District. Senator Sampson and others serving downstate districts are opposing the addition because the district will be formed based on prison populations wherein the prisoners are counted as residents of counties where the jails are located and not their home counties. This practice will unfavorably affect funding for downstate counties.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that Senator Montgomery is also fighting to ensure we have appropriate representation in the state legislature.

Ms. Rene Hastick-Motes, representing Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, stated that they are still accepting applications for their Summer HEAT youth employment program. Applications may be downloaded from their website: brooklyn-usa.org.

In conjunction with the New York State Office of Aging, Borough President Markowitz will host a Medicaid Fraud Summit on Wednesday March 27, 2012 from 9:30 to 12:00 noon at Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon Street).

The Borough President's Advisory Committee on Disability offers assistance such as referrals for scholarships and grants and other information that may be useful to persons with disabilities. Please contact her at (718) 802-4091 for more information or to be added to her mail list.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Captain Joseph Gulotta of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Gulotta stated that they continue to maintain 165 officers in the Impact Zone program. They are mostly assigned to the northern portion of the Precinct where there have been a series of burglaries. The thieves are entering homes by pushing in air conditioners and crawling in. They are stealing high end electronic equipment and exiting through the front door. It appears that the thieves are getting inside information; if they encounter another resident, they say they know the victim by name and that they are authorized to take what they have stolen.

He asks that if you should see anyone taking electronics out a home or carrying them into vehicles to please call his office at (718) 495-5506 and report the sighting. The items are not being sold through pawn shops but rather on the streets and through channels such as bodegas and barber shops. They had occasion to arrest a fourteen year old boy who robbed and battered one of his peers. When questioned, the boy stated that he takes the stolen goods to a particular bodega and is given money for them. He asks the community's understanding when they need to make arrests at those locations. It is not that they are harassing the shops, it is because they have received information that they are dealing in stolen goods.

Executive Officer, Captain Charlie Minch, was introduced to the audience. He will be in charge of the Impact Zone officers.

Captain Gulotta related a story of a woman who wrote him a letter commending an officer for assisting her when her car broke down. He appreciates this type of letter as he wants to provide positive reinforcement to the officers in his command. He wants the community to let him know both the good and the bad.

Someone in the audience stated that she was also assisted by an officer when she had an issue with her vehicle and is appreciative.

Ms. Frances Brown spoke of a series of car break-ins in the area around the post office. She asked if Captain Gulotta is aware of this and if so, what is being done to address the issue.

Captain Gulotta stated that since they have begun the intake of men at the shelter at 599 Ralph Avenue, they have had an increase of car break-ins. They have begun to make arrests of persons with open warrants residing at the facility and will continue to weed out bad elements from the location. Since they have begun doing this they have also seen the number of break-ins begin to decrease. If there is a particular incident that needs to be looked into he will speak to her about it. He noted that the individuals are being sent there from all over the city, they are not just residents of the Brownsville community.

Ms. Brown asked if information about a reported crime only becomes available to him after the official report is filed with One Police Plaza?

Captain Gulotta stated that a report is immediately generated for each incident that occurs in the Precinct and he reviews them daily.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked which precinct covers the area of the shelter at 599 Ralph Avenue? She is concerned because of an incident wherein her daughter was followed by a man who she believes is a resident of the shelter. The shelter staff held a meeting and claimed the residents have no complaints because none were present. However, they never notified the residents of the meeting. She heard that the church was invited but none of the residents received a notice.

Captain Gulotta stated that the shelter is within the confines of the 73rd Precinct but Ralph Avenue is patrolled by both the 73rd and 77th Precincts. He has included the location in the Impact Zone since he began receiving complaints about the shelter. They have made approximately fifty arrests originating from the shelter.

Mr. Randy Hudson asked if it would be permissible for women to carry mace or pepper spray for their personal protection.

Captain Gulotta stated that pepper spray is not lawful in New York, however, he believes that mace is allowed for personal protection.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Carlton Knight of the Calvary Church of God.

Mr. Knight stated that Calvary Church is the sponsor of Riverway which is a 114 unit residence for seniors under construction on Riverdale Avenue between Rockaway and Thatford Avenues. They are expecting construction to be completed in the spring of 2012. The apartments are single bedrooms for one or two individuals, at least one of whom must be at least 62 years old at the time of application. The units are Section 8 eligible – so income may not be greater than \$29,230 per annum for one person and \$33,400 for two people. He had hoped to have applications available for this meeting, however, they were delayed. They intend to make the applications available prior to the next Community Board meeting. If you are interested, you may call the church at (718) 498-4504 and leave your name and contact information to receive an application.

Someone asked what other services will be offered at the location?

Mr. Knight stated that there will be a senior citizens center at the location. They are currently in discussion with two groups as prospective operators of the center, Fort Greene Senior Housing and Catholic Charities.

Someone asked if the apartments are only available to residents of New York?

Mr. Knight stated that as a City sponsored program, it is for City residents. There is a 20% set aside for NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) residents and a 10% set aside for residents of Community District #16.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Pastor Sherri Black of The Way Church of Christ.

Pastor Black stated that her church is located at 337 Rockaway Avenue, near East New York

Avenue. They will host a two day event to address the violence amongst the youth of the community. The dates will be April 14th and 21st at Betsy Head Park. The April 14th event will be about helping the youth of the community find Salvation – alternatives to gang life and incarceration. The April 21st event will focus on economic change – helping to bring an entrepreneurial mindset to the community. It is their desire to collaborate with all the churches in the Brownsville community. Churches who wish to join them may contact her at (347) 447-2244.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Glenn Moises of Brownsville NeON (Neighborhood Opportunity Network).

Mr. Moises stated that on April 10th, they will host “Spring into Good Health”, a daylong event here in the lobby of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. In collaboration with BMS Family Health Center, they will be offering free wellness screenings for things such as blood pressure, glucose level, and body mass index. They will have face painting for the children, refreshments, and through donations they have received, they will have raffles and other give-aways.

On April 20th, they will host an event to assist persons who may need a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities. When applying for certain jobs or licenses and you have a felony or misdemeanor record, with a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct, an employer or licensing agency must consider it as evidence that you are rehabilitated. This means that your conviction should not result in your being rejected for employment or refused a license unless there is other evidence that you are not qualified. However, the law still permits an employer or licensing agency to refuse to hire or license you if your convictions are job-related. When you have a Certificate, you still must list your convictions on job applications that ask for them.

There will be two sessions, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sian Hua of Shen Yun International.

Ms. Hua stated that Shen Yun is a performing arts company that relates 5,000 years of Chinese culture and history through a series of dance and musical acts. They were here last month but were unable to properly display a short video that they have prepared. They presented the video which depicted audience reactions to their performances. The shows sold out in January but will be returning to Lincoln Center in April. All are invited to come see the show.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jennifer Fields of the Women’s Prison Association.

Ms. Fields stated that the Women’s Prison Association (WPA) has extended their program and offer thirty slots for their Family Treatment and Rehabilitation Program (FT/R). FT/R promotes safety and well being of children in high risk families when a caretaker or child's substance use or mental health disorder places the child at risk of foster care placement. The FT/R model calls for treatment to be guided by a comprehensive assessment and a multi-disciplinary approach involving different interventions in order to meet the needs of the families that are being served.

The program, located at WPA's Brooklyn Community Office (BCO) in East New York (2632 Atlantic Avenue), will serve families with children ranging from birth up to age 21 who are at risk due to a caretaker and/or child's substance use and/or mental health disorder, or an infant born with a positive toxicology for alcohol or illicit substances. The substance use and mental health disorders may include: schizophrenia disorders, mood disorders including depression, impulse control disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, oppositional disorders, anxiety disorders, conduct disorders, or the abuse of or dependency on alcohol, illicit or prescription drugs.

They focus on keeping families together by helping to make sure there is a safe environment for children in their homes. FT/R is a neighborhood and home-based initiative that achieves the goals of keeping children safe and with their families, reducing the impact of mental health issues and substance abuse on the family and ensuring that families have access to essential services they need. BCO provides a continuum of services on site and in the client's homes, working closely with important institutions in clients' lives, including church, schools, hospitals, parole, probation and extended family.

They will also be offering a men's workshop on Wednesdays in April and May from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. There will be two groups one for adult males and the other for males ages 7 to 21. Both programs are free.

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