

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 22, 2012

Attendance

David Alexander
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)
Margaret Brewer-Seck
Adrainer Coleman
Essie Duggan
Norman Frazier
Helen Giles (A)
Shirley Gonsalves
Daniel Goodine
Chanel Haliburton (E)
Sarah Hall
Kofi Hormeku
Michael Howard
Allene Ingram
Min. Prince Issachar (A)
Daisy Jackson (E)
Minyarn Johnson
Carl Joseph (A)
Pamela Junior
Eula Key
Bettie Kollock-Wallace
Charles Ladson
Deborah Mack
James Mack (E)
Yolanda Matthew (E)
John McCadney, Jr.
Sadie McNamara (E)
Linda Mayo (A)

Ted McQueen
Genese Morgan
Terry Norfleet
Rev. Joseph Norton
Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Marie Pierre
Rev. Devon Ponds
Mattie Pusey (E)
Linda Rivera (A)
Melaine Rochford
Wendy Rutherford
Beatrice Saunders (A)
Melina Terry (A)
Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Jennifer Williams (A)
Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. Darlene Mealy
Karen Cherry for Hon. Edolphus Towns
Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Maurice Phillips for Hon. John Sampson

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

Acting Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and requested that Rev. Joseph Norton 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:

- the availability of applications for **Our Lady of Loreto Family Apartments** now being accepted for 45 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 2356, 2358, 2372, 2374 Atlantic Avenue and 2353, 2357, 2361, 2365 Pacific Street.
- an announcement by Riverway Apartments LLC that applications are now being accepted for 114 Section 8 apartments now under construction at 230 Riverdale Avenue in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. This building is being constructed through the Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program (LAMP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation and the Senior Housing Program of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Apartments are designated for the Elderly, one of whom must be at least 62 years of age at the time the application is submitted. Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application, mail a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to:
Riverway LLC
c/o: The Wavecrest Management Team
87-14 116th Street
Richmond Hill, New York 11418,
or download from www.Riverwayapts.com. Applications are also available at the Office of Community Board #16. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express, or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by June 15, 2012

- and an announcement seeking Senior Volunteers - Professionals age 55+ with skills, talent and generosity of spirit can use their life experience and professional skills to mentor middle and high school youth in high need public schools.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. John Tynan of Catholic Charities.

Mr. Tynan stated that they are present this evening to speak about their plans to develop property at the former site of Our Lady of Loreto. Catholic Charities owns and operates about 3,000 units of affordable housing. Most of the units are on sites that were former Catholic Charities-owned property – properties that are owned by the Catholic Church but are no longer being used for their original purposes. Their original intent was to demolish the church along with the other structures. However, because a conservation group lobbied and the State Housing Authority granted landmark status to the building they are unable to demolish the church. They are still looking to find good uses for the church building but they are here tonight to discuss the housing that is going up on the remaining property.

They have started up the rental process and the rules are likely to be familiar to the Board as they are similar to other projects that have been brought before the Board. Catholic Charities seeks to do their very best to maximize participation of community residents while remaining within the rules and guidelines set forth within the federal, state, and city regulations. There is a nearly fifty percent set aside for the community. They are doing all that they can to get the word out about the units to the community. Wavecrest Management, the managers for the units, will speak a bit about the process. They have considerable experience with managing this type of affordable housing.

Schematic drawings were displayed showing a series of eight (8) four-story buildings. The buildings will be completed in stages with the first occupancies to occur around October 2012. The application cycle will end in June 2012. Applications are available here this evening, at the office of the Community Board, can be mailed to persons requesting them, or downloaded from the website (www.loretoapts.com).

Someone asked if there will be any full-time jobs created from this project.

The representative from Wavecrest Management stated that there will be one full-time superintendent.

She also stated that interested persons may download as many applications as they need. There is no fee for either obtaining or completing the applications. She urges anyone who is told that there is a fee not to believe it. She encourages applicants not be alarmed by the income guidelines on the advertisement – the calculation formula may favor you more than you may realize. Remember that the application is free and you will not be penalized for completing an application and not being eligible. If in doubt, fill it out. It does not matter whether one applies today or on the last day of the application period; there will be just one lottery. Just be sure that the application is postmarked by June 25, 2012. Management nor the property-owners may help you to complete the application. You can ask a friend, a neighbor, or someone else you know to assist you. Please be sure that the application is complete, leave nothing blank. Answer questions honestly and completely. List the names of all persons who will be living in the new home, sign and date the application.

Someone asked what will happen to the church?

Mr. Tynan stated that anyone with suggestions on what to do with the church building may bring them to District Manager Greene-Walker who will pass them along to him. They are currently focused on completing the housing portion of the project. Once it is completed they can put more thought and energy on the church building. He forewarned that whatever they decide will need to make economic sense.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that a group had proposed that the church be turned into a cultural center. What became of those plans?

Mr. Tynan stated that Mr. Piazza represented a group that sought to preserve the church building because of its historical significance to the Italian-American community which constituted the

congregation. They never had site control nor did they have the funds to follow through on their proposal.

Mr. Burchell Marcus asked what is Wavecrest Management's relationship to the project?

The representative from Wavecrest Management stated that they were hired by the property owners, with the approval of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), to manage the property.

Mr. Marcus stated that he takes issue with Wavecrest and a few other real estate companies having what seems to be a monopoly on managing these types of projects. Minority realtors are not being given an opportunity to enter the market.

Mr. Tynan stated that Catholic Charities, as owners of the property, hired Wavecrest based on their experience on managing this type of project. Catholic Charities has expertise in managing senior housing but not family housing so they selected a firm that they believe can manage this property well.

Rev. Joseph Norton stated that there is documented evidence that some applicants for the RiverRock project, which Wavecrest was the manager for the lottery, were erroneously disqualified for not being residents of this community when in-fact they were. Is there any way that the current process can be monitored by members of Community Board #16?

The representative from Wavecrest stated that during the lottery for the RiverRock Apartments, about 18 applications were marked ineligible. This occurred due to an error in the database provided to them by HPD. Accuracy of the database is the responsibility of the agency and not management. The database has been updated and Rev. Norton has been invited to subsequent lotteries to observe the process and is welcome to observe this lottery as well.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Kimberly Bylander of the Brooklyn District Public Health Office of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Bylander stated that the Brooklyn District Public Health Office is an arm of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that focuses on the health issues of the communities of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Bushwick, and East New York. She particularly works on food programs and on insuring that healthy food choices are available to the community.

They have embarked on a yearlong process to find ways to get people in the Brownsville and East New York communities to walk and bike more. They are collaborating with Transportation Alternatives and other local organizations on the project.

She asked the audience to tell her what type of health issues they see in the community.

Amongst the responses were asthma, diabetes, mental health issues, hypertension, arthritis, and cancer.

Ms. Bylander stated that obesity and diabetes are two major concerns they have for the community at the Department of Health. Obesity is not so much about how we look but mostly about the quality of life and the risk associated with the condition. In the Brownsville community, about 12% of adults have been diagnosed with diabetes which is higher than the New York City Average.

Exercise has positive effects on most of the health issues mentioned. Walking and biking are (absent the cost of the bike) free ways of getting regular exercise that are underutilized in the community. In surveys they have been told that part of the reason is people do not feel their streets are safe for riding and walking. Some say there are no places that entice them to want to walk or ride to their destination. Another thing mentioned is the physical condition of the roadways. Keeping roadways in good condition in New York City is a challenge.

They are working with the Department of Transportation to determine how the infrastructure can be used to increase physical activity in the community. Bike lanes, traffic islands, and plazas are some of the ideas that were considered. These devices have positively affected health issues throughout the city. At Times Square a controversial plaza was installed and, whether you like the idea or not, particulate matter in the air has gone down. Bike lanes have a calming effect on traffic.

She introduced Ms. Nupar Chaudhary of the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Chaudhary stated that she and Jacqueline Kennedy have been working on the project with the Department of health. She distributed a flyer with some statistics about biking. She noted that sometimes we talk about issues and no one listens; but the Department of Transportation has listened and is continuing to do so. They will meet with them again in June; the exact date has not been set. She encourages the community to join them and let their voices be heard. Anyone who is interested may leave their number with her and she will call with the date of the meeting. She is also interested in getting thoughts and ideas from people who are either unable or do not wish to attend the meeting. They have gone out on rides with representatives from the Department of Transportation who had an opportunity to experience what bike riders in the community must deal with.

Someone stated that availability of fresh quality produce is difficult to find in the community. What is being done to address the issue?

Ms. Bylander stated that they work with farmers and have aided in establishing farmers' markets in the community. There are several that will operate in the community from July through November. Persons who receive EBT funds will get extra buying power at select farmers markets.

Mr. Burchell Marcus asked if the decision to place traffic devices is done with the consensus of the community?

Ms. Bylander stated that it has been an organic process. They come to some schools in the community to talk about food choices and parents began to speak about near misses with vehicles while simultaneously community members were coming to them and asking for bike lanes.

Someone stated that it was mentioned that 12% of adults in Brownsville are afflicted with diabetes. What is the percentage of all New Yorkers who have been diagnosed with the disease?

Ms. Bylander stated that since 2003, the Department of Health has conducted a health survey of each of the city's communities. This is an invaluable resource and can be accessed by visiting the Department of Health website (nyc.gov/health) and clicking My Communities Health Data and Statistics. At the last survey, which was done in 2010, the rate of all New Yorkers with diabetes was 9% which represented a slight increase from the previous survey. In Central Brooklyn, which includes Brownsville, the percentage is twelve. In the Upper Eastside it is four percent. In terms of obesity, the overall rate in New York is fifty-eight percent while in Brownsville it is about sixty-eight percent. Both numbers are excessively high.

Mr. Daniel Murphy stated that the Department of Transportation is looking to place a public plaza on Legion Street between East New York and Pitkin Avenues and the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District will host a forum on this on Thursday, May 26th at 6:00 p.m.. Bike lanes are a good thing for the community. They allow motorists defined places to look for cyclists and cyclists a safe location to ride. Even pedestrians are benefited by the lanes as they allow streets to be less congested.

Mr. David Alexander stated that he has been to many farmers markets throughout the city and most offer baked goods. Will the farmers markets in this community offer baked goods?

Ms. Bylander stated that the youth operated markets that they are sponsoring will not sell baked goods. Samples of produce recipes may be made available, but they will only sell fresh produce.

Mr. Morton Hall asked if the youth operating the youth market are from Brownsville?

Ms. Bylander stated that at most markets in the city the vendors tend to be farmers. The youth markets in Brownsville are somewhat unique in that they are operated by youth that are hired from the community. They work with GrowNYC to obtain the produce from farmers and the youth sell it at the markets. The first summer they ran the market there were 5 youths hired and this year they will hire 15. It is only a temporary position but they train the youth and prepare them to go out on interviews at the end of the season.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the

Committee met on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.. The Committee would like to report that the New York State Empire State Development Corporation-Regional Economic Development Councils has announced that the grant application period is open for the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) which will award up to \$750 Million Dollars in economic development funding. The deadline to apply for funding is July 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.. Visit the website: www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov and click Consolidated Funding Application to obtain an application and get more information regarding the application process.

To help applicants better navigate the application process, the Regional Economic Development Councils is currently conducting statewide training workshops throughout the five boroughs until June 28, 2012.

The next sessions are as follows:

6/7/2012	8:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.	Bronx Hostos Community College
6/21/2012	8:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.	Manhattan John Jay College
6/28/2012	9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.	Brooklyn Medgar Evers College

Please visit the website: www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov to RSVP for an upcoming session.

The NYS Department of Labor has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to Worker Skills Upgrading and has made up to \$5 million dollars available to support three Worker Skills Upgrading programs:

1. Existing Employee Training Program;
2. New Hire Training Program; and
3. Unemployed Worker Training Program.

Businesses with four (4) or more employees can apply for grants through the CFA by the July 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. deadline.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 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).

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Morgan stated that the Economic Development Committee is pleased to present students from Hunter College who have been working on a yearlong studio project on economic development in Brownsville. She extends special thanks to Ms. Keturah Suggs who is a Brownsville resident and a Hunter alumna. She also thanks members of the community who participated in the surveys and questionnaires, Mr. Ralph Blessing of the Department of City Planning, as well as the students who worked hard on the project.

Mr. John Caufield stated that he is a student at Hunter College and that they were asked by the Economic Development Committee to develop a comprehensive economic plan for the community. Their studio plan is entitled "Brownsville Works" and is focused on developing an economic development plan for the retail areas along Rockaway and Pitkin Avenues that would embrace the entire community.

They met often with the Committee to discuss their progress and performed an urban design plan for a 71 block area. Seventy-five surveys were conducted in the shopping areas. Their findings as follows: Brownsville is a low-income community with average incomes being half that of citywide averages. The unemployment rate is double that of the city average. There is a high rate of female-headed households. High incarceration rates also plague the community with it having the second highest rate of million dollar blocks – block where over a million dollars are spent to keep its residents in prison. All of these issues contribute to the poor economic condition of the community.

Citywide economic development plans focus on regional issues which do not necessarily help communities such as Brownsville. As an example, the Slavin Fish Market which once was an anchor store on Belmont Avenue moved to the Huntspoint Market in the Bronx to take advantage of incentives offered there. The local Business Improvement District is underfunded and there is no entity focused on local economic development.

There is a lack of local hiring by businesses and a lack of local ownership – 86% of owners are not residents of the community. Sixty percent of residents surveyed stated that they purchase their goods outside the community and cited reasons such unpleasant atmosphere due to high security and suspicion by shop owners, poor retail mix, and atheistically displeasure of many vacant stores.

Brownsville has a great transit structure but not necessarily along the retail corridors. Lack of night life creates a sense of no security after dark.

They propose the formation of a non-profit to be called “Brownsville Works” based on models that have flourished such as the Cypress Hills Development Corporation in Cypress Hills and WHEDco - Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation in the Bronx.

Brownsville Works will focus on four key areas: 1) workforce and entrepreneurial development, 2) establishing communication points such as a website and other media to allow the merchants opportunity to speak in one voice, 3) creation and development of “pop-up stores” - a vacant property wherein the property owner is incentivized to allow temporary installation of a vendor or artist at a low or no fee in exchange of maintaining the property, which in turn creates interest in the property and allows vendors to test their ideas. 4) Create interest in the community that will bring in people from other areas. For example, having the Brownsville Heritage House operated on scheduled basis.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel asked if they chose the Brownsville Heritage House as a place to operate?

The students stated that their ideas were formulated after meeting with stakeholders and the Economic Development Committee and holding town hall meetings.

Ms. Morgan stated that the purpose of the studio project is to give the Committee a starting point. Nothing proposed is set in stone. The Brownsville Heritage House was thought of as a point of interest that could potentially create interest in the community, especially for those who are not familiar with Brownsville. It holds a great deal of history about the community, however, the schedule is somewhat sporadic and that can make it difficult for planning a trip there.

Someone stated that she did not hear anything mentioned about the role of schools in this plan. She believes that the schools need to play a part in preparing the youth for the workplace by teaching skills that are wanted by employer.

Ms. Morgan stated that she agrees and the Committee is also looking at this issue as a long-term goal.

Ms. Monique Barnes stated she is a member of Greater Highways and Hedges Church which has two locations in the District. She applauds the efforts of the students and the Committee in bringing a development plan for our community. She has witnessed these plans come to fruition in other areas of Brooklyn, as well as in Queens, and believes it will work here as well. She is an entrepreneur and offers a free workshop through the church on learning to become an entrepreneur. There will be a workshop on Thursday and anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. Information can be found on flyers available on tonight’s distribution table.

Mr. John McCadney asked if copies of the students’ report are available.

The students stated that copies of the report will be made available to the Community Board’s office as well as on the Hunter College website this summer.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that Brownsville Heritage House is open Monday –through Friday and many school groups visit the location. He lauded Ms. Patricia Deans, the Director of the Heritage House, for her dedication.

Mr. David Alexander, member of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 7, 2012 and discussed names of Board members to fill the positions of Executive Officers for one year from June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013.

The Committee’s recommendations are as follows:

Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace
1st Vice Chairperson – Genese Morgan
2nd Vice Chairperson – Marie Pierre
Secretary – Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Treasurer – Sarah Hall
Parliamentarian – Daniel Goodine

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglass declined the nomination of Secretary.

The floor was opened for further nominations.

Ms. Essie Duggan nominated Ms. Pamela Junior as Secretary.

Mr. Alexander asked if there are any additional nominations from the floor?

There being none, a motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to close the nominations.

Ms. Pamela Junior, member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 8, 2012 with a developer who is proposing to construct 61 units of studio apartments at 1674-1684 Broadway and 70 units consisting of 30 two-bedroom units and 40 studio apartments at 1696-1712 Broadway and 768-770 Decatur Street in 6-story buildings.

It is the Committee's opinion that there is a greater need in our community for one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments to house single adults and families. Therefore, we recommend that the number of studios be reduced to a maximum of 10 and that the project be redesigned to include one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments.

The Committee also met with a representative from MFY Legal Services which is representing tenants in three-quarter houses. They are seeking the Community Board's support to get the houses regulated so that they will be maintained at a certain standard to provide decent, affordable housing for its occupants.

MFY Legal Services is presently drafting legislation to regulate the three-quarter houses. They have met with several elected officials and are seeking their support to sponsor the legislation in the City Council.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, 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 May 16, 2012 and bring to you the following updates:

The New York State Assembly approved a bill to raise the state minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. The Republican Leader in the Senate, Dean Skelos, is blocking the bill from coming up for a vote.

The Legislative Committee is asking everyone to contact Senator Skelos and urge him to pass the State minimum wage bill in the Senate. Please e-mail him at: skelos@nysenate.gov or call him at (518) 455-3171.

The City Council overrode Mayor Bloomberg's veto of the prevailing wage bill which will require employers to pay workers at least \$10.00 with health benefits or \$11.50 an hour without health benefits in certain buildings that receive a taxpayers' subsidy or where the City pays the majority of the rent.

The Mayor has vowed to file a lawsuit to overturn the City Council's vote.

The Committee is asking you to call Mayor Bloomberg at (212) 788-3000 or email him at www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html to urge him not to file a lawsuit but to support the bill.

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

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, suggested that members of the audience pick up a copy of his Inspection Report each month. The report may be found on the distribution table for each month's meeting and contain information about the condition of each of the District's parks and playgrounds. He invites everyone to look at their nearby parks and playgrounds and inform him of any issues that they may come across that is not yet reported on.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked how can we get a comfort station placed in the Betsy Head Playground?

Mr. Kofi stated that this is good question and had it been asked prior to the meeting he might have had an answer but he will look into it.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf Ms. Beatrice Saunds, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 10, 2012 with Captain Minch from the 73rd Precinct and discussed the sale of synthetic weed in stores in our community.

Captain Minch informed the Committee that there is no penal law code to effect arrests for synthetic weed.

The Committee also discussed ways to improve community/police relations. The Committee will work with the Precinct to have an assembly where community residents can speak to officers in the 73rd Precinct.

The Committee was informed that there is an initiative underway by the Precinct to close pawn shops that are engaging in illegal activities.

The Committee also met with James Brodrick from the Center for Court Innovation regarding a new program to reduce gun violence by working with persons on parole and connecting them with resources to transition them back into the community so that they will not return to a lifestyle of criminal activity.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 9, 2012 with Mav Moorehead of NY H2O which is advocating against a proposal by Spectra Energy, Inc. to install a new 30-inch natural gas high pressure pipeline in Manhattan. Opponents of the pipeline fear that it will have a ruinous impact on air and water quality in both rural and metro areas such as New York City.

In an effort to educate everyone about the dangers of the pipeline, the Committee will arrange for a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 16, 2012 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation who gave an update on the Broadway Junction Project which began in 2008.

The project will redesign the roadway of Van Sinderen Avenue between Broadway and Fulton Street. It will:

- Change Van Sinderen Avenue from two-way to one-way southbound.
- Widen the sidewalk to install bus shelters to accommodate riders of five bus lines at the location.
- Re-route the northbound B-20 bus along Fulton Street and Eastern Parkway back to Broadway.

- Designate a drop off area for cabs and private cars.
- Plant more greenery.
- Upgrade street lighting.

Final design of the project will be completed in the next few months and presented to Community Board #16.

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.

Acting Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Captain Charles Minch of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Minch stated that he was assigned to the 73rd Precinct exactly two months ago as the Executive Officer. He was formerly assigned to 113 Precinct in Queens.

One of the things that he has been tasked to do is teach young officers how to better communicate with residents of the community. In this way, they will be more comfortable in the community and the community will be more comfortable with them.

Over the last twenty-eight days, crime is down overall. However, last Saturday, there was a house party near Saratoga Avenue wherein a young man was shot. Many shooting incidents in the borough begin with house parties. They are asking for the assistance of the community in reporting house parties where there is too much noise or that there is reason to believe that trouble is lurking. They have a Conditions Team in place whose sole job is to dispatch to house parties and similar activities.

Mr. Vincent James, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will host her next Advisory Meeting on Saturday, June 2nd at I.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues. The meeting will be dedicated to legal service assistance.

He has been communicating with District Manager Greene-Walker to have representatives from Barclays Center come out to speak to the community with regards to hiring at the facility. Unfortunately, they were unable to come tonight but will be here at a future meeting.

Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that Senator Sampson has scheduled a job fair for Friday, June 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Family Church, located at 9717 Flatlands Avenue. There will be over 60 employers present. Please attend if you or someone you know is seeking employment.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that Senator Montgomery has introduced legislation to restore control of the Department of Education to the local school boards. She encourages everyone to stay alert with regards to legislation that is proposed and support the ones that will help our community.

She encouraged everyone to continue to spread the word about the availability of Meals on Wheels for the sick and shut ins in the community.

Mr. Sam Pierre from the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit stated that he would like to arrange a meeting with the Board to discuss issues that are affecting the Brownsville Community.

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