

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JUNE 26, 2012

Attendance

David Alexander	
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Sadie McNamara (E)
Margaret Brewer	Linda Mayo (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Genese Morgan
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Terry Norfleet
Essie Duggan (A)	Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Norman Frazier (A)	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Helen Giles (A)	Marie Pierre (E)
Shirley Gonsalves (E)	Rev. Devon Ponds
Daniel Goodine	Mattie Pusey (E)
Chanel Haliburton	Linda Rivera (A)
Sarah Hall	Melaine Rochford
Kofi Hormeku	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Michael Howard (A)	Beatrice Saunders (E)
Allene Ingram	Melina Terry (A)
Min. Prince Issachar	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Daisy Jackson (E)	Ernestine Turner
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph	Jennifer Williams (A)
Pamela Junior	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Eula Key	Patricia Winston (E)
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 (E)	Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Yolanda Matthew (E)	Maurice Phillips for Hon. John Sampson
John McCadney, Jr.	Carol Harris for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Andrea McCullough	Renee 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 7:01 p.m. and requested that Rev. Miran Ukaegbu give an invocation.

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee reported that at last month's meeting the following members were nominated to fill the Executive Officers positions:

Bettie Kollock Wallace - Chairperson
Genese Morgan - 1st Vice Chairperson
Marie Pierre - 2nd Vice Chairperson
Pamela Junior - Secretary
Sarah Hall - Treasurer
Daniel Goodine - Parliamentarian

In that there were no further nominations, she asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers for the term from June 26th, 2012 to June 25th, 2013.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the slate of officers for the term from June 26th, 2012 to June 25th, 2013.

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

- an offering by Kingsborough Community College (KCC) for its GED/Job Readiness/Culinary Arts Program for 18 to 24 year olds.
- an offering by LaGuardia Community College for its Home to Work Center for Displaced Homemakers in need of job training and/or employment assistance.

She stated that there are time sensitive grants included in her report and urged that it be read on a

timely basis and the instructions followed for programs of interest to the reader.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Janae Irvin and Mr. Ari Norman of Barclays Center.

Ms. Irvin stated that she is in charge of the Human Resources Department for AEG at Barclays Center which has been contracted to manage the building. There are other contractors providing other services such as leading restaurants. AEG has begun their hiring process for the venue. Positions include security, food and beverage, box office, and warehouse. Information about the various positions may be found on the website www.brooklynbarclayscenterjobs.com.

They will be filling about two thousand full- and part-time positions. The majority of the positions will be part-time, since they are event driven – meaning that employees work when there are events. Resumes may be sent to hr@brooklynbarclayscenterjobs.com. All persons who wish to work at the arena are encourage to apply. They are an equal opportunity employer and do not hire based on any bias.

Someone asked when the newly hired will begin to work?

Ms. Irvin stated that the Center is scheduled to open on September 28, 2012. However, they are currently doing their prescreening process at the Workforce1 location at 9 Bond Street and at Saint Francis College. Beginning the week of July 9th, persons who have passed their prescreening qualifications will meet directly with hiring managers. Job offers will be made and training will begin in August. All training is paid and anyone asked to come to training has been offered a position. Persons who are offered a position must be available in August, as well as pass a background check and drug test.

Someone asked if persons with criminal records are automatically disqualified?

Ms. Irvin stated that they are not, they will look at them on a case by case basis. They may need to disqualify an ex-offender with a specific background from some positions; for example a pedophile would not be allowed to work a venue where children would be present.

Someone asked if a 16-hour card is required for security positions?

Ms. Irvin stated that while it would be helpful if they had it, it is not a requirement. They would rather have someone who is willing and has a great attitude and no card than someone with the card but a poor attitude. They will assist those without the card to get it. They hire for attitude, skills can be taught.

Ms. Pamela Junior asked if someone who applied during the event held by Barlcays Center last year would need to apply again?

Ms. Irvin stated that they did go through some resumes from the event. However, she suggests that they apply through the website.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Michael Griffin of the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Griffin stated that the Northern Brownsville Transportation Study was initiated at the request of Brooklyn Community Board 16 to improve traffic operations, relieve congestion, address parking, and improve safety for all street users (motorists, cyclists, pedestrian, and transit). The purpose of the study was to assess the existing and future traffic conditions, identify issues and develop effective solutions to address these issues. The study area is bounded by Atlantic Avenue to the north, Mother Gaston Boulevard to the east, Pitkin Avenue to the south, and Howard Avenue to the west. The assessment of existing conditions includes an analysis of demographics, land use and zoning, vehicular traffic, pedestrians and bicycles, accidents and safety, on- and off-street parking, and public transportation.

To analyze the existing traffic conditions in the study area, basic roadway characteristics were surveyed along with traffic controls, traffic volumes, parking, transit, and pedestrian activity. The traffic data collection plan included Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATRs), manual turning

movement counts, vehicle classification counts (i.e. auto, bikes, trucks, and buses), and pedestrian counts for specified peak periods (morning, midday, afternoon, and Saturday midday). The highest volumes were observed along the Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway corridors, especially during the morning and afternoon peak hours; Pitkin Avenue was congested during the midday, afternoon and Saturday midday peak hours. There are three designated truck routes in the study area, although heavy truck activities were observed along commercial corridors associated with deliveries to local stores.

The analysis of the existing and future traffic conditions revealed that there are several locations in the study area that can be improved with respect to mobility and safety of all street users (motorists, pedestrians, cyclists) by making changes to roadway configuration, signal timing, truck loading/unloading, bus stop location, parking restriction, signs and markings.

The following locations were identified for improvements:

- 1) Saratoga Avenue and Eastern Parkway/Sterling Place (roadway restriping, signs and markings, left turn prohibition, and installation of neckdowns);
- 2) Rockaway Avenue and Atlantic Avenue (removal of curbside parking, roadway restriping, and signal timing changes);
- 3) Rockaway and Pitkin Avenues (removal of curbside parking and roadway restriping);
- 4) Eastern Parkway and St. Johns Place (neckdowns);
- 5) East New York Avenue and Pitkin/Hopkinson Avenues, Atlantic Avenue and Hopkinson/Saratoga Avenues (signal timing changes);
- 6) Saratoga Avenue between Eastern Parkway and East New York Avenue (consolidation of bus stops);
- 7) Pitkin Avenue from Howard Avenue to Mother Gaston Boulevard (installation of truck loading/unloading zones, parking restrictions and crosswalk refurbishing);
- 8) Install 2 hour limited parking (10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) at adjacent streets (approximately five parking spaces) to Pitkin Avenue to increase parking turnovers.
- 9) Streetscape improvement at triangular area between Eastern Parkway, Prospect Place and Thomas Boyland Avenue (pedestrian plaza); and
- 10) Various safety improvements are recommended for the following intersections: Eastern Parkway and Mother Gaston Boulevard, Eastern Parkway and Howard Avenue, Howard Avenue and St. Johns Place, Eastern Parkway and Rockaway Avenue/St. Marks Avenue, Atlantic Avenue and Hopkinson Avenue, and Atlantic Avenue and Saratoga Avenue.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked where are the displaced vehicles expected to park? There are merchants who are accustomed to parking their vehicles along Pitkin Avenue; where will they park in this proposal?

Mr. Griffin stated that the recommendation would only eliminate three parking slots at two locations between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. In a commercial zone, there is always a need to balance the commercial needs versus the need of those who need to park all day.

Someone asked why not have the businesses accept their deliveries in the early morning or evening hours?

Mr. Griffin stated that for many businesses the cost to do this is prohibitive.

Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.. The Committee reviewed one (1) new application for a liquor license and one (1) renewal application for a liquor license.

Arcade Community, Inc. is requesting a letter of support for a Beer and Wine license at 81 Rockaway Avenue. The business is a members only social club.

Extraordinary Cutz and Sounds, Inc. is requesting a letter of support for a full liquor license at 1730 Pitkin Avenue. The business is a full service barber and hair salon by day and recording studio and lounge by night.

The Committee having met each business owner and visited the business establishments has no objections to the applications and the Committee recommends that the Board support the applications.

As a reminder, the deadline to apply for funding through the New York State Empire State Development Corporation-Regional Economic Development Councils is July 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.; information is available at www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

To help applicants better navigate the application process, the Regional Economic Development Councils is currently conducting statewide training workshops. The final session will be held June 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

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

The deadline to apply for the NYS Department of Labor Request for Proposals (RFP) related to Worker Skills Upgrading is July 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.. Businesses with four (4) or more employees can apply for grants to help train workers through:

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

Interested businesses should apply through the consolidated funding application by the July 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. deadline.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free contact Genese Morgan (genesemor@aol.com.)

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Pamela Junior, Secretary of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 12, 2012 with Dedra Wade, President of Community Partners Commission Association, Inc., who is requesting the Community Board's support to operate a substance abuse and prevention services program at 2034 Atlantic Avenue. The matter was tabled as the Committee feels that Ms. Wade is not ready to move forth with the proposal.

The Committee also met with representatives from Women In Need regarding their proposal to develop housing on Junius Street between Glenmore and Liberty Avenues. When the proposal was first presented to the Community Board in 2008 to construct 280 units of housing in a 10-story building, it was opposed because of the number of units, the height of the building and its location in a manufacturing zone.

Women In Need applied for a zoning variance at the Board of Standards and Appeals. At its meeting on January 26, 2010, the Community Board voted in opposition to the application and the District Manager testified in opposition to it as well as representatives from the Local Development Corporation of East New York. Subsequently, the Board of Standards and Appeals approved the variance to allow construction of the housing with modifications to the original design of the building.

The building design was changed from 10 stories to 6 stories. It was previously 280 units and is now 160 units with 24 parking spaces. The community facility space increased from 12,662 square feet to 16,072 square feet. The commercial space was decreased from 27,000 square feet to 2,000 square feet. There will be 12 studios, 66 one-bedrooms, 69 two-bedrooms and 13 three-bedrooms. The building will have three elevators and three sets of stairs.

Ninety-six apartments will be for supportive housing, restricted to formerly homeless families and 64 units for the community which will be selected through a lottery. Half of the community apartments will be for people living in Community District #16 and 5.

The income eligibility will range from:

Household Size	Income Range
1	\$29,050 - \$34,860
2	\$33,200 - \$39,840
3	\$37,350 - \$44,820
4	\$41,500 - \$49,800
5	\$44,850 - \$53,820
6	\$48,150 - \$57,780

The original design of the building had a commercial space on the entire first floor. Because the building was redesigned, it has no commercial space in it. They would like to change this to put in several small stores for the community. To create the stores, they would need to go back to the Board of Standards and Appeals.

In addition to construction jobs, there will be 40 permanent jobs in the building.

With regard to the community facility space, suggested uses are vocational training, healthy eating/nutritional classes, counseling, parenting skills, financial planning, after school program or summer camp. Suggestions for the commercial space: beauty/barber shop and spa, learning center. The Committee suggested that the commercial space not be used for a fast food, bodega, liquor store, nail shop, or dollar store.

Ms. Melaine Rochford expressed her concerns of introducing a third shelter on a block that already has two large shelters operated by Women in Need. She would prefer to see commercial establishment at the proposed location.

Ms. Bonnie Stone stated that the proposed project would be one hundred percent permanent housing. While some of the tenants will be formerly homeless persons, all tenants will have leases. They do have a desire to include commercial space in the building and that, in part, is why they are here tonight.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 20, 2012.

They were informed by the Department of City Planning that commercial zones allow for a variety of uses. It does not ban specific stores nor does it differentiate between certain establishments such as a fast food store versus an eat-in restaurant.

The Committee will continue to do research in an effort to limit the number of specific stores that are in abundance in our community.

The Committee also met with a representative of the "Save Our Safety Net Campaign" which is a coalition of community groups working to save our safety net hospitals. Safety Net Hospitals are hospitals that have a minimum of 50% of its patients and all services that are either Medicaid or uninsured; or if you look at all outpatient and inpatient services, at least 70%. It can be either a public or private hospital. The challenge for the hospitals is that Medicaid is reimbursed much less than Medicare. If most of the patients at a safety net hospital are Medicaid or uninsured, the hospital is expected to pick up the cost. The costs tend to be covered by charity care dollars that the State distributes. There is not a lot of transparency on how charity care dollars are distributed. For example, Cornell Hospital, which is a large academic hospital with lots of insurance, gets a large amount of charity care dollars. Hospitals that service minority residents get far less charity dollars.

Healthcare costs have been increasing in New York State. Patients that go to safety net hospitals tend to have more chronic illnesses and use hospitals for primary care, are lower income and have issues with language and cultural competency.

The biggest threats to hospital closures are in Brooklyn and the Bronx, in areas where there is the highest need.

As the economy gets worst, people lose their jobs and contribute less tax revenue to the State.

Healthcare is the second largest expenditure in New York State. When the government looks for places to cut, they typically start with healthcare.

Governor Cuomo appointed a Medicaid redesign team who were not affiliated with the community and asked them for a solution. Their recommendations were to close or merge hospitals, close 1,200 beds, and eliminate medical residency programs.

By working with our legislators and having community outcry, closures have been delayed. The Safety Net Campaign is urging the community to write their legislators and support rallies in opposition to hospital closures.

There will be a stakeholders meeting on June 28th, 5:00 p.m. at Borough Hall in the Victorian Room. Members of the community are invited to attend.

The Committee discussed the bill S 6915 introduced by Senator Velmanette Montgomery to remove Mayoral control of New York City (NYC) schools. The bill would create an independent NYC Board of Education. This New Board would have the authority to appoint the NYC Schools Chancellor and have control over educational policy. Parents and education professionals would regain a greater voice in the education process.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander 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.

The two recreation centers in the District are in need of rehabilitation work. Some funding has been made available for work to be done at Betsy Head but a date has not been set to begin the work. Water pressure at the parks was found to be low and an order to repair the condition was made. If you come across a fountain or sprayers in a District park, please reach out to the Board's office to report the condition.

Someone asked if the Howard Pool would open this summer?

Mr. Hormeku stated that all District pools will open this summer.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior, 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 June 14, 2012 with representatives from the Kings County District Attorney's Office to discuss why the Police Department cannot make arrests for the sale of synthetic weed.

They were informed that the New York State legislature passed a law this month to make the sale of synthetic weed illegal. There was also a federal law passed in March 2012 to ban the sales. However, there is no criminal penalty to enforce. There is a civil penalty that can be enforced by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the New York City Health Department. Locations selling synthetic weed can be reported to the New York State Health Department hotline at (866) 811-7957 or the DEA hotline at (877) 883-5789.

The Committee was also informed by the District Attorney's office that there are 3 levels of sex offenders. Level 1 offenders are the lowest risk and are not on the sex offender website. Levels 2 and 3 sex offenders can be found on the website: www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor.

Unlike other parts of New York State, there are few restrictions in New York City that limit where sex offenders cannot live. They are not allowed to live in New York City Housing Authority buildings.

Sex offenders must register their addresses annually with the New York Police Department, Department of Criminal Justice, and the Parole Department. It is a felony if they fail to register.

If they move, a change of address must be provided to the agencies previously stated within 10 days.

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

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on June 11, 2012 with representatives from the Department of Transportation and discussed the following projects:

- 1) Pitkin Plaza- a proposal to close Legion Street between Pitkin and East New York Avenues and create a sitting area with tables, chairs and umbrellas for the public. The plaza installation will start in early August and it will be maintained by the Pitkin Avenue BID.
- 2) Area-wide Intermodal and Transit Access Improvement project which will remove the physical barriers to mobility and accessibility by enhancing safety, pedestrian access, and create a friendlier pedestrian environment.

At Atlantic Avenue and East New York Avenue, the curb will be extended to increase sidewalk space, pedestrian ramps installed, pavement markings to delineate crosswalks, and two additional streetlights will be installed.

At East New York Avenue and Fulton Street and Broadway, curbs will be extended to increase sidewalk space, pavement markings in crosswalks will be delineated, additional streetlights installed, and signal lights will be upgraded.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve both projects.

The Committee also recommends that the Board support the recommendations made by the New York City Department of Transportation as was heard in their earlier presentation on the Northern Brownsville Transportation Study.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Senator Velmanette Montgomery and requested that she administer the oath of office the new members of the Board.

Senator Montgomery congratulated all concerned and thanked them for their commitment to serve their community. The oath of office was administered to new member Andrea McCullough.

Senator Montgomery stated that we need to take stock in our community properties such as the building we are in (444 Thomas S. Boyland Street). We need to do all that is necessary to ensure that they are maintained, as we cannot afford to lose them.

She shared that thousand of childcare slots were lost to budget cuts and that the City Council has worked to restore many of the slots. However, we do not know who will be in control of them. In her District, many local community sponsored programs were cut; only to see them replaced by programs operated by persons from outside the community who do not reflect the ethnicity and traditions of the community of the children they serve.

She has placed information on this evening's distribution table with information about the Early Scholars Program. There are four schools in Brooklyn that take part in the program. These high schools are collaborating with certain colleges and universities to enable students enrolled in the program to have approximately two semesters worth of college credit upon graduation from the high school. This gives those students a head start when entering college and saves on the cost of tuition. She asks that the audience disseminate this information to parents and guardians of children who are in and will be entering middle school. The program is a rigorous one and the children need to prepare for it as soon as possible.

She also seeks support for legislation that she is working on to end mayoral control of the City's Department of Education. As it is operated currently, there has been a slow and unwanted slide towards privatization of our public schools in a manner that has not been beneficial for many of

our children. She is not against charter schools but she is against having charter schools used to create a two-tiered education system in our communities.

Another bill she seeks support for is a bill to keep the possession of condoms from being used in criminal court as evidence of prostitution. Under current law, police regularly confiscate condoms when making a prostitution arrest so that they may be used as evidence. As soon as the prostitutes are released from jail, they go right back to work without protection; or refrain from carrying condoms at all, for fear of being arrested. This is not a question of condoning prostitution; it is a matter of protecting public health. The spread of HIV/AIDS may be curtailed in this manner.

Mr. Randy Hudson stated that there a number of young entrepreneur in the community who would like to see a tech incubator in the community. Can Senator Montgomery spearhead some funding opportunities to support such an endeavor?

Senator Montgomery stated the as part of the last round of economic stimulus funding an incubator was placed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. She suggested that interested persons contact her office ((718) 643-6140) for additional contact information.

Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that he is supportive of Senator Montgomery's bill to remove mayoral control of the Department of Education. He asks the audience to demand this of their elected officials.

Ms. Carol Harris, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will sponsor a senior jazz concert on Thursday, June 28th at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue. There will be a tenants' forum on Tuesday, July 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at P.S. 398 – The Walter Weaver School, located 60 East 94th Street. The forum will address many of your housing concerns. On each Thursday in August, Councilmember Mealy will host the Brevoort Summer Concert Series from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Brevoort Playground (Ralph Avenue & Chauncey Street) and Sunday, August 19th, she will host her annual back to school and health resource fair at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. Councilmember Mealy's monthly Advisory Meetings will be suspended until September, however, her office can be reached by calling (718) 953-3097.

Ms. Renee Hastick-Motes, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, concurred with Senator Montgomery in that the work of the Community Board often goes without thanks, but the Board's role is important and members should recognize this.

There will be a mandatory orientation meeting for new members on Wednesday, June 27th. All new members must attend, registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the program at 6:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall (210 Joralemon Street). She presented perfect attendance certificates (for calendar year ending December 2011) to Ms. Eula Key and Mr. Kofi Hormeku.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Annie Wise.

Ms. Wise stated that she is a member of the Advisory Board at Brookdale Hospital. In behalf of Mr. James Tillmon, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, she is present this evening to inform the community that they are seeking new members for their Board.

Brookdale is currently undergoing restructuring, has a new Chief Executive Officer, and it remains open to serve the community. They are in the process of severing all ties to Medisys, the former managers of the hospital. They are seeking leaders in the community to join the Advisory Board. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please contact Ms. Phoebe Layne at (718) 240-5716.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked District Manager Greene-Walker and her staff for their assistance throughout the year and wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

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