

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 - NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and an invocation was given by Evangelist Hellen Thomas-Purdie.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace reminded everyone that the December Community Board meeting is scheduled for December 18th due to the normal date falling on Christmas.

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

- **Project Safe Surrender** - a program that on Friday, December 14th and Saturday, December 15th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., will bring clergy, pastors, lay members, and defense attorneys together to help individuals resolve outstanding summons warrants for many non-felony offenses.
- **Disaster Assistance** is available for those who sustained losses or damage from Hurricane Sandy, you may be eligible for disaster aid. For more information or to apply visit: DisasterAssistance.gov, call (800) 621-FEMA (3362), TTY (800) 462-7585.

There are time sensitive grants included in the report and she 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 Mr. Michael Howard, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mav Moorehead of NYH₂O.

Ms. Moorehead stated that she has presented to the Board previously concerning the frack drilling in the Marcellus Shale. She is here this evening to speak of an equally important environmental issue, the Spectra Pipeline.

The “New Jersey-New York Expansion Project”, more commonly known as the Spectra Pipeline, is a proposed high-pressure gas pipeline, varying in diameter from 42-30” and slated to travel from the Marcellus Shale, up the New Jersey shoreline, through the edge of Staten Island, under Jersey City and across the Hudson River, entering Manhattan at the Gansevoort Peninsula in the West Village.

FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is the lead agency reviewing this project. (It is filed under FERC Docket No. CP11-56-000). FERC is a federal agency mandated to process energy infrastructure as quickly as possible. While they are responsible for issuing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), they are concerned only with whether procedure is followed, not with asking whether a particular project should or should not be built. As is standard practice, Spectra paid for the EIS for its own pipeline.

Many see the agency as a rubber stamp as they usually approve proposals, no matter how much community resistance is demonstrated. This is the case with this pipeline as well, although there were thousands of public comments opposing it and only 22 comments in favor, FERC has now approved the Spectra pipeline. Legal action is in process now to halt construction.

The pipeline is a direct threat to the public health, safety, property values and economy of New York City’s residents, businesses, and visitors. A significant public health hazard associated with drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation must be seriously investigated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This hazard is from radioactive radon gas and the potential for developing lung cancer in a large number of natural gas customers. This issue, which has been ignored in the DEC’s Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, must be addressed in a revised Impact Statement and before DEC issues any drilling permits.

Unlike present sources for natural gas, located in the Gulf of Mexico, the Marcellus Shale is considerably closer to New York consumers. In addition, the radioactive levels at the wellheads in New York are higher than the national average for natural gas wells throughout the United States.

Dr. Marvin Resnikoff, a well-respected consultant in the field, has stated that calculated wellhead concentrations of radon in natural gas from Marcellus Shale and the time to transit to consumers, particularly New York City residents, has potentially negative health effects of releasing radon, especially in the smaller living quarters found in urban areas.

We have all seen the commercials aired during news and financial programming on television which claim the wonderful properties of fracked natural gas and how it will provide jobs and promote energy independence. One needs only to visit Pennsylvania to see that promise of jobs is misleading as well as the contamination caused by the process.

As far as energy independence goes, 80% of the gas captured is slated for export and will therefore not supply any United States resident. PlaNYC states that our need for gas will lower, not rise, so the pipeline will not future proof the city either.

Further danger arise from transporting the gas on LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) tankers which are constantly emitting methane gas into the atmosphere.

Her organization’s goal is to have the New York State Department of Energy Conservation revoke the permit issued to Spectra Energy and prevent the flow of fracked natural gas until such time that an environmental/health impact study can be done and proven safe to residents and the environment.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 to discuss further the important environmental impacts and public health concerns of the radon problem. Until the radon in natural gas risk has been appropriately studied and assessed, the Committee shares the view with others who are opposed to drilling in the Marcellus Shale that the Department of Environmental Conservation should not award any drilling permits in the Marcellus Shale formation in New York State because of its impact on the entire New York State water supply.

This is of great concern to the Committee, especially as ninety percent (90%) of the New York City gas supply originates from the Catskill/Delaware watershed, which is within the boundaries

of the Marcellus Shale and is delivered to the city faster.

The Committee understands the environmental benefits of the use of natural gas for energy needs as opposed to burning oil or coal. They also understand the need for New York State to be able to benefit from the revenues from the mining of natural gas, especially in these difficult economic times. However, the Committee strongly believes that the potential for harm to public health, especially needs to be weighed carefully and studied thoroughly before any permits decisions are made and given in New York State.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that Community Board #16 join other community boards in the City in holding the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) accountable and unequivocally urge the NYSDEC to complete the studies and withhold issuing permits in the New York State and within the New York City.

Ms. Mav Moorhead of NYS H2O organization, who was heard earlier at tonight's Community Board meeting, was invited to present at tonight's Board meeting by the Committee to help the community in understanding this information and the urgency for action and adopting the following resolution:

Whereas, Community Board #16 adopted a resolution on October 27, 2009 against the fracking of natural gas as a danger to New York's health, watershed and other natural resources; and

Whereas, Spectra Energy has proposed having its subsidiary, Texas Eastern, build a 30"-42" high-pressure pipeline to bring natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in upper New York State through New Jersey to New York City, which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved; and

Whereas, natural gas pipelines in the U.S. have a poor safety record, with explosions on average every 1.5 weeks, and these companies specifically have received many fines and citations in connection with inadequate health and safety measures, including one of almost \$25 million; and

Whereas, a 30" natural gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California in 2010 killed eight people, destroyed 38 homes and dug out a crater 4300 sq. feet in area and 40 feet deep; and

Whereas, in New York City, there have been 20 injuries and one death from gas pipeline explosions since 2007; and

Whereas, New York City is one of the most populous and built up areas of the United States and the world, and the potential fire radius for this pipeline in Manhattan would encompass three historic districts, including 10 Landmarked buildings, 10 schools or daycare centers, eight playgrounds, including a large playground on the pier directly adjacent to the Sanitation Pier (the entry point of the pipeline); 13 churches or religious institutions; more than 28 art and cultural centers (including the Ground Zero Museum Workshop); the Hudson River Greenway, shoreline and West Side Highway; more than 38 restaurants; countless boutiques, hotels, businesses and residences. The proposed 17' x 26' vault is sited on the same block as the soon-to-be-built Whitney Downtown, as well as the massively popular High Line; and

Whereas, pipeline regulation and oversight in America is sorely inadequate, with such limited resources that for this pipeline, inspection is proposed only once every seven years; and

Whereas, the potential for extraordinarily dangerous and potentially fatal events in the long-range delivery of highly flammable and explosive natural gas is very large; and

Whereas, natural gas from the Marcellus shale contains levels of the radioactive substance radon-222 (which is produced by the decay of radium-226, which occurs in the uranium-228 decay chain) that are the highest in the country, which is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and second cause in smokers; and

Whereas, although zero is the only "safe" for radiation exposure of Radon-222, EPA urges mitigation for anyone with indoor levels at 4 picocuries per liter and recommends

mitigation beginning at 2 picocuries per liter; and

Whereas, the short travel distance from its extraction to New York City users leaves little time for that radioactivity to degrade; and

Whereas, New York City kitchens are typically small and poorly ventilated, exposing resident to high levels of radon (which is estimated to be as high as 125 pCi/l) in gas transported here from the Marcellus Shale; and

Whereas, in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's 1400 page Environmental Impact Statement devoted one sentence to radon gas which states "Radon gas, which under most circumstances is a main human health concern from NORM, is produced by the decay of radium-226, which occurs in the uranium-238 decay chain." (NORM refers to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material.), and

Whereas, no adequate or thorough analysis of the potentially serious risk associated with the impacts of transporting radon-contaminated natural gas into the apartments and homes of New York City residents; and

Whereas, there are no plans for an Environmental Impact Statement for portions of the pipeline that would go under the West Village; and

Whereas, the radon laden gas will produce radioactive scaling inside the old gas pipes in New York, resulting in additional unnecessary long term radioactive exposure of the occupants in each residence, and

Whereas, there are no plans for a Cumulative Health Assessment, which could be ordered by the New York City Council; and

Whereas, the New York State Department of Energy foresees no proven increase in demand for natural gas, so this pipeline is unnecessary for local usage; and

Whereas, the higher overseas price of natural gas provides a strong incentive for energy companies to export it, and therefore to use this pipeline for export not as a domestic energy resource; and

Whereas, the passing of natural gas through a large pipeline to the ports of New York City will greatly endanger life and property; now

Therefore be it,

Resolved, that since it is clear that there has not been adequate or thorough analysis of the potentially serious risk associated with the impacts of transporting radon-contaminated natural gas into the apartments and homes of New York City residents Brooklyn Community Board Sixteen firmly opposes the scheme to pump natural gas from the Marcellus Shale through neighborhoods of New York City; and

Be it further Resolved, that Community Board #16 calls on our elected officials and regulators at local, state, and federal levels to contest the building of this pipeline; and

Be it further Resolved, that Community Board #16 supports the position of Damascus Citizens requesting hearings and research into potential health impacts, as expressed in its letter of June 4, 2012 (attached:

[http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-](http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/LETTER_DCS.pdf)

[content/uploads/2012/06/LETTER_DCS.pdf](http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/LETTER_DCS.pdf)) and desires to be added as a signatory.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2013 at 6:00 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussion of economic development initiatives for Ocean Hill-Brownsville. The Committee met with representatives from the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) to discuss eight

(8) new initiatives which are part of the LINK Initiatives (Leveraging Innovations and Our Neighborhood in the Knowledge economy):

1. DigitalWork NYC
2. "Learn as you Earn" Advancement Program
3. Immigrant Bridge Program
4. Citizen Connect Apps Challenge
5. LIFT Entrepreneurship Program
6. "Better business" Plan Competition
7. PROGRESS Networks
8. Vacant Lot Activation Programs

The goal of the programs is to better connect low-income residents to growth opportunities and support business growth. The Committee is happy to announce that the Brownsville Recreation Center has been selected to host the DigitalWork NYC program in Community District #16 in response to the issuance of an RFP in July 2012. This is a training program to increase awareness of online work opportunities that allow participants to earn money completing digital tasks, build an employment history, and create a pathway towards digital jobs.

The NYCEDC expects to issue additional RFPs early in 2013 for many of the other initiatives which will be available for participation by Community District #16 residents, with the exception of the LIFT Entrepreneurship Program, which is a pilot program selected to begin in the Bronx.

As a reminder, the deadline for businesses to certify with the Department of Labor for the New York Youth Works Program is November 30, 2012 and youth must begin working by December 31, 2012. Businesses may earn a refundable tax credit up to \$4,000 when hiring unemployed, disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16-24. Businesses may certify online at www.jobs.ny.gov/youthworks. For more information, please contact (877) 226-5724 or email: info@youthworks.ny.gov.

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 Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Pamela Junior, Secretary of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 with representatives from Retro Fitness which is seeking Community Board #16's support of their application to the Board of Standards and Appeals to operate at 81 East 98th Street. The matter was tabled until the Committee's next meeting where they have invited the owner to attend and respond to questions that the Committee raised.

The Committee also met with Mr. Stanley Henry and associates who are proposing to construct supportive housing on two sites identified as:

- 1) Site A – 1674-1684 Broadway which Mr. Henry owns. He will be seeking funds to develop 60 units of supportive housing in a 6-story building with a one-bedroom apartment unit for the superintendent. There will be commercial space for rent on the first floor and onsite parking for 10 cars.
- 2) Site B – 1696-1712 Broadway and 768-770 Decatur Street which is City-owned. He will be seeking funds to construct a 6-story building consisting of 40 studios and 30 two-bedrooms of supportive housing. On the first floor will be commercial space.

Services for the Underserved, which is a partner in this venture, will be the long-term owner of and service provider for the residential portion of both properties.

The Committee, by a vote of 6 in favor and 1 opposed, recommends that Community Board #16 supports Mr. Henry's proposal to develop a total of 131 units of supportive housing on sites at 1674-1684 Broadway, 1696-1712 Broadway and 768-770 Decatur Street.

Mr. Henry and representatives from Services for the Underserved were requested to come forward to respond to questions.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the proposed housing would be permanent housing and not transitional housing?

Dr. Yves Ades of Services for the Underserved stated that all of the units will be permanent housing with lease holding tenants who will be free to come and go at their leisure. The apartments will be rent controlled.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that, as a resident of the area, she and others are concerned about the population that will be served at the proposed site. The area is predominately residential and there is a concern that a shift in population will drive families out of the neighborhood.

Dr. Ades stated that the persons who will be served at the proposed site are fully functional individuals who are capable of caring for themselves. There will be social services onsite to assist them with any issues that they may have.

He asked if Ms. Duggan is aware of their site at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Somers Street?

Ms. Duggan stated that she is and has walked by the location on numerous occasions and found that it was not well kept.

Dr. Ades expressed that he was surprised to hear that and offered to speak to her about her findings. They try to maintain all of their buildings and believe that it is important to do so. This is the first time that he has heard that there is a maintenance issue at the building and he would like to find out the details in order to resolve the issue.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked what type of population is being proposed?

Dr. Ades stated that the population will be a combination of low-income housing and supportive housing for persons recovering from mental illness.

Ms. Davis asked if there will be security on the premise?

Dr. Ades stated that there will be security 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Ms. Davis asked how far are their clients allowed to travel?

Dr. Ades stated that they are individuals who have been assessed by Services for the Underserved to be able to live independently. Services for the Underserved will provide supportive services for any tenant who seeks it on a 24-7 basis.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if any of the tenants will be dependent on medication?

Dr. Ades stated that some will.

Mr. McCadney asked if there will be medical personnel on staff?

Dr. Ades stated that there will not be medical personnel on staff. The social services staff will be able to connect the tenants to medical services if need be.

Mr. Antony Brown asked what hours will the social service staff be available.

Dr. Ades stated that the social service personnel are usually there from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week, and security personnel are present 24-7.

Someone asked what will the breakdown of the apartments be?

Dr. Ades stated that 45 of the units will be studio apartments and the remaining 75 units will be a mixture of one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Someone asked what is the developer's definition of low-income?

Dr. Ades stated that the definition is per New York City guidelines, not theirs. A family of four would qualify for the housing if their income was approximately \$38,600 or below.

Ms. Davis asked if the tenants have jobs, and if so, will they be evicted if their income rises above

the maximum amount on the guidelines?

Dr. Ades stated that the tenant can be working and they will not be evicted if their income rises above the guideline's maximum. The guideline is for the initial application.

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

The Board, by a vote of 10 for, 13 against, and 0 abstentions opposed giving support to the proposal by Mr. Stanley Henry and Services to the Underserved to construct 131 units of supportive housing on sites at 1674-1684 Broadway, 1696-1712 Broadway and 768-770 Decatur Street.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that Parks Department personnel work hard to upkeep our District's parks and playgrounds. However, they may not always immediately resolve a problem. He thanked all persons who brought to his attention problems at Parks and Recreation Department facilities in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. All of the related issues have been resolved with the exception of Nehemiah Park which remains closed due to safety issues caused by a fallen tree. The sidewalk on the Watkins Street side of the park has been reopened to pedestrian traffic.

He reminded the audience of the availability of the Committee's Inspection Report and urged them to pick up a copy and read.

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

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that in the current issue of Councilmember Mealy's monthly newsletter there is a Big Apple prescription discount card which may be cut out of the newsletter and used by anyone in New York City, whether or not they are New York City residents. The card will allow the bearer to save from 15 to 30% on their prescription drug purchases in New York City.

The following companies are currently doing seasonal hiring: Citibank, Boston Market, Babies/Toys R Us, T-Mobile, UPS, GameStop, Domino's Pizza, Family Dollar Stores, Home Depot, Petco, and Vitamin Shoppe.

A lawyer is now available each Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by appointment at Councilmember Mealy's District Office to assist with immigration concerns of her constituents. Persons who have obtained an appointment are encouraged to bring along any related documents to their appointment.

Councilmember Mealy will host a Pearl Harbor Day event at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue, on Thursday, December 6, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. She will also host a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at St. Matthew's Church, located at 1123 Eastern Parkway, on Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Refreshments will be served and all are invited to both events.

Councilmember Mealy will host her monthly Advisory Meeting on Saturday, December 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. She encourages the community to come out to the meeting and voice their concerns so that together solutions can be forged.

Ms. Mercado may be reached at (718) 953-3097 or by emailing wmercado@council.nyc.gov.

Someone asked if Councilmember Mealy will host a toy give-away for the children this year.

Ms. Mercado stated that Councilmember Mealy is planning to host a give-away, however, the details have not been finalized.

Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that the federal government has made available \$27,000,000 to hire up to 5,000 individuals in New York State who have suffered employment difficulties due to Hurricane Sandy. Additional information is available on the New York State Department of Labor website (www.labor.ny.gov).

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, congratulated the audience for their voting performance in the last election. Consistently voting in this manner can ensure that all of the community's needs will be met.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, distributed literature concerning legislation that Senator Montgomery is currently working on. The state legislature will not be in session again until January 2013.

Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that the deadline for the so-called "Fiscal Cliff" is fast approaching and if Congress fails to pass legislation to stave it off, families making \$58,000 will be faced with an additional \$2,000 tax burden in 2013.

In the past, when she has addressed this audience, she has always encouraged it to interact with their elected officials. There has never been a time when this is more important than it is now. She has distributed cards with Congresswoman Clarke's contact information and encourages the audience to stay in contact with Congresswoman Clarke by using one of the many methods of contact found on the card. It is important that the legislators know where their constituents stand on issues. By keeping in contact with them, you can let them know what your individual position is.

At last month's Community Board meeting, the issue of a gas pipeline entering Brooklyn through the Gateway National Park area was discussed. Congresswoman Clarke would like the community to know that, although it was passed, she voted against the legislation. As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Cyber-security, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, she expressed concerns that the pipeline could be made a target for terrorist attack.

Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid from the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes stated that she is the Director of Community Affairs. She is here this evening to encourage the audience to spread the word about the Project Safe Surrender event to take place on December 14th and 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Mount Zion Church, located at 365 Ralph Avenue, Brooklyn.

The Court and defense attorneys will be available to resolve any outstanding misdemeanor summons warrants including:

- ~ Unlawful Possession of Marijuana
- ~ Unlawful Possession of Alcohol under the age of 21
- ~ Consumption of Alcohol in Public
- ~ Unlawful Possession of Handcuffs
- ~ Littering
- ~ Riding a Bicycle on the Sidewalk
- ~ Making Unreasonable Noise
- ~ Animal Nuisance
- ~ Failure to have a Dog License
- ~ Unleashed Dog
- ~ Spitting
- ~ Trespass
- ~ Disorderly Conduct
- ~ Loitering
- ~ In the Park after Closing
- ~ Failure to Comply with a Posted Sign in Park

Please do not let these relatively minor issues ruin someone's life when they can be resolved so easily.

Captain Charles Minch, Executive Officer of the 73rd Precinct, stated that there are currently 80 officers assigned to Operation Impact in the 73rd Precinct and they have recently relocated the Impact Zone. The Zone is moved on an as needed basis to areas where they feel it will have the greatest impact on lowering crime in the Precinct. They had good success in the preceding year in which overall crime in the Impact Zones were lowered by 30%. There is currently a spike in criminal activity along Pitkin Avenue so they will be deploying officers in the area.

Ms. Latrice Walker stated that in looking at ComStat numbers for the Precinct it is unclear as to whether or not crime is down. Is it a year-to-date figure or something else?

Captain Minch stated that year-to-date, crime is up slightly in the Precinct. However, crime in the Impact Zone is down and violent crime is at a historical low. As far as other crimes, they have had peaks and valleys, which is why they continually move the Impact Zones.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if the Skywatch Post will be returned to Pitkin Avenue?

Captain Minch stated that Skywatch is used boroughwide but when they do have it assigned to the Precinct it will be placed along Pitkin Avenue.

Someone stated that she is noticing an increase in "Stop and Frisk" incidents in the community and that she will be reaching out to Captain Joseph Gulotta to speak about it. She understands that there are issues of crime in the community, however, our youth should not be made to feel threatened by police officers for just standing at their corners. If they are made to feel this way constantly, problems will arise.

Captain Minch stated that with regard to "Stop, Frisk, and Question" the number of incidents in the Precinct is down. At the same time, violent crime is down and gun arrests are up. As Precinct commanders, they feel that this is the best of both worlds; they are stopping less people but are still removing guns from the streets which means they are stopping the right people.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Pastor Miguel Garrick of the Open Door Apostolic Church.

Pastor Garrick stated that he is new to the community but he wants his church to be active in the community and invites the audience to reach out to them for whatever assistance they can offer.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Wendy Shepperd.

Ms. Shepperd stated that she is a social worker with the Brownsville Justice Center, located in Room 106 of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. They are offering opportunities for the youth of the community who are between the ages of 16 and 24 and have been involved with the court system within the past twelve months. They are now accepting applications for next year's program. They help with employment support, job readiness, and internships. Participants will receive a \$1,400 stipend over the course of six months. Past projects include murals on Rockaway and Sutter Avenues and at the Brownsville Post Office. They will host an open house on Wednesday, December 19th, at 4:00 p.m.. They encourage youth who may be eligible to attend as well as parents of court involved youth.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace made an appeal to all present to do whatever it is that they can to assist with the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

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