

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 22, 2013

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and an invocation was given by Rev. Joseph Norton.

The roll was called and 17 members were present.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that the United States Postal Service is seeking to hire City Carrier Assistants. Applications will be accepted online only from January 23, 2013 through January 27, 2013 on their website: www.usps.com.

She stated that there are time sensitive grants included in her 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 Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 10, 2013, to discuss Mental Health Conversations and the Towards a Quieter Brownsville project.

Regarding mental health, the Committee, along with Brookdale Hospital, has arranged to make a presentation on bipolar disorder at the next Grandmother's LOV breakfast. The breakfast will be held at Mt. Sion Baptist Church, located at 440 Ralph Avenue (between Pacific Street and Atlantic Avenue) on February 26th, at 9:00 a.m..

Regarding Towards a Quieter Brownsville, the Committee has informed the agencies involved of the issues and will be discussing the issues in detail at the next Committee meeting.

The Committee will next meet on February 14th, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland

Street- Room 103. All ideas are welcome, if there are any topics or concerns you would like to make the Committee aware of, please feel free to do so.

She requested the attendance of all Committee members at the upcoming meeting and asked that the audience share the information from tonight's meeting with at least one more person.

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services 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 January 8, 2013 and discussed the request by Retro Fitness for a letter in support of their application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for a special permit to operate as a health club at 81 East 98th Street.

Because Retro Fitness is located in a C8-2 district, the use is contrary to Section 32-10 of the New York City Zoning Resolution and requires a special permit because the establishment is not an as-of-right use pursuant to the zoning resolution.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports Retro Fitness' application for a special permit to operate at 81 East 98th Street.

The Committee also discussed a proposal by Dunn Development to construct 13 one-bedroom and 26 two-bedroom apartments for low-income working families and 40 studio apartments for formerly homeless single adults with onsite support services provided by CAMBA, plus a two-bedroom superintendent's apartment.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports the proposal by Dunn Development which will provide 39 units of housing for low-income working families and 40 studio apartments for formerly homeless single adults.

There being no quorum present, the Committee's recommendations were tabled.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

They continued their discussion regarding the Community Safety Act legislation that is being sponsored by City Councilman Jumaane Williams to combat discriminatory policing and hold the NYPD accountable.

The Committee also discussed Governor Cuomo's NY SAFE (Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement) Act that he just recently signed into law. It is considered groundbreaking legislation that will put in place the toughest gun laws in the nation to better protect our residents from senseless gun violence, while respecting the rights of legal gun owners and sportsmen.

The Act includes provisions to:

- Ban the sale of assault weapons;
- Require mental health professionals to report to local mental health officials when they believe a patient is likely to engage in behavior that is dangerous to themselves or others;
- Make New York the first state in the nation to ban any magazine that can hold more than seven rounds and run instant background checks on all ammunition purchases at the time of sale;
- Track ammunition sales in real time to alert law enforcement to high volume purchases;
- Create a statewide standard requiring recertification of pistol permits every five years;
- Ensure that private sales of guns are subject to a background check; and,
- Toughen criminal penalties on those who use illegal guns including measures to help combat gang violence.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

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

Ms. Patricia Winston, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs

Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the Van Dyke II Senior Center, located at 430 Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street.

Their two guest speakers were Ms. Kathy Holloman-Francis from CenterLight Healthcare and Ms. Latrice Walker from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

Ms. Holloman-Francis advised the Committee that there will be some changes taking place in healthcare that started at the end of 2012 and will be moving progressively until 2014.

The first change deals with Medicaid recipients only. Anyone who receives Medicaid with a skilled need such as physical or respiratory therapy, home health aide, or a nurse visiting the home on a scheduled basis, must enroll with a managed long term healthcare company. If you do not select a company, one will be selected for you which might not be accepted by your current doctor. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to select their own Long Term Care provider. Long term health care is considered anyone in need of continual services lasting 120 days.

Ms. Latrice Walker shared information about the government's efforts to retire paper checks in favor of direct deposits and prepaid "Direct Express" debit cards for all federal benefits, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income disability, Veterans Affairs and government pension plans. Anyone who began receiving federal benefits after May 1, 2011 will be required to receive their benefits on a debit express card. If you were receiving benefits prior to May 1, 2011, via paper check, and would like to continue to do so, you must let them know.

Please contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323 to receive a notice of the next Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. John McCadney, Jr., Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 3, 2013 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and discussed the proposed Brownsville Biking Initiative.

Bike lanes are proposed to be installed on:

- 1) Mother Gaston Boulevard between Liberty Avenue and Linden Boulevard which will connect bikers to an existing bike lane along Liberty Avenue east bound and along East New York Avenue west bound. It will also provide a north/south route which does not currently exist in the community.
- 2) Pitkin Avenue between Legion Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (in Community District #5). This proposal is supported by the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District.
- 3) New Lots Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Junius Street in Community District #16 and will end in Community District #5.

The strong point of the presentation was an emphasis on health and recreational benefits. A minor point was made about those who use bicycles as a primary means of transportation. In the name of progress, the Committee became enthusiastic about this project. The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District is also enthusiastic about this project.

They were also informed that the new bike lanes would make it safer for both bicycle and motor vehicle traffic to traverse our area. The bike lanes will also help to make our community more pedestrian friendly by reducing the speed of vehicular traffic and appointing specific lanes for bicycle traffic. In this era of health consciousness and fitness advocacy, the bike lane proposal would provide a low-cost and safe user friendly medium to exercise within the confines of our community. For those who want to venture out of the Community, there will be provisions for bike lane continuation east, west, north, and south to other neighborhoods.

Bike racks have been installed throughout the District. If there are other locations where you wish bike racks installed, please call the Community Board office at (718) 385-0323.

If there are any concerns or complaints in reference to any transportation issue, please feel free to

contact Mr. McCadney through the Community Board's office.

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

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 17, 2013.

They are actively engaged in planning a festival along Belmont Avenue to promote local and small businesses. The Committee discussed several components of the planning process which will include pinpointing participants, locating sponsorship, booth setup and compliance with city guidelines. The Committee is anticipating that this event will take place in August 2013, however, more detailed information will be forth coming.

The audience was reminded that NYC Business Solutions is available to assist businesses in the many areas of business development and the Committee encourages any individual owning or seeking to own a small business to utilize the resources available from NYC Business Solutions such as business license assistance, legal assistance, recruiting and business courses.

Due to recent tax law changes, the Internal Revenue Service has delayed the start of the 2013 tax season until January 30, 2013. Individuals with income under \$50,000 should seek to take advantage of free income tax preparation through the various providers. A list of local providers of free income tax preparation will be available at next month's Community Board meeting.

The Committee encourages your continued participation in the local economy by continuing to shop along Belmont Avenue, Pitkin Avenue and other commercial corridors of the neighborhood.

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. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Copies of the Parks and Recreation Committee report were made available on tonight's distribution table.

Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, announced that Senator Sampson is co-sponsoring a coat give away on Saturday, January 26, 2013, beginning at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, located at 9179 Flatlands Avenue.

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has begun to recruit lifeguard candidates for the 2013 summer season. First-year Parks Department lifeguards will earn at least \$13.57 per hour. Most will work a 6-day week and earn at least \$651.36 per week. Interested persons are encouraged to visit the Parks Department website at www.nyc.gov/parks for more information.

Constituents are also encouraged to reach out to Senator Sampson's office for assistance with other issues such as immigration by calling (718) 649-7653.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will host her next Advisory Board Meeting on Saturday, February 2, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Tilden Senior Center, located at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard (Between Dumont and Livonia Avenues). The guest speaker will be Ms. Terri White, a Community Educator on Advance Directives and Senior Resources, who will provide information on wills, trusts, healthcare proxies, and durable powers of attorney.

Councilmember Mealy is collaborating with Valerie Oliver-Durrah of the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic to present a training and capacity building workshop on Wednesday, January 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at her District Office. The workshop is intended to provide community-based nonprofits a step by step process on completing the City Council Funding Application.

She is also co-sponsoring a Mardi Gras event where there will be live entertainment and refreshments at the Tilden Senior Center on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m.. Everyone is invited to join them for the event.

Councilmember Mealy will sponsor a Black History Month event honoring local heroes at P.S. 40, located at 265 Ralph Avenue, on February 27th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..

Information on companies that are hiring can be found in the current issue of Councilmember Mealy's newsletter.

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

Mr. Kevin Parris, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, stated that this is the time of year when the Borough President's Office accepts applications for new membership to the Community Boards. Current members whose memberships are scheduled for renewal should also submit their applications for renewal at this time. Applications are available on the Borough President's website (Brooklyn-usa.com). He can be reached by calling (718) 802-3856.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy from Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Kennedy stated that at last month's meeting she announced that they will be hosting a HOPE summit in January 2013. However, the date has been changed to February 23, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Van Dyke Community Center, located at 392 Blake Avenue. All are welcome to this discussion on the future of the Brownsville community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Daniel Murphy, Executive Director of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District.

Mr. Murphy stated that he is happy to hear that the Transportation and Franchises Committee is in favor of supporting the bike lane initiative that is being proposed for the District. It is important that residents understand that these transportation initiatives are amenities and not impositions.

A Deals retail outlet will be opening in the recently rehabbed Pitkin Theatre building located on Pitkin Avenue at Legion Street. Deals is now accepting applications to fill the various positions in the store. He encourages any interested person to call him at (718) 922-9600 and provide him their information in order to receive an application. It is his hope that most of the jobs are obtained by persons residing in the District and the surrounding areas.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked District Manager Greene-Walker, the Executive Board, and everyone else who help make these meetings successful.

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