

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – April 23, 2013**

Attendance

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

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

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and an invocation was given by Minister Damascus Lee.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Joanna A. Sorocki of Brownsville HomeBase.

Ms. Sorocki stated that she is the Program Director and Staff Attorney for RBSCC's (Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council) Brownsville HomeBase program. An informational packet was placed on each chair prior to the meeting.

Brownsville HomeBase is located at 145 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street between Blake Avenue and Union Street. They are a homelessness prevention program and work with those who are at eminent risk of eviction or in double-up situations – living with family, friends, or other non-relatives.

They have case managers onsite who can provide advocacy and referrals to HRA (Human Resources Administration), job training, and GED (General Equivalency Diploma) classes. As Staff Lawyer, she can provide legal representation for clients. For those who have exhausted one-shot deals with HRA and other agencies, they can offer some subsidies to assist with housing cost. They try to work their “magic” through advocacy and case management. They also assist veterans who are at risk of eviction.

Ms. Wanda Mercado of Councilmember Mealy's office stated that she has been working with a constituent who has received a notice of eviction. What is the turn-around time for their services?

Ms. Sorocki stated that they are usually able to sit with clients within a week of being contacted. She cautioned that the dates on stipulations are not necessarily doomsday notices. In most cases, the courts will grant a stay unless the tenant has abused the privilege.

Ms. Essie Duggan asked if they work with homeowners?

Ms. Sorocki stated that they are a tenants' advocacy group. A landlord could conceivably call her for assistance but she would be hesitant to assist them.

Ms. Duggan asked what about foreclosure matters?

Ms. Sorocki stated that RBSCC does work with persons facing foreclosures but not out of their Brownsville location.

Someone asked if they assist persons who are already homeless?

Ms. Sorocki stated that they have a new program: "Return to Family and Friends" which is only available through referral from a homeless shelter. If someone is leaving a shelter to live with family or friends, they can be referred to their agency.

They also work with residents of NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority). Often tenants may not know their rights as NYCHA tenants – they have many of the same rights as a tenant in any other building in New York City.

Ms. Mercado stated that Councilmember Mealy's office received many complaints from NYCHA residents who state that NYCHA makes it difficult to resolve issues.

Ms. Sorocki concurred that NYCHA does not make the process easy but if one is knowledgeable of their systems there are ways to get results. Sometimes all it takes is to put the request in writing and ask for a time-stamped copy which they are required to provide if asked. This works for most minor issues but there are some that require hearing appearances. NYCHA has two different locations for hearings which deal with different types of issues. The hearings sometimes happen concurrently.

Mr. Benjamin Woods stated that he is an artist and works throughout the community. He has noticed that when he is organizing youth art projects he must first get them through their regular life issues. Does Brownsville HomeBase have any programs for the children of their at-risk families?

Ms. Sorocki stated that they do offer direct referrals to some training programs. When children are cognizant that their parents are struggling financially or they constantly have to move from place to place, it wears on them as much as it does on adults, if not more. They realize that homelessness can be a cyclical problem and they try to work with the youth to help prevent them from repeating the parents' mistakes.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following from her report:

The Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, with the support of the City of New York Commission on Human Rights, is organizing an event entitled, "Get Your House in Order to Prevent Foreclosure – A Night of Counseling" on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 151-167 Rochester Avenue.

This event will provide homeowners who are experiencing difficulty meeting their mortgage obligation, are in default or foreclosure, the opportunity to meet with the banks and foreclosure counselors.

RSVP to the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association by calling (718) 773-4116.

Applications are now being accepted for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The SYEP offers work experience, teaches valuable employment skills, and provides youth with a summer income. SYEP educational activities will enhance their summer experience, allowing them to develop career awareness, understanding of personal money management, and work-related social skills.

SYEP is open to all New York City residents between ages 14 and 24, as of July 1, 2013.

To apply for SYEP, visit: [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) and complete the application online. The deadline for submitting your application is Friday, May 10, 2013.

CPCA – Community Enrichment Center, located at 2318 Atlantic Avenue, will host CPR Training on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon and RTE (Responding to Emergencies) Training on May

18<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon. The courses will offer Red Cross training certification and CPR pro and Emergency Response for a fee. For additional information and to enroll, call (347) 378-2828/29.

You are invited to a public hearing on Thursday, May 9, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street to share your thoughts and concerns about traffic and transportation issues in the area bounded by Sutter Avenue to the south, Mother Gaston Boulevard to Eastern Parkway to the west, Bushwick Avenue and Highland Boulevard to the north and Cleveland Street to the east. (A map of the study area may be found in her report.)

The New York City Department of Transportation is conducting the Highland Park – East New York Study to examine traffic and transportation issues, evaluate traffic network capacity for increased development density, and to make recommendations to improve safety and traffic operations.

First Vice Chairperson Genese Morgan recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy thanked audience members who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Imagination Playground at Betsy Head Playground earlier today. The playground is the first of its kind in Brooklyn – one exists near the South Street Seaport in Manhattan. She and Borough President Marty Markowitz allocated funds to help make the park possible.

The park will allow the youth of the community an opportunity to use their imaginations, learn to work cooperatively, learn design skills, and perhaps entrepreneurial skills for their future. The playground's reconstruction is expected to be completed in 2015. Unfortunately, she had to divert funds that were to be allocated towards the rehabilitation of the other side of Betsy Head Park where she envisions a domed complex that can be utilized by the community year-round. She asks that the community continue to advocate for this even beyond her tenure.

She will sponsor the second annual "Jocko" Jackson Film Fest on June 19<sup>th</sup> with a pre-screening on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Both will be at the Brownsville Recreation Center (1555 Linden Boulevard). It is her desire to see the event grow into something akin to the Tribeca Film Festival and encourages everyone in the audience to participate.

Her monthly advisory board meetings continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month. They are currently being held at the Trinity Methodist Church, located at 1148 Eastern Parkway between Utica and Rochester Avenues.

Copies of her newsletter can be found on tonight's distribution table. She encourages the audience to make use of the resources offered in the publication.

She acknowledged Mr. Kofi Hormeku and his efforts to maintain and improve the condition of the community's parks.

She spoke of the loss of community stalwarts such as the late Patricia Deans and encouraged the youth to become involved in their community.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2013.

The Committee met with NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYC EDC) to discuss the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding the NYC LINK Initiative program which will utilize approximately 14 vacant lots in Brownsville to host pop-up shop businesses. The RFP will be announced within the next 4-6 weeks and the go live date of this program is expected to be around July or August 2013.

The LINK Initiative will use vacant city owned land that is being made available for approximately 12 months at no cost to the business owner. Business owners will be responsible for the cost associated with setting up and operating the pop-up shop locations. NYC EDC expects to have a limited amount of grants available to assist the businesses that are selected from the RFP process. An information session regarding the RFP will be held at the offices of the NYC EDC subsequent to the announcement of the RFP. Please visit [www.nycedc.com](http://www.nycedc.com) for more information on the LINK Initiative and other programs.

The Committee reviewed one "renewal" application for a beer and wine license in regards to Glen Grocery. The establishment is a convenience store and is located at 55 Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11212.

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit by the Committee which was reported in the Committee's April 26, 2011 report.
- The Committee has determined that the establishment currently holds a liquor license for Beer and Wine only; this application was brought before the Board for initial approval.
- The establishment has no existing complaints on file with the 73rd Precinct.

The Committee suggests that the Board supports this application.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, please feel free to contact Genese Morgan (genesemor@aol.com).

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, April 11, 2013, with guests invited from the Office of Mental Health, Brookdale Hospital's Psychiatric Department Director and a member of the District Attorney's Office medical staff to provide clarity of the policy and proper process of the emergency room(ER) with an Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP).

The Committee has been responding to an agency's complaint of the ineffective process of an EDP in the ER.

Their discovery was that there needs to be a further look into how the initial complaint is handled at the residences of the EDPs. It seems that the basis of the agitation is no longer an issue when being observed at the ER, which leads to a discharge. The Committee will have an update on this matter in the June report.

The Committee is asking for the cooperation of all committees for a "Year End Information Recap" type event. This will be used to go over the topics covered during this Community Board season. She requested that all Chairpersons prepare a list of topics, have any supporting literature and contact anyone they may need or want to be on site. She will work with the Board's office to organize this event. Additional information will follow.

Noise Complaints in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has been updated to a priority. However, the disturbances in public housing sectors continue. NYCHA will need to be involved in enforcement. The Committee will continue to reach out for support from NYCHA. More public notification is suggested.

The Mt. Ollie Baptist Church, located at 1698 St Mark's Avenue, Brooklyn, has called on its congregation to "Have the Courage to Take to the Streets". Pastor Reginald L. Bachus, Senior Pastor of the Mt. Ollie Baptist Church, has voiced concern on the state of our community. He is taking the initiative to occupy the streets along with his congregation and seeks the support of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct in planning an event to take place in the month of June as an attempt to discourage bad and encourage good in our community. She encourages anyone who can to reach out to the pastor and lend your support. The phone number at the church is (718) 385-3261.

She also asks fellow Board members for the attention, cooperation and commitment necessary to move this District forward.

The Committee will meet again on May 9, 2013 at 4:30 p.m., at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street Room 103.

The audience was requested to share the information from tonight's meeting with at least one more person.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 and discussed the gun control legislation that was not approved by Congress. The Committee will be gathering petitions to be sent to our Congressional representatives urging them to pass stronger gun control legislation.

The current minimum wage in New York State is \$7.25. The New York State legislature passed and it is included in the new budget that was approved on March 29, 2013 to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$9.00 per hour over three years, beginning with:

- \$8.00 on December 31, 2013
- \$8.75 on December 31, 2014
- \$9.00 on December 31, 2015

The next Committee meeting will be held on May 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m..

She requested that audience members email her at [mvpierre@aol.com](mailto:mvpierre@aol.com) with comments concerning gun control legislation.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Committee, reported that copies of the Committee's inspection report can be found on the distribution table at each month's meeting. Attached to tonight's report is a list of criteria he looks for when visiting the parks. He encourages the audience to obtain a copy and review it and look for these things when visiting parks. He asks that they report anything that does not meet the standard to the Board's office, himself, or the parks manager so that the issue can be addressed.

He introduced the District's Parks Manager, Emilio Llopiz.

Mr. Llopiz stated that he manages parks in Community Districts 4, 5 and 16 which essentially covers most of northern Brooklyn. He is a life-long resident of Brownsville and takes pride in the work he does.

The work at Houston Playground has been completed and the playground will re-open to the public within the next few weeks. Nehemiah Playground sustained damage during Super-storm Sandy and they are awaiting the arrival of emergency funds to effect repairs. As was stated earlier by Councilmember Mealy, Betsy Head is about to undergo a major construction into an Imagination Playground. He can be reached by calling (718) 257-1635 and leaving a message or via email to [ellopiz@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:ellopiz@parks.nyc.gov).

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that complaints have been received concerning the roof of the Brownsville Recreation Center. Can Mr. Llopiz elaborate on what is being done?

Mr. Llopiz stated that this is an ongoing problem. When the work was first done they addressed issues on one part of the roof but not another. The neglected portion of the roof is now causing problems and is being addressed.

Ms. Brewer asked if the current work is being done by the original contractor?

Mr. Llopiz stated it is not.

Councilmember Mealy commented that it was brought to her attention that the plans for Betsy Head Playground's reconstruction do not include a comfort station. She acknowledges this and it is her hope that a future budget will allow for the addition of a comfort station.

Ms. Linda Rivera, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee met on April 10, 2013 to review some important updates on EPA Hazardous Waste Disposal and plan an effective education strategy to ensure compliance and enhance the quality of our lives in our community.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act - commonly referred to as RCRA - is our nation's primary law governing the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Congress passed RCRA on October 21, 1976 to address the increasing problems the nation faced from our growing volume of municipal and industrial waste. RCRA, which amended the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, set national goals for:

- Protecting human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal
- Conserving energy and natural resources
- Reducing the amount of waste generated,
- Ensuring that wastes are managed in an environmentally-sound manner

As part of the Committee's plan to educate members of our community at the Community Board meetings, they continue tonight with a presentation on this important law on 'Hazardous Waste

Disposal' and its impact on our quality of life as highlighted on the reverse of side of her report and those found on tonight's distribution table. If we as community members do our part, then we can honestly hold both the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the New York City Department of Sanitation's Enforcement Bureau accountable with our complaints.

The next Committee meeting will be on May 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m..

Ms. Patricia Winston, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at the Fiesta Adult Daycare Center, located at 50 Belmont Avenue between Watkins and Osborn Streets. Fiesta is a new facility within the District with the goal of entering into a partnership relationship with existing senior centers to offer them services that are not being offered.

The guest speaker was Ms. Latrice Walker from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke who stressed the importance of everyone calling their Congressional Representatives and the President to voice their opposition to the following:

- Passage of gun control legislation that will only address communities like Sandy Hook, Connecticut where 9 millimeters and other high powered guns and weapons are being used as opposed to neighborhoods like Brownsville where handguns are being used to kill our youth.
- Cuts to the federally funded cell phone program for our seniors.
- Proposed cuts to Social Security

Congresswoman Clarke's District Office telephone number is (718) 287-1142 and the telephone number for her Washington, DC office is (202) 225-6231. The number you can call to inform President Obama about your concerns is (202) 456-1414.

Anyone who would like to join the Committee should contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323 to receive a notice of the next meeting.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met via conference call on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. The purpose of the call was to bring the Committee members up to date on the next steps that were accomplished after the child sexual abuse presentation that the District Attorney's Office made at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Community Board meeting.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thought the D.A.'s presentation was excellent and extended an invitation to the Women's Committee for the D.A.'s office to make another presentation to the community on "child abuse" in general at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Women's Committee reached out to the D.A.'s office Child Abuse Division and they are available and will present at the Community Boards June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

As to the next steps that the Women's Committee accomplished after the presentation on child sexual abuse this past March:

- prepared a letter for the tenant associations and schools in the community – CB 16 has mailed those letters and handouts to the tenant associations and schools in the community
- distributed handouts at the six NYCHA developments in the community
- it was suggested that handouts be sent to churches - if adequate handouts are still available they will reach out to churches and supply them with handouts – if not they will wait until the District Attorney's presentation in June, when they will receive more handouts and can then distribute those handouts to churches

The Committee discussed identifying mental health providers, preferably in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community, who would be qualified and available to make a presentation to the community at either the September or October community meeting.

The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 6:30p.m., at Community Board 16's office, which is located at 444 Thomas Boyland Street (between East New York and Pitkin Avenues) on the first floor.

If you have any issues that you want the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Junior at [pjunior2@aol.com](mailto:pjunior2@aol.com). All are welcome to join the Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 8, 2013, to discuss and finalize the details of their play street initiative. The request for approval package for selected site at Christopher Avenue between Belmont and Sutter Avenues was submitted by the deadline of March 31, 2013. This site required no petition and thought to be an ideal location, being that it abuts P.S. 150 on one side of the street and a playground on the other side of the street.

Since their last meeting, they have discovered that the school will be closed for the summer, as well as neighboring schools within walking distance from the playstreet site.

In addition, the playground does not have a comfort station. In light of the absence of this crucial component, the Committee's playstreet initiative has been postponed and they will revisit this initiative for the summer of 2014.

Their next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. where they will brainstorm new projects and direction.

Someone asked if they thought about making use of portable toilets?

Ms. Jackson stated that it was briefly considered but funds and manpower to maintain them is lacking.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Board, reported that according to the Board's by-laws, during its April meeting, a Nominating Committee is to be appointed. The following Board members have been asked to serve on the Committee: Essie Duggan, Daisy Jackson, Eula Key, James Mack and John McCadney, Jr..

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back recommendations to the May 28, 2013 Board meeting names of persons to fill the Executive Officers for the period of June 2013 to June 2014.

Ms. Latrice M. Walker, Esq., representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke reiterated the fact that when gun violence is spoken about in our community, it generally is about handguns. However, the recently proposed gun control legislation makes no reference to handguns, in-fact it does cover any type of gun. What was considered for a time were large capacity bullet magazines. However, the bill that was voted upon did not include that either. The bill essentially only dealt with background checks for persons seeking to purchase firearms. The legislation did not pass due in large part to the well-funded gun lobby spearheaded by the National Rifle Association.

Here in Brownsville, it is understood that money is not as powerful as people power. Among the things that we can do to exercise our people power is to write letters and make phone calls to our elected officials.

President Obama recently released his budget proposal and it includes cuts to social security. While she is not currently a senior, she hopes one day to be one. As such, the fund is just as important to her as she strives towards retirement. She encourages the audience to write and call on this issue as well.

Also under attack is the so called Obama phone. This program has been around for twenty-seven years. (The FCC started allowing some prepaid wireless providers to participate under President George W. Bush in 2005.) These phones are vitally important to our communities.

Lastly, immigration reform continues to be a hot topic. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.", This to her means we need to embrace our foreign born brothers and sisters of color. Population shifts are trending such that the black population of Brownsville is decreasing. We need that population to stabilize in order to maintain certain programs. She asks that we call and write Congress on this issue as well.

Ms. Caroline Benjamin-Smith asked if Congresswoman Clarke supports immigration reform?

Ms. Walker stated that she does.

Ms. Benjamin-Smith asked how does calling Congresswoman Clarke help since she already supports the issue?

Ms. Walker stated that our correspondences to Congress are entered into the Congressional Record. When Congresswoman Clarke goes on the floor, she can refer to the correspondence and perhaps read a personal story to show how the issues are affecting individuals she represents. There are 717,000 persons residing in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, if she can get just 17,000 of them to write a letter on an issue then that is 17,000 letters that are entered into the American history records. We put our elected officials in office but we need to show them support as well while they're in office.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that in regards to immigration reform it seems that expulsion is more prominent with people of color.

Ms. Walker concurred and stated that she can imagine the fear that some live with that any moment they might be found out and deported.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, reported that Senator Montgomery is working trying to keep Downstate Hospital open. She is also working collaboratively with Assemblyman David Weprin on the issue of mayoral control of schools. Another piece of legislation she is proposing will provide residents of public housing with having a greater say in the managing of the complexes.

She encourages high school and college students to visit the Senator's website for information on summer jobs and internships. These jobs can not only allow the student to earn some income but will give them an advantage when entering the workforce at the completion of their education.

Mr. Jesse Hamilton, III, representing Senator Eric Adams, stated that Senator Adams now represents a larger portion of Brownsville and looks forward to working with its constituents.

Senator Adams is working to change how the current Stop, Question, and Frisk regulation affects the youth, more specifically, the young men of our community. He will be hosting forums to inform them on what to do if stopped by the police. He relayed a story of a young man who was stopped and subsequently arrested for possession of marijuana. The young man had never been arrested, attended school and was employed full-time. He doesn't condone the use of marijuana but neither does he believe that a person's ability to provide for themselves and their family have to suffer for the rest of their life because of a minor indiscretion. In advocating for the youth, he was finally able to get the District Attorney's Office to agree to an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, meaning the young man's record would be clean if he remained out of trouble. Senator Adams believes that our youth should know their rights in order that they can fight for them.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he is also District Leader of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District. District leaders nominate judges and Kings County has more judges of color than any other county in New York State.

People sometimes receive notices stating they need to appear in Housing Court. He advises that they not ignore these notices but instead go to the court and find out what is going on. Today, if you were to go to Housing Court, you would see many people who are paying their rent, but because of increases they are unable to keep up and are being forced out of their homes. They go to court and the landlord's attorney offers them a deal stating if they sign a document agreeing to pay double their rent for six months they will end the proceedings. However, considering that the reason they were summoned to court is that they couldn't keep up with the rent, they are likely to default on the agreement which probably includes language that limits their choices. Senator Adams is sponsoring housing forums with the housing judges to educate people on their housing rights.

It was noted that a quorum and votes were taken as follows:

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Essie Duggan and carried to accept the Minutes of the February 26, 2013 and March 26, 2013 Board meetings.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the Committee Reports read at the March 26, 2013 Board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to support the “renewal” application for a beer and wine license in regards to REMA LLC, located at 371 East 98<sup>th</sup> Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr. and carried to support the “renewal” application for a beer and wine license in regards to Glen Grocery, located at 55 Hegeman Avenue.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept tonight’s report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., seconded by Ms. Wendy Rutherford and carried to accept tonight’s report of the Legislative Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to accept tonight’s report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept tonight’s report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Wendy Rutherford, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Kofi Hormeku, seconded by Ms. Beatrice Saunders and carried to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the District Manager’s Report.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, announced that Councilmember Mealy will host a lien sale prevention forum on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at God’s Battalion of Prayer Church, located at 661 Linden Boulevard. Representatives from the Department of Finance and the Department of Environmental Protection will be present to discuss property tax and water bills payment issues with property owners.

At the May 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting representatives from the Department of Finance will be present to discuss the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program. SCRIE is a program designed to assist seniors, who do not receive Section 8, with their rent payments. Representatives from Urban Justice will have a workshop regarding evictions and tenants rights. Councilmember Mealy’s Legislative Director will discuss legislation updates and the budget details.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, thanked the audience for their prayers and well wishes sent to Assemblywoman Barron while she was convalescing.

Assemblywoman Barron will sponsor a health forum on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Bethlehem Baptist Church to discuss the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), HMOs and how they affect our communities.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Charles Minch, Executive Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Captain Minch thanked the Board for their support as they grieve the lost of one of their newest officers in a tragic car accident.

Year-to-date, violent crimes are down by 25 in the precinct with a total of 167 crimes. Shootings are down by 1 and homicides are down from 6 last year to 2 this year. They thank the community for providing information vital to helping them solve crimes and ask for their continued support.

Someone stated that a shelter was recently opened near their residence and was happy to see the increase presence of police in the area.

Captain Minch stated that they are aware that the community is highly concerned with the presence of homeless shelters and increase patrols whenever a shelter is placed.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan stated that the Precinct Community Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Mt. Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St Marks Avenue. It is an excellent forum to meet officers of the precinct and get to know the issues affecting it.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan recognized a representative from the Riverway Senior Center who stated they are a new facility that opened at the corner of Riverdale and Rockaway Avenues. They are an Innovative Senior Center focused on health and wellness of the senior citizen population of Brownsville.

As the Wellness Specialist, she tries to bring to the center a host of healthy activities and health screenings along mental health services. They have social workers who can assist with completing applications for resources such as food stamps and literacy. They provide a hot lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a contribution of \$1.50. More importantly, they encourage the seniors to socialize and be less isolated. They have healthy activities such as yoga, tai chi, and meditation each morning. They have only been opened since April 15<sup>th</sup> and already have 20 seniors participating in the meditation sessions each morning. She encourages the audience to tell any seniors they know about the program and come tour the facility.

First Vice Chairperson Morgan asked for a moment of silence in memory of the late Patricia Deans, Curator of the Brownsville Heritage House.

There being no further business to discuss, a closing prayer was said by Ms. Marie Pierre, and the meeting adjourned.