

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – June 25, 2013

Attendance

David Alexander	John McCadney, Jr.
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Leslie McCalla (A)
Margaret Brewer	Andrea McCullough
Lamont Carolina	Sadie McNamara (E)
Adrainer Coleman	Genese Morgan
Christopher Durosinmi	Terry Norfleet (A)
Essie Duggan	Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Norman Frazier	Blanche L. Peltonbusch
Shirley Gonsalves	Marie Pierre
Daniel Goodine	Rev. Devon Ponds
Chanel Haliburton	Mattie Pusey
Sarah Hall	Linda Rivera (E)
Jessie Hilliard	Melaine Rochford (A)
Michael Howard	Wendy Rutherford
Allene Ingram (A)	Beatrice Saunds (A)
Min. Prince Issachar (A)	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Daisy Jackson	Ernestine Turner
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Carl Joseph (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson
Derrick Joseph (A)	Patricia Winston
Pamela Junior (E)	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)	Hon. Darlene Mealy
Quardean Lewis-Allen	Jessie Hamilton, III for Hon. Eric Adams
Deborah Mack	Kevin Parris for Hon. Marty Markowitz
James Mack	
Yolanda Matthews (E)	

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jacqueline Kagan and Mr. Perry Cerrato from the Office of District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Ms. Kagan stated that she and Mr. Cerrato are from the District Attorney's Crimes Against Children Bureau which was formed by District Attorney Hynes in collaboration with the Child Advocacy Center in 1997. It is the first of its kind in New York State and the only one, other than one in Massachusetts, which is dedicated to the prosecution of crimes against minors.

The Bureau prosecutes cases of sexual and physical abuse crimes against persons 12 years old and under. They also investigate fatalities of persons ages 10 and under. The ages are there more as a guideline than a concrete rule, it is not of the question for them to prosecute a crime perpetrated against a 17 year old under certain circumstances.

The Bureau consist of Assistant District Attorneys, social workers, victim advocates and paraprofessionals working with them. Their sole job is to talk to and help prosecute the cases of our most vulnerable victims.

The Bureau is small and focused because they know the cases will take time. If you have ever had to question a four year old child about an event, you know how difficult it is. Never mind if it is about sexual abuse, perhaps by a family member. It takes more time. The office gives them the luxury of having a smaller unit and smaller caseloads so that they dedicate themselves and do the best they can.

The Bureau, located at 350 Jay Street, itself is child friendly. It offers an environment that is much more conducive to gaining the information they need from a child victim than a cold, sterile, and noisy environment of a police precinct. As difficult as their situation may be, oftentimes the child is reluctant to leave. They make sure that they segregate between work and fun places. When they are in the playroom, they may be in there with a few members of the team playing games or watching a video. When they go to the work room which is quieter with less distraction they will only conduct interviews. This is helpful in getting disclosure with children. The whole point is to get children to open up and tell them what they need to know to prosecute their cases.

They work very closely with the Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center which is located Downtown Brooklyn at Schemerhorn and Nevins Streets, where they bring together medical, law enforcement, legal, and social service representatives in a single, permanent, and child-friendly location to help abused children. This gives them the ability to do their best to have the children less traumatized not more by conducting as few interviews as possible. They have technology there that allows the lead detective and maybe an Administration for Children Services worker in the room with the child and the remaining members of the team will watch remotely. Some of the best physicians and nurse-practitioners are on staff and ready to examine the children if the need arises. All of this happens at one location where everyone is trained to handle these cases. Prior to the center's existence, a child would have to talk to several people at different times. The police, emergency room personnel, child services, maybe a teacher, and then the District Attorney. The center is a walk-in center and is open until 1:00 a.m. every day. Many people are referred by the police but some people go directly there.

She was asked to provide information specific to this District and decided to provide information on sex offenders in the district. The state has a website: www.criminaljustice.ny.gov where anyone can see where there are registered sex offenders in their neighborhood. Kings County has 2,200 registered sex offenders. In Ocean Hill, there are 353 Level 3 offenders, 536 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and 113 in Brownsville. The number for Bedford-Stuyvesant is a bit skewed in that there are a large number of shelters for men in the community. Often, when offenders are released from jail, their first "home" is a shelter.

People sometimes struggle with whether to report signs of abuse. They fear that they will cause someone (maybe unjustly) to be arrested. An arrest does not always occur when a call is made but it does mean that an investigation will ensue. Too much abuse happens without anyone knowing about it, these are children who you know as individuals; if something does not seem right, make inquiries. If you call in a concern, by law you remain anonymous unless you are a mandated reporter.

Mandated reporters are persons who in the ordinary course of their work and because they have regular contact with children are required to report (or cause a report to be made) whenever abuse has been observed or suspected, or when there is evidence of neglect. They have no choice but to report abuse or suspected abuse, but that does not mean the general public cannot also report these cases.

She displayed a map which showed the locations of calls made to the Administration for Children's Service's (ACS) abuse hotline. The map indicated that calls generated from the Brownsville community have not fluctuated much in recent years. Citywide, they have received approximately 60,000 calls since 2008, 55% of the calls investigated are unfounded. That is ok, let them do their jobs and investigate. Just because someone calls ACS does not mean that they want to have another person's child taken away from them. The caller is simply saying they have a concern about the child. It is better to err on the side of caution than have to say to yourself later that you could have done something to save a child from being harmed.

She and her colleagues receive many calls about infant deaths. Oftentimes, the death is the result of an accident – a young parent who did not realize that a baby should sleep on their back or they bring their infant to bed with them and accidentally suffocate them. However, there those times when the death due to a young mother who has delivered her baby and is overwhelmed so they kills the child and attempt to dispose of it.

Baby Safe Haven began in the 1990s and again Kings County was the first to sign on to the program. It is now a state law and is implanted in all 50 states as well as being adopted by many nations internationally. The law allows for the parent of an infant child to surrender said child to a responsible person at any reasonable place such as a hospital, firehouse, or police station without fear of prosecution. They don't have to answer any questions. That does not mean that questions will not be asked of them, but they are not obligated to answer.

Pamphlets are available on tonight's distribution table and she encourages audience members who work with teens to take a few and have them available to the teens. She would like the number of babies brought to Safe Havens to outnumber the number of deaths. Currently, this is often not the case. Since 1997, the number of homicide deaths of children in the 73rd precinct has been 11.

Baby Safe Haven is the brainchild of a Nassau City Officer who in the course of about three weeks, responded to three calls of dead newborns. He felt compelled to find a way to stop the death of more newborns due to abandonment. He made it his life quest to have legislation passed and implemented in New York State, the nation, and throughout the world.

The Kings County District Attorney's Office is somewhat unique, in that they try to work with our communities in reaching resolution in matters concerning public safety. They encourage the community to reach out to them with their concerns.

Someone asked for comment on the sex abuse cases that have taken place within the Jewish community which have been in the news recently.

Ms. Kagan stated that the District Attorney has strived to make inroads with the Orthodox Jewish community which was not very forthcoming regarding abuse cases when she began her career in his office. District Attorney Hynes realized that there was a great deal of underreporting of abuse cases and started an outreach program which has been very successful. There has been an incredible rise in the number of cases reported since then. The District Attorney's Office is assertively prosecuting the cases and the presumption within the Orthodox community is no longer, "Let's handle it ourselves".

Ms. Blanche L. Peltonbusch asked why are there so many sex offenders in this community?

Ms. Kagan stated that the law does not allow a free person who has served his/her time to be restricted in where he/she may live.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Kagan for her presentation.

There was a roll call of the Board members and it was noted that a quorum was present.

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

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

Project Open House (POH), administered by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), removes architectural barriers in the homes of people with permanent disabilities. This program is designed to increase independence in the activities of daily living, thus helping people with disabilities remain a part of their communities. POH provides an opportunity for many individuals to modify their living environments.

This program covers:

- Widening doorways within non-structural partitions;
- Conversion of steps into ramps no greater than 18" in height;
- Replacing existing plumbing fixtures with accessible fixtures;
- Removal of sink base cabinets to provide an accessible work surface and/or a sink;
- Installation of accessible amenities such as grab bars, door openers, accessible door handles, accessible height shelving;
- Installing accessible railings;
- Installation/conversion of residential doorbell and/or smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when an audible or visual system is needed; and
- Other barrier removals that may be required by individuals with disabilities subject to review by MOPD.

Applicants must reside within the 5 boroughs, have a permanent disability and meet Section 8 Income Guidelines (applicants do not need to be receiving Section 8 housing benefits, however, they cannot exceed the Section 8 Income threshold). The building owner must allow MOPD to perform the work.

Starting July 1, 2013, Project Open House will be open to new applicants. Applicants must submit their Registration Form to MOPD no later than Thursday, October 10, 2013. Applicants are urged to submit the application via the online Registration Form. This program is on a first come, first served basis. Late applications will not be accepted, and a submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. The registration form can be found by visiting www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/poh/application.shtml.

For more information, please contact The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities by dialing 311 or through their website at www.nyc.gov/MOPD.

Citizens Committee for New York City is awarding grants of \$2,000 to support volunteer-led hurricane relief efforts.

They are offering this short-term, high-impact grant opportunity because they understand that Sandy relief efforts go beyond the immediate aftermath. The grants are to help increase the overall capacity of volunteer groups to provide relief to hurricane-impacted areas and to support specific projects that address hurricane-related damage to community spaces (for example: waterfronts, sidewalks, school grounds, community gardens, parks).

- The grants are for existing or newly formed volunteer-led groups. Citizens Committee will not award grants to individuals or families.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, up to 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, August 1st. They encourage groups to submit applications earlier.
- Groups will be notified of their grant decision within 3 days of application submission. Grant checks will be distributed within 7 days of notification.
- Approved projects must be completed by October 16, 2013.

Contact Saleen at (212) 822-9566 or sshah@citizensnyc.org for more information.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman and carried to approve the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Kristen Rouse of the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Ms. Rouse stated that OEM has introduced a new hurricane evacuation zone map which replaces the former A-C zones with numbered zones 1-6. Learning from the data obtained after storms Irene and Sandy, new census data, and better analysis of the information, the new zones are now more accurate and allow the City to evacuate the least amount of persons as necessary for public safety. The risk factor and location of the nearest evacuation center can also be looked up on their website www.nyc.gov/oem. She had a limited number of the maps for distribution and informed the audience that additional maps may be obtained by calling 3-1-1.

She is a Lieutenant in the Army Reserves and was serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan when Sandy hit New York and was saddened to watch the damage being done by the storm to the city that she loves. However, she was heartened to also see how many of the plans that she and her colleagues worked on came into play in keeping people safe.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch expressed gratitude to Ms. Rouse and other members of the Armed Services who serve the nation here and abroad. She also gave praise to Deputy Inspector Joseph Gulotta for assisting her family in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy.

Ms. Rouse stated that considering the force of the storm and the amount of water carried inland, their planning went well. However, they are constantly reviewing the information gathered and seeing what went well and what can be improved upon.

Storms of this strength are becoming more frequent and it is only a matter of time before another one hits New York City. How prepared will you be when that happens? She urged everyone to make a plan for themselves and speak to their loved ones and associates about the need to have a plan. OEM makes available a number of pamphlets to help New Yorker prepare for emergencies. Everyone should have a "Go Bag" that contains things such as fresh water, emergency contacts, prescriptions, etcetera.

Homeowners and renters should consider getting flood insurance to help them recover from disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency may provide some assistance, but the amount covered is often limited. Having insurance coverage will greatly help most people after a disaster.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Rouse for her presentation.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy administered the oath of office to new Board members Jessie Hilliard and Quardean Lewis-Allen. She next administered the oath of office to Executive Board Members Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Genese Morgan, Daisy Jackson, and Sarah Hall.

Councilmember Mealy stated that a number of senior centers and youth centers were slated to close. However, the Council provided the money to allow them all to remain open.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked who has the final authorization with regard to RFPs (Request for Proposals).

Councilmember Mealy stated that the Office of Management and Budget provides final authorization for RFPs. In the past, she could only authorize up to \$5,000 without having to issue an RFP, however, through legislation that she authored that amount is now \$20,000. This allows more small businesses in our communities to be eligible to perform the work and services needed.

Rev. Steve Kallow spoke about being unable to procure a lot to build a structure for a program he wants to bring to the community. He heard about 13 lots becoming available in the community but he feels he is being blocked from obtaining one.

Councilmember Mealy stated that she heard about the proposal for the lots but is against it and want the land to go to developers in the community.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2013.

The Committee reviewed one "renewal" application for a beer and wine license in regards to Villa Castillo Restaurant, located at 1474 Pitkin Avenue.

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit by the Committee.
- 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 would like the community to be aware that there have been some complaints from community residents receiving summons for consuming alcoholic beverages on their private porches and stoops, but within public view. The New York City Police Department has maintained that although an individual is on private property, it is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages within public view which justifies the issuance of a summons. Therefore, the Committee would like to bring to the attention of the community New York City Administrative Code § 10-125 Consumption of alcohol on streets prohibited:

Whenever used in this section, the following terms are defined as follows:

- 1) Alcoholic beverage. Any liquid intended for human consumption containing more than one-half of one percent (.005) of alcohol by volume.
- 2) Public place. A place to which the public or a substantial group of persons has access including, but not limited to, any highway, street, road, sidewalk, parking area, shopping area, place of amusement, playground, park or beach located within the city except that the definition of a public place shall not include those premises duly licensed for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises or within their own private property. Such public place shall also include the interior of any stationary motor vehicle which is on any highway, street, road, parking area, shopping area, playground, park or beach located within the city.

- b. No person shall drink or consume an alcoholic beverage, or possess, with intent to drink or consume, an open container containing an alcoholic beverage in any public place except at a block party, feast or similar function for which a permit has been obtained.
- c. Possession of an open container containing an alcoholic beverage by any person shall create a rebuttable presumption that such person did intend to consume the contents thereof in violation of this section.
- d. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the consumption of an alcoholic beverage in any duly licensed establishment whose certificate of occupancy extends upon a street.
- e. Any person who shall be found to have violated any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25) or imprisonment of up to five (5) days, or both, or pursuant to the provisions of the family court act of the State of New York where applicable.

The matter has been discussed with the 73rd Precinct and they are requesting clarification of the law concerning private property from the Police Department's legal bureau. In the interim, please encourage your neighbors to avoid consuming alcohol beverages on private property when in public view except where permitted.

Deputy Inspector Joseph Gulotta was scheduled to provide additional information concerning what the police consider to be public space. However, he was called away. She suggest that, until such time as clarity can be brought to the issue, everyone refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages in places that are in question.

She reminded the audience that the Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) LINK Initiative – Vacant Lot Activation Program is due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013.

She also stated that regarding the 13 lots mentioned by Rev. Kallow, the lots are under the jurisdiction of several city agencies and are being loaned to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for a six to twelve month period. After which, they will revert back to the agencies who may have future plans for the lots. The program was presented to the Board last November and is intended to spur entrepreneurs in developing local businesses. Three of these lots are under EDC's jurisdiction and can be developed as permanent sites. She suggested that Rev. Kallow look into the RFPs.

The Committee recommends that the Board supports the liquor license renewal application for Villa Castillo Restaurant, located at 1474 Pitkin Avenue and turned the matter over to the full Board for voting.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report may contact her at genesemor@aol.com.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 27- in favor, 0-against, and 1-abstention to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to support liquor license renewal application for Villa Castillo Restaurant, located at 1474 Pitkin Avenue.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, June 13, 2013, with Mr. Zoblocki, along with administrators from Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Directors of homeless shelters in the community.

The meeting was called initially to give attention to community complaints about loitering, panhandling, prostitution, and emergency services calls that the Committee received regarding the local homeless shelters.

The meeting was productive, not only were they able to address these concerns with the facility directors, but the administrators were on hand as well. She feels that not only have they accomplished their original goals in addressing the issues at hand, they have established a working relationship between the Community Board and the shelter facilities in the district. She

believes that this is useful and necessary in a shared commonality between the two which is a quality of life in this community.

During this past year, she has had the pleasure of representing the District's concerns to those who could make a difference, in completing the process to make things move, as well as in articulating a conversation on behalf of the community for further understanding, also in pushing the envelope for our deserved attention.

She thanked the Executive Board and her fellow Board members for allowing her to serve and asked that they take a look around the community. Notice that we have what we need right here already. Ask in prayer that we as a community learn to appreciate the value of what we have, so we can readily recognize what we don't want.

Noise Update – Noise Complaints in our precinct has been updated to a priority. Contact has been made with the Communications Office of NYCHA who has agreed to review and release the noise reductions information provided.

The Health and Human Services Committee will meet again in September of 2013 here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street - Room 103, exact date and time will follow.

If there are any topics or concerns you would like to bring to the Committee, feel free to send an email to the Board's office. Please take information from tonight's meeting out into the community and share.

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee reported that the Committee is presently working on a project to enact meaningful gun control legislation on the federal level. They are gathering petitions which will be forwarded to our Congressional Representatives and are asking for your support. She requested that members of the audience take several sheets, have them signed by persons over the age of 18, and return them to the Community Board office by July 19, 2013.

An online petition is also being prepared and will be available shortly.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on June 12, 2013 and discussed Sanitation updates pertaining to recycling laws. The Citywide Community Affairs Officer, Iggy Terranova, was in attendance and informed the Committee of the direction the city will be going as it pertains to recycling. The Committee was informed that as of April 2013, **all** plastics are being recycled and should no longer be separated and discarded into the regular trash. Mr. Terranova went on to enlighten them on the other items that should or should not be in the recycling trash.

- **Paint cans** – should completely be dried out before discarding in the trash if there is still some residual paint in the can. If you completely empty out the can and there is no paint left it can go into the recycling bag and it should never be covered or hidden in garbage bags.
- **Leaf recycling program** - may be coming back in the fall.
- **Violations** – fine amounts have not changed.
- **Theft of recycling** – metal items that are being put out to the curb and picked up by individuals other than Department of Sanitation personnel is considered theft and can lead to an arrest.
- **Trees** – will only be removed if dead or poses an eminent danger to the public. Please call 311 if you should see this in your neighborhood
- **Cleaning curb** – It is the responsibility of the property owner to make sure that the side walk is clean and free of debris as well as up to 18" from the curb to the street.

Mr. Terranova stated that the Sanitation exam will be given this fall. Applications should be available in July and the exam will be conducted during the month of October or November.

If anyone has questions or comments regarding the contents of this report please feel free to contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection 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, June 20th, at the Saratoga Square Senior Center, located at 930 Halsey Street between Saratoga Avenue and Broadway.

They shared information about the role of the Community Board and listened to the concerns of the seniors. Their primary concern and focus of the meeting was NYCHA's Action Plan to close Saratoga Square and other senior centers in the District due to NYCHA sustaining a \$205 million decrease in federal funding caused by the Federal Budget Control Act, also known as sequestration, as well as the Continuing Resolution. Thanks to the City Council, who allocated additional funds to NYCHA's Capital budget to fill some of the gap caused by the Federal sequester cuts, our senior centers will remain open.

This was the Committee's last meeting before the summer break and they plan to resume meetings in September. If there are any issues dealing with seniors that need to be addressed during the months of July and August, please contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323.

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

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on June 18, 2013, the Committee met and discussed what they could do regarding the possible closure of seven New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) senior and community centers in the District.

A letter was drafted, addressed to NYCHA Chairperson, Mr. John Rhea. Fortunately, the proposal for closing these seven centers was rescinded due to the City Council allocating funds to NYCHA's budget. No action is required by the Committee at this time. The letter will be archived.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. to continue working on the CUPYD-16 initiative.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Wendy Rutherford and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy's newsletter contains information on available summer employment opportunities for youth as well as information concerning internships for the summer. She encouraged the audience to reach out to youths who are seeking opportunities for the summer and pass the information along.

Councilmember Mealy, in collaboration with Assemblyman Karim Camara, will sponsor their annual "My Park & Me Day" at the Hamilton Metz Park, located at Albany Avenue between Lefferts and East New York Avenues on Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. Department of Transportation personnel will be on hand to provide a limited number of free bike helmets (on a first come-first served basis) as well as free fittings of helmets.

On Thursdays, during the month of August, Councilmember Mealy will present the Fifth Annual Brevoort Concert Series at the atrium in Brevoort Playground, located at Ralph Avenue and Chauncey Street from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m..

Councilmember Mealy also invites everyone to save the date of Sunday, August 18th, when she will sponsor her 5th Annual Back to School, Health & Resource Fair on Utica Avenue between Union and President Streets. There will be a limited amount of school supplies distributed on a first come-first served basis.

Ms. Latrice Walker, Esq., representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that today is a sad day for the nation, in that the Supreme Court effectively struck down the heart of the Voting

Rights Act of 1965. The Court stated that Congress must redefine which parts of the country must receive pre-clearance before election laws can be changed there. They must define a formula which will return voting right protections to those jurisdictions which are no longer covered, including Brooklyn's own 8th and 9th Congressional Districts.

We need to begin a strong letter writing campaign to encourage Congress to act on a bi-partisan basis. She encouraged the audience to visit the NAACP's (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) website and sign an online petition and call Congresswoman Clarke's office at (718) 287-1142.

Mr. Jesse Hamilton, III, representing Senator Eric Adams, reported that he attended a forum fighting to stop the closure of Interfaith Hospital. We need to rally as a community. There are many issues at stake, from hospital closures to the Voting Rights Act. Summer youth jobs are being cut and our young people are being arrested at higher rates. He never envisioned seeing luxury condominiums being built near New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. Now they are being built right on NYCHA's property and yet the city is not building affordable housing. We have a billionaire mayor who refuses to allow the minimum wage to be raised, while he earns more in a day than minimum wage workers earn in a year. They aren't earning even \$10.00 per hour but rents for an average one-bedroom apartment is more than \$1,200 a month.

We must exercise the power of the vote by registering and voting. In Crown Heights, where he lives, the school district represents about 25,000 children and in their election of school board members, 4 orthodox Jewish men who do not have children in the schools were elected. Why? Because they recognize the power of the vote. Where people vote resources come.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Pauline Johnson of the Open Door Church.

Ms. Johnson announced that the Open Door Church, located at 1251 East New York Avenue, will host a blood drive and health screening fair on Saturday, July 20th. Blood donors will receive tickets to an upcoming Mets baseball game and be entered in a Super Bowl pool.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Luz Perez of GrowNYC.

Ms. Perez stated that the Brownsville Youth Market will return beginning on July 12th. On Fridays they will be at Rockaway and Livonia Avenues. On Saturdays they will be at Thomas S. Boyland Street and Pitkin Avenue. They have reached out to eight neighborhood stores who will carry their produce thereby making it available seven days a week. They will also be conducting forums and exhibitions throughout the community. The Brownsville Youth Market employs youth from the community and offers them a good way to spend their summer.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Andrea McCullough, representing the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Coalition of Young Professional.

Ms. McCullough stated that she is the Chairperson of the Coalition which is a membership-based organization dedicated to the revitalization of the community in order to make it a better place to live, work, and socialize. Currently their members also make up ten percent of Community Board #16. Their next meeting will take place in Bed-Stuyvesant in July, as there are not enough places to socialize in Ocean Hill/Brownsville at the moment.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.