

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 22, 2013

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the public hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. and an invocation was given by John McCadney, Jr..

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) which is seeking approval of an Urban Development Action Area Project (“UDAAP”) designation and project approval and the disposition of City-owned properties located on Saratoga Avenue and Bergen Street, bordered by Dean Street and Thomas S. Boyland Street (Block 1447, Lots 1, 3-9, 73-77, also known as the Project Area) in an R6/C2-3 zoning district in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, Community District 16. The proposed project will consist of the new construction of a 5-story elevator residential building with approximately 80 units of affordable and supportive rental housing, including a superintendent's unit.

District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker introduced the developer of the project, Mr. Martin Dunn of Dunn Development for a brief presentation.

Mr. Dunn stated that they are a Brooklyn-based private developer of affordable housing. They have fourteen buildings that they have developed in Brooklyn (Twelve are completed and two are currently under construction). They have developed three buildings in Community District #16, 465 Thomas S. Building, 54 Bristol Street, and 730 Rockaway Avenue.

He continued his PowerPoint display which included photos and sketches of the project site and the development plans. The plans call for buildings which range from four- to five-stories in height, neighboring buildings are three- to four-stories high. The plans include on-site parking, a children’s play area, a tenants’ gardening area, an attended concierge area on the ground floor, laundry room, a community room for meetings, parties, etcetera, and a library/computer room for residents.

There will be studio, one-, and two-bedroom units ranging in size from 485 square feet in a studio unit to 885 square feet in a two-bedroom unit. The two-bedroom units will feature a homework area (a nook with built in desk and jacks for internet and telephone service).

Unlike the typical supportive housing projects where all of the units are studios and serve single individuals with special needs only, these units will have studios, 1-, and 2-bedroom units and serve both formerly homeless and regular working families. They have been doing this in Brooklyn for the past nine years and find that it is beneficial to everyone. There is a staffed front desk and the social services may be used by any tenant.

Rents will range from \$689 to \$844 for a one-bedroom unit and \$835 to \$1,022 for a two-bedroom unit, based on families making less than 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to 60% of AMI.

Environmentally friendly materials are used wherever feasible to do so along with low volatile organic compound paints and energy saving materials. All units will be Americans with Disabilities Act ready with some preconfigured for accessibility.

Mr. Kerry Branch stated that he is the Assistant General Manager for Prestige Management a Bronx-based property management company. They manage about 11,000 units in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. They manage about 950 units for Dunn Development with whom they have associated with since 2007. As property managers, their one mission is to provide safe, clean, and affordable housing for New Yorkers.

Mr. Alfie Jimenez stated that he is CAMBA's Site Director of four of the Dunn Developments that are managed by Prestige Management. They will provide case management staff for the proposed project and at times man the front desk.

Their goal is to integrate the residents. They will; have events open to everyone during holidays and summer barbeques. In fact, it is hard to differentiate the residents when visiting any of their sites. They advocate for entitlements for residents who need it.

Mr. Dunn stated that one of the perks for working residents is if they should lose their jobs, the case managers can assist them with not only applying for entitlements but also with finding new employment. Their building enjoy very low turnover because of this.

Mr. Jimenez stated that they offer an assortment of workshops for the residents as well.

Mr. Dunn stated that both CAMBA and Prestige Management tend to hire locally when they come into a community.

They are seeking to begin construction in April 2014 and expect construction to last eighteen months. They will begin marketing and making applications available about four to five months before the expected completion of the project.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked if a complete bedroom set will fill in the bedrooms?

Mr. Dunn stated that the unit sizes are generous by today's standard. They will be able to accommodate a king size bed and accessories.

Ms. Blanche L. Peltonbusch asked why are three-bedroom and larger units not available? There are many large families in the community. There also many who do not earn \$35,000 a year. How can they be accommodated?

Mr. Dunn stated that these are valid concerns. However, one building cannot address every need. To be fair, the Census Bureau data indicates that the predominate household size for Brownsville is between 1 and 4 persons. They developed buildings with larger sized units when funding was made available. However, in this instance, the City has not provided any funding. He believes that they have done the best they could with the available resources.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if any of the units are handicap accessible?

Mr. Dunn stated that all of the units are ready to be made accessible. The turning radii and door widths are such that wheelchairs can pass easily. Cabinet heights and grab bars can easily be adjusted at no cost.

The next item is pursuant to the New York City Charter, Community Board #16 is conducting this public hearing to gather community views and requests with respect to the New York City's Fiscal Year 2015 Capital and Expense Budgets.

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, reported that each year, as part of the City's budget process, the Community Board must submit its capital and expense budget needs and priorities for the District.

The capital budget covers the cost of the City's long-term construction program, purchase of land and large equipment. The reconstruction of parks, streets, sewers, and buildings are examples of capital projects.

The expense budget covers all of the City's day-to-day operations such as salaries and supplies as well as debt service.

The Board may submit up to 40 capital budget requests and up to 25 expense budget requests.

He provided a list of recommendations made by the Committee, Executive Board and District Manager.

There being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to close the public hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

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

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

A Project Safe Surrender event to take place on Friday, November 1st and Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, located at 212 Tompkins Street (corner of DeKalb Avenue), clergy, pastors, lay members, and defense attorneys will be available to help individuals resolve outstanding summons warrants.

The Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center (BEOC) is actively recruiting students for their High School Equivalency Preparation (formerly GED prep), ESOL, College Preparation, Medical Assisting, Hospitality Management and Medical E-Records programs. Applications are processed on a first come – first served basis. Spring semester begins on February 3, 2014.

Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) - If you are a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident, 18 years of age or older, looking for work, interested in free job training or would like to be connected to a financial expert, learn how REES can connect you to free services to assist in: Employment Preparation, Vocational Training, Adult Education, Financial Counseling, or Resident Business Development.

There will be an information session on Friday, October 25th, 10:00 a.m. at the Seth Low Community Center, located at 137 Belmont Avenue.

If you are not a NYCHA resident, low-income or unemployed New Yorker and live in a community where affordable housing is being built, contact Building Skills NY which is a not-for-profit organization that offers no-cost construction education and hands-on training industry certifications and job placement services. Building Skills NY works in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority Resident Training Academy.

CAMBA's Immigration Bridge Program can help highly skilled immigrant professionals looking for job opportunities in their field and who earned their degrees in their home nation and left their career behind, the program (iBridge) helps them to rebuild their careers in the United States. iBridge services are free for eligible candidates.

iBridge is a unique and exclusive program designed to assist high-skilled immigrant professionals like you achieve gateway jobs in their profession. Eligible applicants will be awarded Scholarships on the basis of professional qualifications, ability to commit to program

participation, and motivation to succeed. iBridge was created in 2013 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and is funded through the NYC Economic Development Corporation in order to leverage the skills of immigrant professionals to contribute to the economy of NYC, and to benefit you.

Membership in iBridge provides students with the knowledge, skills, network and support they need to address the primary obstacles and thrive in their respective fields.

If you are interested in more information, please email your resume or inquiry to ibrIDGE@camba.org. You can also call them with any question at (718) 282-0108 ext. 79225.

A great teen internship program is being offered by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden called the Garden Apprentice Program (GAP) which is open to students in grades 8 to 11. Apprentices learn about careers in public gardens, science, the environment, and education through hands-on work placements in the Garden. Apprentices are eligible for community service credit and earn a monetary award upon successful completion of the program.

For additional information, go to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's open house on Saturday, November 2, 2013, 2:00 p.m. at 990 Washington Avenue. To register, contact the Brooklyn Botanical Garden at (718) 623-7252 or gap@bbg.org.

Applications for the Garden Apprentice Program are available online: www.bbg.org/gap and are due by December 4, 2013.

The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District invites you to a Halloween Parade and Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 26, 2013. The Parade will begin at 12:00 p.m. at Pitkin Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard and end at Zion Triangle (at Legion Street).

She encouraged the audience to read the entirety of the report and noted that there are other time sensitive items contained therein.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to approve the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Khari Edwards, Vice President of External Affairs for Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center (Brookdale).

Mr. Edwards stated that there are mixed opinions of Brookdale in the community. He is here to inform the community that Brookdale is moving in a new direction. One of the most often heard complaints are waiting times of an hour or more in the Emergency Room. Part of the reason for this is that they receive a gunshot victim about once every thirty-six hours and people go the Emergency Room for everything from a cold to a broken limb. To address the issue, they will be opening an Urgent Care Center directly across the street from the main hospital.

The Urgent care Center will be a walk-in center that will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. They will be to handle anything from a broken arm to get lab results and the wait times are promised to be less than half an hour.

Brookdale will continue its tradition of donating holiday baskets to needy Brownsville families.

Lastly, beginning in December, a branch of the Municipal Credit Union will be opening in the lobby of the main building.

He can be reached by calling (718) 240-7273.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Brandi Watts of Brooklyn Perinatal Network.

Ms. Watts stated that they are pleased to announce that they recently trained and graduated six new Community Health Outreach Workers. Resources are scattered throughout Brownsville and many residents may not be aware of what resources are available. The Outreach Workers are trained to spread information about the various that are available in the community and how to access them. She introduce one of the graduates, Ms. Sabrina Grant.

Ms. Grant stated that she is proud to have completed the course and be able to pass the knowledge along. Along with being a Certified Outreach Worker she is also a PTA Vice

President and past Secretary at P.S./I.S. 327, and a Secretary at P.S. 150. Completing the course not only gave her the skills to be an Outreach Worker, she is pleased to say it has made her a better parent.

Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson, in behalf of Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

The Committee has begun its "Free Information Workshop Series" and encourages community residents and small business owners with interests in entrepreneurship or who currently operates a small business to attend these workshops.

The first workshop on the topic "Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) Certification Process" will be held on tomorrow Wednesday, October 23, 2013 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Oasis Beacon Center, located at 210 Chester Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212.

The second workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 on the topic "Introduction to New York City Small Business Solutions and Workforce 1 Employment Services" from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., also to be held at the Oasis Beacon Center.

Additionally, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) Division will hold an information session on Friday, October 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Seth Low Community Center, located at 137 Belmont Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11212. If you are a resident of NYCHA and would like to be connected to Employment Preparation, Vocational Training, Adult Education, Financial Counseling and Resident Business Development services, please take advantage of this information session. To RSVP, please call (718) 289-8100 and mention "Seth Low Info Session."

Lastly, The Ocean Hill-Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association Inc. is seeking vendors to participate in "The MGB Pops" which is a pop-up retail market that will be located along Mother Gaston Boulevard beginning March 2014. Any interested small business owners may call (347) 762-4755 or email info@oceanhillbrownsville.org for more information concerning these opportunities.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 18, 2013 and reviewed additional documents submitted by MHANY regarding their project discussed at our September Committee Meeting.

MHANY proposes to construct 3 three story buildings on existing vacant lots on Pacific Street between Saratoga Avenue and Howard Avenue as follows:

- 4 two-bedroom apartments at 2040 Pacific Street
- 4 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments at 2095-2097 Pacific Street
- 4 one-bedroom apartments at 2103-2105 Pacific Street

MHANY is projecting rents at three different levels in an effort to accommodate families with income at 40, 50 and 60% of area median income. Rents will range from a low of approximately \$550 (for a one-bedroom apartment) and \$675 (two-bedroom) to approximately \$875 (one-bedroom) and \$1,075 for a two-bedroom.

The proposal was tabled until next month's meeting.

At tonight's public hearing, we heard a presentation by Dunn Development to construct 27 two-bedrooms, 13 one-bedrooms, and 40 studios on a vacant lot at Bergen Street and Saratoga Avenue.

This proposal came before the Committee at its December 2012 meeting and its January 2013 meeting. At the February 26, 2013 Community Board meeting, the Board voted 31 in favor and 1 abstention to approve the proposal.

The Committee recommends that Community Board #16 continues its support of the proposal by Dunn Development which will erase a blighting condition of vacant lots and construct affordable rental apartments for 80 families.

A motion was made by Ms. Pat Winston, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee.

Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, acknowledged Mr. Kofi Hormeku and the hard work and effort he has put forth in behalf of the community.

Mr. Hormeku stated that he travels to each of the parks and playgrounds every month and the findings are found in a report available on tonight's distribution table.

A motion was made by, Ms. Pamela Junior seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Linda Rivera, in behalf of Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 to discuss the impact on the recycling presentation on our community. It was agreed that it is very important for our community to be aware of the recycling law updates and changes. This will assist residents to avoid getting summonses. The Committee is still waiting for hard copy material from the Sanitation Department to have available. Everyone is reminded that there are changes to how we recycle our plastics and general refuse. The paper requirements have remained the same.

In addition, the City is in the process of making changes to how we discard food. Presently, there is a pilot program in the Windsor Park community where containers have been provided to residential property owners to recycle food products. Instead of putting your discarded food in the regular household waste, residents are being asked to store it for composting. As more information becomes available about this program and when it is expected to come to our community, you will be informed. The City is also in the process of asking homeowners to remove concrete from around trees and cultivate the area with grass and flowers to create a greener environment.

The Committee also discussed the Fiscal Year 2015 Capital and Expense Budget requests and made recommendations which were submitted to the Budget, Personnel and Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson seconded by Mr. Mr. Lamont Carolina and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Ms. Pat Winston, in behalf of Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at the Mt. Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St. Marks Avenue, where we shared information about the role of the Community Board and benefits for seniors.

They continued their efforts to educate seniors about the different services and benefits available to them such as the free telephone program, Access-A-Ride, Medicare, Medicaid, and food stamps. Seniors need to be careful of how and when they use their Medicare or Medicaid cards, even when services are being advertised as free, such as at adult day care centers and other services which can reduce their overall benefits. Always ask questions if you do not fully understand why you are being asked to present your Medicare or Medicaid card for services.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th at Seth Low Senior Citizen Center, located at 137 Belmont Avenue.

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

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu seconded by Ms. Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, to discuss our next steps with hosting a forum in our community for women entitled "Black Women's Blueprint." We are planning to host the forum during Women's History Month in March 2014. We are presently reaching out to venues in the community to reserve space, preferably on a Saturday, for ideally 4-6 hours. We have begun to reach out to social service providers, mental health providers, and other agencies and organizations in our community to be guest speakers. Some of the issues that we have identified for the guest speakers to cover at the forum will include:

- Adult survivors of child abuse
- Mental health
- Economics
- Women's Incarceration
- Domestic Violence
- Unemployment
- Affordable quality apartments
- Drug abuse / alcoholism
- Self esteem
- Teaching children etiquette
- Taking marriage vows seriously
- Women's urinary incontinence – options

The Committee will be reaching out to local elected officials in the hopes that they will participate in the forum and perhaps earmark funding to assist this endeavor. We have five months to organize and get the word out so that women in the community can be empowered with critical information to assist them in addressing some of the issues that they face. The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, @ 7:00 p.m. via conference call.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact me at pjunior2@aol.com.

The Committee invites you to join them, as your voice is the voice of the community, and they are here to serve you.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Yvette Williams-Lawson and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried by a vote of 27-in favor, 1-against, and 1-abstention to support the matter of the application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) which is seeking approval of an Urban Development Action Area Project ("UDAAP") designation and project approval and the disposition of City-owned properties located on Saratoga Avenue and Bergen Street, bordered by Dean Street and Thomas S. Boyland Street (Block 1447, Lots 1, 3-9, 73-77, also known as the Project Area) in an R6/C2-3 zoning district in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, Community District 16. The proposed project will consist of the new construction of a 5-story elevator residential building with approximately 80 units of affordable and supportive rental housing, including a superintendent's unit.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried by a vote of 29-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions to accept the recommendations made by the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, Executive Board and District Manager with respect to the New York City's Fiscal Year 2015 Capital and Expense Budgets.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Senator John Sampson.

Senator Sampson asked the audience to be cognizant that along with the mayoralty, public advocate, and other elected offices on the ballot, there will be several propositions which will affect our community.

Proposition 1 (Prop 1) is for an amendment authorizing casino gaming. If approved by New York State voters, Prop 1 will amend the state constitution to legalize Class III Gaming and establish four destination gaming resorts in three Upstate New York regions. If passed,

additional Class III Casinos would be permitted in the Long Island region (New York City included) in seven years.

Prop 1 will allow for a total of up to seven casinos for the purpose of promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools, and permitting local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated.

Proposition 2 will extend civil service credits for veterans. In an attempt to repay the men and women of the U.S. military for their sacrifices made in the name of this country, Prop 2 would entitle veterans to additional credits toward civil service job hirings and promotions. Veterans who become certified as disabled after having received credit for veteran status under an existing program will now be entitled to additional points.

Proposition 6 is a proposed amendment to the Constitution which would increase the maximum age which certain state judges may serve as follows: (a) a Justice of the Supreme Court would be eligible for five additional two-year terms after the present retirement age of 70, instead of the three such terms currently authorized; and (b) a Judge of the Court of Appeals who reaches the age of 70 while in office would be permitted to remain in service on the Court for up to 10 years beyond the present retirement age of 70 in order to complete the term to which that Judge was appointed.

He opposes Prop 6 on the grounds that it would limit opportunities for other talented jurist to serve.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku stated that last month he brought the issue of the poor condition of the bleacher seating in the gym of the Brownsville Recreation Center to the attention of Senator Sampson. Has the Senator been able to look into this?

Senator Sampson stated that he is in support of finding funding to make improvements to the bleacher seating which he understands to be quite aged.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if the gaming casinos are expected to create jobs?

Senator Sampson stated that they are expected to create about 7,000 construction jobs and approximately 2,600 permanent jobs. He reminded the audience that the casinos would not be in the New York City for at least another seven years if Prop 1 is passed.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked how will the sites such as those being championed by Borough President Marty Markowitz in Coney Island, Sheepshead Bay, and Brooklyn Heights as well as Morningside Heights fit into the picture of casino plans?

Senator Sampson stated that those sites would not be able to be built for seven if the legislation passes. They are sites that are deemed suitable by Borough President Markowitz and that he has been lobbying for prior to the legislation being proposed.

Someone asked how will having casinos upstate help persons who live in New York City find employment?

Senator Sampson stated that in working out the locations, unemployment rates were considered. While the unemployment rate here in the city is high, it is even higher upstate where the two major sources of employment are casinos run by the Native-American Reservations and the State prisons. State prisons are on the decline and along with them the jobs they provided.

Part of the solution to improving the unemployment rate in the city is to create other job opportunities, irrespective of the casinos.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked why should New York State judgeships not follow the federal model with regards to tenure?

Senator Sampson stated that having judges serve for life offers few opportunities for others to achieve a position on the Bench.

Someone stated that there already is gambling taking place at Aqueduct Raceway. How will Prop 1 affect this?

Senator Sampson stated that Aqueduct is a racino. Racinos cannot offer table games.

Someone asked how will New York City benefit from the casinos?

Senator Sampson stated that a good percentage of the revenues collected by the State from the casinos will go into the General Revenue Fund and be designated for education funding statewide. In the past few years, the State has not contributed funding for education to New York City because of revenue shortfalls. The boost in revenue should allow for funding to resume. It is incumbent on the community to ensure that the funding gets to our schools as this is stated to be the case for lottery revenue and is not always the case.

Mr. Kevin Parris, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, stated that in collaboration with the Borough President and the Brooklynwide Interagency Council on Aging, the Brooklyn Local Aging Network will present The Brooklyn Alzheimer's Conference on Thursday, November 14, 2013. This full day conference is FREE and designed especially for family caregivers, their loved ones and supportive health care professionals. Our goal is to identify resources available in Brooklyn, share best practices, understand the latest information on science and research, and to explore important issues to ensure the best quality of life for the dementia community in Brooklyn. Registration is required and can be done by visiting the Conference website at www.blan by November 7, 2013.

He announced that his last day at the Borough President's Office will be this coming Friday, October 25th and thanks everyone he has met along the way for the opportunity to work with them. The Borough President will be assigning a new liaison to the Board.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery stated that every year, millions of dollars designated to fund scholarship programs go back to the federal government. This due to our youth not taking advantage of the offerings. She encourages the audience to inform the youth to seek out these scholarship. Youth should also be putting in applications now for employment during the upcoming Christmas holiday and by December for employment next summer. Employers will be making their selections beginning around March.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that Councilmember Mealy is sponsoring the First Annual Brownsville Veterans' Day Parade honoring our heroes on Saturday, November 9, 2013 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Zion Triangle (Pitkin Avenue and Legion Street).

Councilmember Mealy will host her monthly Advisory Meeting on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, 2nd Floor. Her office can be reached by calling (718) 953-3097.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Sergeant Beatrice Shafidya of the 73rd Precinct.

Sergeant Shafidya stated she is the School Safety Sergeant and covers all the schools within the confines of the 73rd Precinct. We often hear that crime is at an all-time low in the City. While this may be true, what is not being told is that crimes involving youth is at an all-time high. She expressed a great concern about the inability of young students to receive quality education. There are many factors at play to cause this. In order to reverse the situation, we have to take accountability for the failures.

Parenting does not come with a manual. She has been told by some parents that they don't know what to do with their children. The New York City Police Department is working on developing programs to help parents deal better with their children. In the 73rd Precinct they are seeking the assistance of clergy by asking them to adopt a school.

They also have a mentorship program for young girls (A Rose is Still a Rose) led by female police officers many of whom have grown up in this community. The officers work with the young ladies to teach them self-esteem and self-image. There are two locations. One at 85 Watkins Street and the other at 76 Lott Avenue.

If anyone has any ideas, suggestions, or questions on how we can work to better the lives of our youth, she encourages them to contact her at (718) 495-5426 or Police Officer Keoma Boone at (718) 495-5422.

Officer Boone stated that on tonight's distribution table are flyers listing some of the other

programs offered by the Police Department such the Police Athletic League and crime prevention programs.

Someone asked what age group does the A Rose is Still a Rose program work with?

Sergeant Shafidya stated that they work girls 12 to 18 years old.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that he has noticed a large number of police vehicles in the area of Linden Boulevard and Thomas S. Boyland Street. Is there something going on in the area?

Police Officer Boone stated that it is a CRV (Critical Response Vehicle) exercise. Uniformed officers from each of the City's 76 precincts in marked vehicles meeting at strategic locations in a massive show of force for deployment as part of their counter-terrorism protocol. It also serves as deterrent to crime in the area which had been plague with robberies.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. commended officers on their efforts with the mentorship program for young women and asked if anything is being offered for the young men in the community?

Sergeant Shafidya stated that they are working on a program now to bring together young men and adult men in community of different backgrounds and careers. The idea is to bring them together for breakfast in a speed dating type scenario. The young men would spend a few minutes with each mentor to see if the can find a match. They are seeking organizations that can help bring the idea to fruition.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Tanya Joyner of the Ocean Hill/Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Ms. Joyner stated that the Association is sponsoring a Skate Day on Saturday, October 26th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Betsy Head Memorial Playground. Bring your skates or Skate Truck NYC will provide them. She encourages everyone to come out and participate in the fun.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Lamont Carolina.

Mr. Carolina stated that he is employed by one of the thirteen insurance providers in the New York State Insurance Exchange. Under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), everyone must have insurance or face a penalty. Insurance carriers may not deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions. These are a couple of the basic facts. He is making himself available to the audience after the meeting to go over some of the options available to them and answer questions they may have concerning health insurance coverage.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mickisha Goss, Principal of P.S./I.S. 327.

Ms. Goss stated that she is the new Principal of P.S./I.S. 327 and wanted to introduce herself to the community. She believes that the school is a lighthouse for the community and is pleased to have a great PTA and PAC working with her to keep it that way.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized a young man from the audience who admonished the audience to be cognizant of the upcoming "Come-Up Season" wherein young people will be out on the street robbing and terrorizing people as they return from their jobs. He stated that when people are hungry and ignorant, they have a tendency to use drugs and promote violent behavior.

He encouraged the Board to allow young people from the community to voice their desires and concerns directly as opposed to telling them about programs that the community wants them to use.

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