

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – NOVEMBER 26, 2013

Attendance

David Alexander	Andrea McCullough
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)	Sadie McNamara (E)
Margaret Brewer	Genese Morgan
Lamont Carolina (A)	Terry Norfleet (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Rev. Joseph Norton (A)
Christopher Durosinmi	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Essie Duggan	Marie Pierre
Norman Frazier	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Shirley Gonsalves (E)	Mattie Pusey (A)
Daniel Goodine	Linda Rivera (E)
Chanel Haliburton	Melaine Rochford (A)
Sarah Hall (A)	Wendy Rutherford (E)
Jessie Hilliard (E)	Beatrice Saunds (A)
Michael Howard	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Allene Ingram (A)	Ernestine Turner
Min. Prince Issachar (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Daisy Jackson (E)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Patricia Winston
Carl Joseph (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Derrick Joseph (A)	E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager
Pamela Junior (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Eula Key	Hon. Cory Provost, 58 th Assembly District
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Jessie Hamilton, III for Hon. Eric Adams
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Maurice Philips for Hon. John Sampson
Deborah Mack (E)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
James Mack	E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Yolanda Matthews	Wanda Mercado for Hon. Darlene Mealy
John McCadney, Jr.	A. Drummond for Hon. Marty Markowitz
Leslie McCalla (A)	

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and an invocation was given by Ms. Essie Duggan.

There was a roll call of the Board members and it was noted that a quorum was not present.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that since a quorum was not present all motions and voting will be set aside until such time that a quorum is present.

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

Senior Housing - Applications are available at the Community Board Office for King Garden Apartments which is under construction at 211 Riverdale Avenue, corner of Rockaway Avenue.

Applicants must be elderly families, the head of household or spouse must be 62 years of age or over, or single elderly persons who are 62 years of age or over.

To be eligible, the annual income may not be more than \$30,100 for an individual or \$34,400 for a couple.

The deadline for applications is January 6, 2014. Applications received later will be placed on the DCHR project specific waiting list and processed on a first come, first served basis.

Stone Avenue Branch Library - The Brooklyn Public Library has informed her that the Stone Avenue Branch Library, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard will be closed from November 30th thru January 14, 2014 to install an electronic check out system. While the library is closed, a bookmobile will be on site.

Street Hockey – The Department of Parks and Recreation is offering free youth street hockey clinics for boys and girls aged 5 to 17. Street Hockey clinics will occur at the Brownsville Recreation Center, located at 1555 Linden Boulevard on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. You can register online at www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/street-hockey.

Affordable Healthcare Act - The Brooklyn District Public Health Office at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in partnership with the Brooklyn Borough President's office will host an information and panel session on the Affordable Care Act on Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street.

There will be an overview of the new insurance options available through the Affordable Care Act including a panel discussion about ways to sign-up. There will also be an open enrollment session where local navigators will be available to answer questions, and provide personalized assistance for people looking to sign-up.

Navigators will be on site to support individuals looking to enroll in a health plan through the exchanges from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Additional organizations will be able to network with Navigators and arrange for potential assistance at their worksites.

Heat and Hot Water - The City's Housing Maintenance Code and the State Multiple Dwelling Law requires building owners to provide heat and hot water to all tenants. Building owners are required to provide hot water 365 days per year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as "Heat Season", building owners are also required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions;

- Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit; and
- Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City's Customer Service Center at 311. You may also file a complaint at the Community Board office.

Veteran Assistance - The Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs (MOVA) now offers VA benefits counseling at the Veteran Service office, room C-317 at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, New York. Additional information can be found on page 2 of her report.

She encouraged the audience to read the entirety of the report and noted that there are other time sensitive items, including various employment opportunities being offered by the Brownsville Community Development Corporation, contained therein.

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Pierre Devaud of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Devaud stated that he is here to speak about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and that there may be persons who are wondering what does the Chamber of Commerce have to do with the ACA. The Chamber of Commerce has a history of assisting small businesses with providing healthcare benefits to their employees. They received a federal grant allowing them to become Navigators for the program. They are one of many scattered throughout the borough. Navigators provide free neutral consultation on what is offered by the Health Insurance Marketplace. They offer in person assistance to people who may be overwhelmed with technology or may not be familiar with some the terminology of insurance – what is a co-payment, maximum out of pocket expense, premium, etcetera.

Under the Act, the open enrollment began on October 1, 2013 and closes on March 31, 2014 for 2014 health insurance coverage. If you enroll in a private health insurance plan any time between October 1, 2013 and December 23, 2013 and make your first premium payment, your new health coverage starts January 1, 2014.

During the rest of open enrollment, if you enroll between the 1st and 15th day of the month and pay your premium, your coverage begins the first day of the next month. So if you enroll on February 10, 2014, your coverage begins March 1, 2014.

If you enroll between the 16th and the last day of the month and pay your premium, your effective date of coverage will be the first day of the second following month. So if you enroll on February 16, 2014, your coverage starts on April 1, 2014.

If you have insurance through your employer, you probably don't have to do anything. But if your insurance costs more than 9.5% of your income, you can shop for insurance through the state's Health Insurance Marketplace, and you may qualify for federal tax credits.

Persons with insurance through Medicaid, Medicare, or another government program, will not be eligible to buy insurance in the Marketplace.

Tax credits are available on health plans purchased through the exchange. If you are single and you make less than about \$46,000, or if you are a family of four and you make less than about \$94,000, you may get a tax credit from the government to help pay your premium.

The income used to determine eligibility for a subsidy is modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) which is household income after deductions and other credits. For most people, MAGI will be the same as adjusted gross income, or AGI.

Even persons who are not eligible for tax credits, should find that the retail cost of a comparable policy is about 50% lower than what it cost before October 1st.

The Affordable Care Act says most Americans must purchase insurance or pay a penalty. If you can afford insurance but don't buy it, you will pay a fine when you file your taxes. For 2014, you will pay \$95 for each adult and \$47.50 for each child (up to \$285 per family), or 1% of your household income, whichever is greater. Penalties go up in 2015. Except under rare circumstances, persons who are uninsured after March 13, 2014 will incur a penalty.

He suggest that you purchase not to avoid paying the penalty but rather to have the coverage.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Maria Hertneck of the ASPCA.

Ms. Hertneck stated that the ASPCA is seeking the assistance of New Yorkers in their effort to reduce the feral cat population. She is asking that audience members take and disseminate flyers that are available on tonight's distribution table to their neighbors who may feed and/or care for outdoor cats.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked tonight's presenters for the information provided to the community.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held the second workshop of its "Free Information Workshop Series" on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 on the topic "Introduction to New York City Small Business Solutions and Workforce 1 Employment Services" at the Oasis Beacon Center. They encourage community residents and small business owners with interests in entrepreneurship or who currently operate a small business to continue to attend these workshops.

They encourage all residents of NYCHA who are seeking to be connected to Employment Preparation, Vocational Training, Adult Education, Financial Counseling and Resident Business Development to please contact the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) division at (718) 289-8100.

The Committee encourages all residents ages 16-26 who are interested in learning Adobe Creative Suite 6 or Microsoft Office to sign-up for DigitalWork NYC which is a FREE, 10-week computer certification class in Adobe Creative Suite 6 or Microsoft Office offered at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation's Computer Resource Centers (CRCs). This program is one of the eight (8) programs offered through the New York City Economic Development Corporation's LINK initiative. The next classroom session begins December 9, 2013 and will be held throughout the city at seven (7) of the NYC Parks and

Recreation centers. For more information, please call (212) 255-3066 or email digitalworkercrc@parks.nyc.gov.

The Committee is encouraging all residents who are seeking employment to utilize Workforce1 which is a service provided by the NYC Department of Small Business Services which prepares and connects qualified candidates to job opportunities in New York City. You may register at 9 Bond Street - 5th Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201. For additional information, please call (718) 875-3400.

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 May 2014. Any interested small business owners may call (347) 762-4755 or email info@oceanhillbrownsville.org for more information concerning these opportunities.

Lastly, Party Life Lounge & Bar Corporation is requesting a letter of support for a new liquor license for retail liquor and wine at 31 Truxton Street; the business is a bar/restaurant that will operate Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The Committee, having met with the business owner on November 21, 2013 and visited the business establishment, has no objections to the application and recommends that the Board support the application. The matter is now turned over to the Board for approval.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, November 14, 2013 and discussed the Drink Up program, Teen Relationship Forum, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Drink Up – the Drink Up program is to promote the consumption of water for health, environment and economic improvement.

The Committee reached out to the Thermos Company for possible partnership. They have not heard back, however, they are still planning a launch of the Drink Up campaign in the spring of 2014.

Teen Relationship Forum – the Committee has had several discussions regarding the antisocial behavior so often displayed in our District. Their idea is to bring together professionals and elders with teens for conversations which may offer aid to the teens in how to better handle the relationships they become involved in or know when to avoid them.

The Affordable Care Act – With the recent changes in the ACA, the Committee is asking that the community take the time to read the ACA, even if is simply googling the parts that affect them individually and noting the benefits and the challenges. A list of challenges can be brought to a local Navigator for further explanation. The federal government has trained and dispersed ACA Navigators who can answer questions and carry concerns to the appropriate agency for the proper response.

She encourages everyone to use their elected officials and policies such as ACA that are in place to provide for a better quality of life.

The Health and Human Services Committee will meet again on December 12, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street - Room 103. All ideas are welcome. If there are any topics or concerns you would like the Committee to discuss, feel free to introduce them. She asks that the audience take information from tonight's meeting out into the community and share it.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, stated that she did not have a full report for the evening, however, the Committee is looking at nail salons and the chemicals that they expose the community to and encourage the community to participate with the Committee in keeping toxic fumes out of our lives.

Mr. Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated that copies of the Committee's Inspection Report can be found on tonight's distribution table.

He also stated that he recently had a conversation with several young men at the Brownsville Recreation Center regarding placing Greg "Jocko" Jackson's name on the basketball court which was recently resurfaced. He ask that the Board support efforts to make this happen to honor the memory of Jocko and instill the same pride in the youth who play on the court that he had when he played for the Knicks.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on November 13, 2013 and discussed the NYC Department of Environmental Protection News and updates, and listed the current EPA in New York mandates for research and discussion for the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

- Chemical safety and Pollution Prevention Pollution and Toxics
- The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards
- The Clean Air Act
- Superfund and RCRA Cleanups
- New York City Watershed and Drinking Water
- Air Quality State Implementation Plan
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The Committee also decided to meet jointly with the Legislative Committee on the chemical safety and toxics issues.

As part of their plan to educate our community at the Community Board meetings, they presented an introduction on EPA Chemicals, Toxics and Pollution Prevention and its impact on our quality of life as highlighted on the attached copies.

She called upon the community to do its part; so that when necessary they can hold the NYC Department of Environmental Protection enforcement accountable to their concerns.

Their next meeting will be on December 11, 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, November 20, 2013 at the Seth Low Community Center, located at 137 Belmont Avenue (between Christopher Avenue and Sackman Street).

The seniors shared their primary concern with the Committee which was the need for cameras and a timely response and resolution to complaints reported to NYCHA. We shared with them, not only the importance of being vocal, but the importance of sending written requests or petitions to the agency(s) responsible for bringing a resolution to their complaints. We also stressed the importance of notifying and working closely with their tenant association president, elected officials, and Community Board, which is their first level of government, to address their concerns.

The Committee continued their effort to educate seniors about the different services and benefits they are entitled to receive. The Committee stressed the importance of always asking questions regarding any services being offered that they do not fully understand such as healthcare. There have been instances where insurance carriers have been changed without the senior fully understanding when and why.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at Atlantic Towers, located at 216 Rockaway Avenue.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Pamela Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, to discuss the status and next steps with hosting a forum in our community for women entitled "Black Women's Blueprint." They have reached out to Heritage House and have reserved both Saturday, March 8, 2014 and Saturday, March 15, 2014 as tentative dates for the forum. They have also begun reaching out to social service providers in the community and elected officials to be guest speakers.

Some of the issues that they 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

They have another four months to 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, January 21, 2014, @ 7:00 p.m. via conference call. Thereafter, they will meet bi-weekly until the date of the forum.

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

They welcome you to join the Women's Committee, as your voice is the voice of the community, and the Committee is here to serve the community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Captain Charles Minch of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Minch stated that the Precinct is having a great year in the reduction of crime. Violent crimes are way down. They are down two murders year to date (the previous year was phenomenally low), robberies are by 88 year to date and they are down overall 192 violent crimes year to date. Deputy Inspector Gulotta and he take the task of reducing crime in the community to heart.

They are focusing on the crews operating in the precinct and recently had a takedown that netted twenty arrests. The persons arrested are responsible for 34 shootings and 8 fatalities. Together they have been arrested 128 times since 2010 and are responsible for 18 robberies, a burglary, 5 felony assaults, 3 grand larcenies, an auto theft, and 18 criminal possession of a weapon in that time.

Shootings are down from 69 to 64 year to date. Last year shootings in the precinct were the lowest they've been in twenty years and they expect it to be even lower this year.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if there have been any incidents of "knockouts" in the community?

Captain Minch stated not in the 73rd Precinct.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner asked if the trend is gang related?

Captain Minch stated that it does not appear to be gang related and is a nationwide issue.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. asked if the area near schools can be patrolled?

Captain Minch stated that they do patrol areas around the schools.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace asked if he is aware of a knockout attack on a woman in the vicinity of Hegeman and Rockaway Avenues earlier today?

Captain Minch stated that he is just coming on duty and came directly to the Board meeting. He is not aware of any knockout incidents in the 73rd Precinct.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked if provisions can be made to allow parents to double park for brief periods while dropping off their children at school without summonses being issued?

Captain Minch stated that this is a safety issue, but he will look into the issue and see what can be done.

Mr. Christopher Durosinmi stated that it has come to the attention of Senator Martin Dilan's office that there is an issue of insufficient manpower at PSA#2. Is there a protocol in place to insure coverage at NYCHA facilities?

Captain Minch stated that they work closely with PSA#2 and often coordinate resources in troubled areas.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Hon. Darlene Mealy.

Ms. Mercado announced that Councilmember Mealy is inviting the community to attend the New York City Council Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus' Employment and Small Business Opportunities Expo on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Murry Bergtraum High School, located at 411 Pearl Street in Manhattan.

Councilmember Mealy will host her 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at St. Matthew's Church, located at 1123 Eastern Parkway (off Utica Avenue) on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.. There will be refreshments and caroling.

The 41st Council District's Monthly Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the District Office, located at 1757 Union Street, Second Floor.

Together with the Black Vets for Social Justice, Councilmember Mealy invites you to join her for their 4th Annual Pearl Harbor Day Memorial at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 5th at P.S. 12, located at 430 Howard Avenue.

Mr. Anthony Drummond, representing Borough President Markowitz, announced that as was mentioned earlier, Borough President Markowitz will host a forum on the Affordable Care Act on Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street.

There will be a Menorah Lighting Ceremony on December 2nd at 5:00 p.m. and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 10th at 5:30 p.m.. Both will be at Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, stated that Governor Cuomo has stated that he will not hold emergency elections to fill the seats that will become vacant in the State Legislature in January. Residents of Senator Eric Adams and six Assembly Members' districts will have no representation in the State Legislature. Each of the Assembly Districts represent about 160,000 voters and the Senate District about one and half times as much.

Governor Cuomo want to wait until June or September for primary election. However, it is within his power to call for an emergency election as early as ninety days from the date of vacancy meaning sometime in April of 2014.

He is encouraging everyone to contact the Governor's office, by calling (212) 681-4580 or visiting his office at 633 3rd Avenue in Manhattan, to let him know that this does not sit well with them. They have a right to be represented in the State Legislature.

Mr. Daniel Murphy asked if calling for special election creates an opportunity for corruption?

Mr. Faulkner stated that the people have a right to have representation and should not be asked to suffer because of the actions of a few.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Jr. asked if Mr. Faulkner is saying that there should be another election in ninety days?

Mr. Faulkner stated that the ninety days allows persons who may be interested in running for the position to campaign and raise funds.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if a lawsuit can be brought to force the Governor to call a special election?

Mr. Faulkner stated that the problem with suits is that they take time. A swifter solution is to contact the Governor to let him know where we stand. If he desires to run for office again he knows it is in his interest to listen to the people who will be voting.

Mr. Christopher Durosinmi stated that given that the largest of the legislative session is from January to June with the budget already appropriated, will we not be disadvantaged anyway if the Governor were to elect to call for a special election?

Mr. Faulkner stated the issue is representation. At the time the budget passed no one knew that the seats would be vacant.

Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, announced that Senator Sampson is inviting the audience to join him for some holiday cheers on Thursday, December 12, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at District Office, located at 1222 East 96th Street. Light refreshments will be served.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that one of the areas that Senator Montgomery has been emphasizing is key opportunities for youth, in terms of scholarships, internships, and other employment opportunities. She suggested that college students apply to contact the Offices of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke or Congressman Hakeem Jeffries for information about paid internships in their offices. Students may work up to two years provided they keep their grades up.

She also encourages high school students and their parents research available scholarship that may allow them to attend college at no or low cost.

On a personal note, she expressed support of Mr. Faulkner's request to reach out to the Governor to have a special election to fill the upcoming vacant seats in Albany. It is important that we have representation at every level of our government.

Ms. Latrice Walker, Esq., representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that the conversation surrounding the Affordable Care Act is continuing. She asked that if you have not yet gone online or visited a Navigator to see what plans may be available to you, that you do so as soon as possible. She reminds everyone that those who do not have coverage (with rare exceptions) by March 23, 2014 will be financially penalized.

Part of the conversation revolves around the statement by President Obama in which he said that those who liked their current coverage would be able to keep it. This turns out not to be always true. However, the policies that are being canceled are policies that are sub-standard. A person would go to their doctor pay a deductible and think that would be the end of it, only to receive a bill asking for additional payment. She has experienced this personally and knows it did not leave her with a good feeling about her insurance. The ACA is essentially saying, that you are not allowed to have a sub-standard policy, even if you like it. It is in your best interest to go to the Marketplace and find an acceptable policy. You may call Congresswoman Clarke's office at (718) 287-1142 for assistance with applying for a policy. She urges everyone, especially those who are between the ages of 18 and 35, and who live in Brownsville, are least likely to have insurance coverage.

Mr. Jesse Hamilton, III, representing Senator Eric Adams, stated that Senator Adams's office is also reaching out to the community to assist with helping people sign up for coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

They are also seeing attempts of fraud around the ACA. People called them to say that they signed up for coverage and then someone calls them asking for their personal information. He warns anyone who finds themselves in such a situation to call the police.

Something else they are seeing is landlords investigating the tax records of tenants in their rent stabilized apartments. With market rates climbing, landlords are looking to raise rents. If a tenant has been in a rent stabilized unit for say 20, 30 years, their rent is much lower than what the landlord can get if he or she were to get new tenants or the tenant is no longer eligible for stabilized rates. As such landlords are seeing if the tenant may be filing tax in a different jurisdiction. Although the tenant may physically reside in the landlord's unit, they might be planning for retirement and have purchased a home elsewhere with the intention of letting their children continue to rent here. If this is the case, he advises that the children be placed on the lease to avoid having this problem.

Senator Adams, his staff and volunteers were able to distribute over 500 goodie bags this past Halloween and with the assistance of Pastor Bachus and Mount Ollie Church 300 backpacks were distributed to needy children at Kings Plaza. This past week, they distributed 500 turkeys to needy families and they are trying to find more to give away.

He announced that Senator Adams is the Borough President-elect and will host a holiday party at his office (1169 Bedford Avenue) on December 14th and because of his new position they are expecting a large turnout and may host another on the last Friday of the month of December.

Mr. Cory Provost, District Leader of the 58th Assembly District, stated that along with getting the Governor to call for a special election, he and a number of other leaders are pushing an initiative to have early elections in New York State. Two elections cycles ago, November 2012, New Yorkers were dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Many found that their normal polling places were inaccessible, either the location had been destroyed or in some cases, they themselves could not get to the site. He had a friend who became ill the day before an election and was unable to vote. Had New Yorkers been able to vote two weeks prior to Election Day, as much of the legislation floating is calling for, many who could not vote in these situations would have done so.

They were unable to have a referendum placed on this year's ballot but the issue cannot be allowed to die. He asks for the support of the Board and the community in making early voting a reality in New York.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Rev. Reginald Bachus, Pastor of Mount Ollie Baptist Church and Secretary of the 73rd Precinct Clergy Council.

Rev. Bachus thanked all those who worked with them on the Community Corners project and stated that they were able to change a few corners. They are also working with East Brooklyn Congregations to bring about changes with New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) facilities. It is beginning to make a difference within the Howard, Langston Hughes, and Brownsville Houses where walk-throughs were done last week with the Director of NYCHA. They have begun repairing some doors and leaks affecting the quality of life of residents.

He is also the Secretary of the 73rd Precinct Clergy Council which is seeking to have congregations adopt schools. There are over 200 churches in the community and 47 schools. He sees no reason why every school cannot be adopted and afforded additional caring persons and resources to help our children.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. C. Aaron Hinton of Do You.

Mr. Hinton stated that Do You is a youth empowerment and economic development organization started in an apartment in Seth Low Houses. They work with youth of the community to help them improve themselves. They looked at four schools in the community, P.S. 41, P.S. 150, P.S. 284, and P.S. 298, and found that only one is doing well academically. The others drop off drastically with only 2.69% of the students reading at or above grade level. The math scores were similar.

A lot can be said about our community by allowing this to happen. Lack of education creates poverty. Hunger and ignorance are manifestations of poverty. We heard about the knockout game earlier; this is what happens when youth with an overabundance of energy have nothing positive to channel it to.

They are broken physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. He recently encountered a six year old girl and her mother. When the girl noticed his red colored contact lens, she asked if he was a vampire? He responded that he was not a vampire, but rather an angel. The girl looked

at him curiously and asked what is angel? He in turn, looked at the mother and wondered how the child can know of vampires but not of angels.

He has heard young men say they are stopping “stop and frisk”, now they go back to carrying their guns. This not why we are fighting to eliminate the practice. There seems to be a lack of basic value. Seniors who worked hard to build the community are now afraid to walk its streets.

Do You believes that it is not just about money. President Obama can award a billion dollars to the community; it would be meaningless if we do not have unity. Do You is a grassroots organization, for us by us. They do not have a 501(c) and cannot solicit funds. He is proud to say that all of the youth they have worked with have succeeded – one had to attend summer classes but moved forward. No child in his care has ever been lost nor hurt. He invites the community to come see what they are about and not judge them on appearance.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Hinton for his presentation and stated that she hopes to invite him back at a later date for a more detailed presentation.

She recognized Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas

Ms. Olivera-Douglas stated that The Brownsville Collective, a newspaper that she is publishing, is growing faster than anticipated. They were producing 1,000 copies but find that it is not enough. They were distributing primarily in northern Brooklyn but will now distribute throughout the borough. There is however, no printing for the month of November as they reorganize.

Stories they have covered include health articles on msg and red dye #40 and their effect on the human body. They have or will have articles on nail salons and the chemicals they use, glaucoma, optometry versus ophthalmology, domestic violence, senior abuse, youth employment, Besty Head Park and its operating hours, Prospect Plaza, and Zion Triangle.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. asked that the Board keep him and his family in prayer as they grieve the loss of his niece.

Rev. Reginald Bachus requested a moment of silence in memory of the departed and gave a closing prayer.

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