

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MARCH 25, 2014

Attendance

David Alexander	John McCadney, Jr.
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Leslie McCalla (A)
Margaret Brewer	Andrea McCullough
Lamont Carolina (A)	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 (A)	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Chanel Haliburton	Mattie Pusey (E)
Sarah Hall	Linda Rivera
Jessie Hilliard	Melaine Rochford (A)
Michael Howard	Wendy Rutherford (E)
Allene Ingram (E)	Beatrice Saunds (A)
Min. Prince Issachar	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (A)
Daisy Jackson	Ernestine Turner (E)
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (E)
Derrick Joseph (A)	Patricia Winston
Pamela Junior	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Eula Key	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Maurice L. Philips for Hon. John Sampson
Charles Ladson, Sr.	E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Deborah Mack	Ineisha Williford for Hon. Darlene Mealy
James Mack	Anthony Drummond for Hon. Eric Adams
Yolanda Matthews (E)	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the public hearing to order at 7:03 p.m. and said an invocation.

There was a roll call of the Board members.

IN THE MATTER OF the City's Preliminary Budget Statement and Community District Register for Fiscal Year 2015. The Hearing is to obtain public comments on City agencies' responses to Community Board 16's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015 (A copy is available for review at the Office of Community Board #16).

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, stated that as has occurred in the past, many of the Board's items are not funded by the agencies because they lack sufficient funds to undertake a particular project. Their responses are intended to have the Community Board get the support of elected officials.

The Committee and the Executive Board reviewed the responses. They are asking that if there are any comments, give them to the District Manager.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that the budget items are listed on the first 11 pages of tonight's District Manager's report. Comments would be helpful to her in preparing the Community Board's response which has to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. If you have comments after tonight's meeting, please give her a call at (718) 385-0323.

There being no comments, the next item on the agenda was IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):

1) Pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:

a) The designation of property located at 768/770 Decatur Street and 1696/1712 Broadway (Block 1507, Lots 32, 33,35,36,37, 39 and 41), as an Urban Development Action Area; and

b) an Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and

2) Pursuant to section 197-C of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer to be selected by HPD;

to facilitate development of a six-story mixed-use building with approximately 79 residential units of affordable and supportive housing and ground floor commercial space.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development pursuant to sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for the grant of a special permit pursuant to section 74-902 of the Zoning Resolution to modify the requirements of section 24-111 (maximum floor area ratio for certain community facility uses) to permit the allowable community facility floor area ratio of section 24-11 (maximum floor area ratio and percentage of Lot Coverage) to apply to a non-profit institution with sleeping accommodations in connection with a proposed 6-story building on property located at 768-770 Decatur Street a.k.a. 1696-1712 Broadway (Block 1507, Lots 32,33,35,36,37,39 and 41), in an R61C1-3 District, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 16.

Plans for the proposal are on file, with the City Planning Commission and may be seen in Room 3N, 22 Reade Street, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested that Mr. Stanley Henry of Henry Builders come forward to give a brief presentation on the project.

Mr. Henry stated that he is present with his partners on the proposed project, Alembic Community Development and Services for the Underserved (SUS) to seek the Board's support of this project which has been in the pipeline for some time. He initially received the Board's approval for the project several years ago. However, he became financially incapable of proceeding when his wife died from lung cancer.

After re-evaluating his circumstances, he decided to collaborate with Alembic and SUS. Together they came up with plans to develop both housing and commercial space on the proposed sites.

He introduced Mr. Tony Pratt to give more details on the project.

Mr. Pratt stated that the proposed project has been a twenty year journey beginning during the Giuliani Administration when Mr. Henry responded to an RFP put forth for the Broadway Anchor Sites and received site control for Site 8. Since that time, the market crashed and Mr. Henry's funding sources dried up. He sought out Alembic Community Development and SUS and formed a partnership with to develop a new plan for the site.

From the onset, Mr. Henry, being a resident of the community for over 40 years, has always felt that the project should reflect the community's needs and concerns. The project being presented tonight was formed with those needs and concerns in mind; not just the dreams of the developers. This is a \$53 million project which will have a direct impact upon employment in the community. When you consider the services that will be available, the housing, and general response to community livability, you will see a building that we can all share in because we have all been partners in its development.

He called upon Ms. Judith Jackson of SUS to speak on their experience within the District.

Ms. Jackson stated that she is the Chief-of-Staff at SUS. SUS is 36 year old nonprofit organization providing services to approximately 7500 New Yorkers. They provide supportive housing services in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens and have a small presence in Manhattan.

SUS has a significant presence in Community District #16. They reached out to Community Board #16 in 2004, during the planning phases of the Mother Gaston Residence, a supportive housing that they operate at 86 Mother Gaston Boulevard. They worked cooperatively with the

Board and were able to open the Mother Gaston Residence in 2009. In that timeframe, they were also approached to assume responsibility for a residence at Chester Street and Livonia Avenue which they took over in 2007. A third project in the District is scheduled to open in summer 2014, on Truxton Street. This will be similar to their Mother Gaston Residence in that it will have mixed housing offering apartment to both persons who require supportive services and those who do not.

Prior to the opening of any major project, SUS holds a job fair where they look to fill jobs not just for that particular site, but also for any available position in their organization. Currently, over 100 of their approximately 1100 jobs are held by residents of Community District #16. They currently have over 100 vacancies within their network which they will look to fill during the job fair they will hold prior to the opening on their Truxton Street residence. Their projects provide homes to 147 in this community and 37 staff who work in the projects.

At the Mother Gaston Residence, they have hosted community meetings and continue to make the community space available to the Board. They have hosted tours to allow the community to see the type of housing and support services they offer.

They have worked with the community to the point of listening to feedback, reacting to the feedback and modifying their plans in response to the feedback they have received from the community. When the Mother Gaston project was first presented, it consisted of 100 studios. They listened to comments from the community and modified their plan to include family units of one-, two-, and three-bedrooms.

Mr. Pratt re-emphasized that the proposed project has been a collaborative effort from its onset and that they are of the mindset that this must be so, in order for it to succeed. He stated that a significant amount of jobs will be created with the project. Not only construction jobs, but also a number of permanent positions as well.

The project will establish affordable housing for 134 families from the community and commercial venues along Broadway. The project actually involves two sites, one of which is privately-owned and the other which is the subject of this hearing and is city-owned. The plans which were originally presented to the Board called for 100 studios, however, in discussions with the Board, they were informed that there is a need to house larger families and that studios alone would not be a good fit. They went back to the drawing board and the plans now call for 6 three-bedroom units, 26 two-bedroom units with the remainder of the 134 total units being one-bedroom and studio units. It is his belief that the proposed project, when completed, will represent the most significant economic development in this area of Brooklyn.

The project will include community space for use by the community for events such as parties, weddings, etcetera. There will be commercial space for up to 7 businesses, parking, and a green roof. He introduced the architect, Mr. Peter L. Woll.

Mr. Woll restated that the proposed project consists of two sites. Site A is privately-owned and Site B, the subject of the public hearing, is publicly-owned. For the purpose of his presentation, he will treat them as a whole. Both sites will be improved with new six-story buildings. The building on Site A will have approximately 43,000 square feet above grade and approximately 7,200 square feet of space in a below grade cellar for a total of 50,350 square feet. It will house 55 residential units and approximately 2,500 square feet of commercial space. Site B will have approximately 68,000 square feet of above grade space and approximately 11,000 square feet of below grade space. It will contain 79 residential units and approximately 7,000 square feet of commercial space. The sites will be extensively landscaped and will include outdoor recreation space as well as urban farming space for the tenants. SUS has made urban farming one of their hallmarks – tenants will be able to grow produce for their own consumption and possibly for sale to local farmers' markets.

Schematic drawings of the buildings were displayed. Mr. Woll stated that the buildings are designed to be visually traditional; each making use of traditional looking reddish-orange bricks, cast stone lintels and sills, cast stone bands and decorative cornices, and brick coins. They felt that it is very important that the buildings fit aesthetically into the neighborhood. Storefronts along the Broadway side of both buildings will make extensive use of glass to brighten and emphasize the shopping along the strip. Additionally, street trees will be planted all along the street elevations, where permitted (There may be limitations on tree plantings under the elevated subway tracks.).

The building on Site A will have its entryway located on Broadway where there will be a 24 hour manned security desk in a bright and spacious area. It will have one elevator. On the first floor there will be a social service suite with counseling rooms, a meeting room with a small lunch area, a computer resource area with ports for up to five workstations, and a 650 square foot recreation room. Within the recreation room there will be a small kitchen area which relates to the urban farming area. The cellar will contain bicycle storage for 25 bicycles. A tenant laundry room will be located on the first floor.

The building on Site B will have its entry through the rear of the building which is accessed by a security gate along Decatur Street. The reason for this is two-fold. First, it will impart a special experience for the tenant as they enter their home through what amounts to a garden. Secondly, the design idea was to separate the residential entry from the hustle and bustle of Broadway. This building will have two elevators (necessary for the number of units). The first floor will have a 900 square foot recreation that will be sub dividable using folding partitions. It will have a warming kitchen that also relates to the garden. The remainder of the first floor will have apartments which will overlook the garden. The bulk of the cellar will be office space for SUS with a sunken light well to allow for natural light. There will also be a computer resource center with capacity for six terminals, a tenant laundry area, and a bicycle storage area for up to 34 bicycles.

The apartments will all have ample closet space, make use of quality materials, and all be ADA compliant.

Mr. Ray Hodges, Director of Development for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)'s Division of Special Needs Housing was introduced to speak about some of the financing for the project.

Mr. Hodges stated that the project will represent roughly \$53,000,000 of investment in the Community District, eight million of which is being invested by HPD and another significant amount by Housing Development Corporation (HDC). There will be new commercial space along Broadway, a great social service provider in SUS, jobs through the organization, 134 units of affordable and supportive housing, and a team that really wants to work with this Community Board. In short, they believe that the project is a perfect example of what HPD and Mayor de Blasio hope to accomplish under a new housing plan that they will begin to work on this year.

Mr. Jack Hammer, Director of Brooklyn Planning at HPD, stated that they are excited to see this coming to fruition. As was stated earlier it is project that has been pipeline for some time having first been envisioned as a strictly commercial one to what is not now a mixed use project with an excellent team behind it. City-owned sites in Community District #16 are becoming fewer and fewer, as many of them have been programed into one development program or another. That makes a project such as this very important in developing quality affordable housing with supportive services for the community. He is hopeful that the Board will offer its support for the project and looks forward to construction commencing in the near future.

Ms. Mabel Davis asked how much will the rent be for a studio apartment?

Mr. Arlo Chase from Alembic Community Development stated that they anticipate having project-based Section 8, so that rent for all of the units will be set at 30% of household income.

Someone asked if the majority of the tenants be persons who will require supportive services?

Mr. Pratt stated that will be the case.

Ms. Blanche Peltonbusch asked what the rent for a one-bedroom be for someone who does not have a Section 8 voucher.

Mr. Chase stated that Section 8 would be attached to the units. The tenants need not have vouchers; rent will be 30% of their household income should they qualify.

Mr. Machavia Mutope stated that he resides on Decatur Street and has a concern with insufficient parking. Parking is already scarce along Decatur Street and nearby, Bainbridge Street. When the project was presented to the residents, several years ago, this was mentioned. However, it does not appear to have been considered in this design.

Mr. Pratt stated there are 14 parking spaces included in the current plans.

Ms. Essie Duggan stated that she recalls that during a previous presentation, there were discussions wherein it was stated that there would be 25 parking spaces. What happened to the other spaces that were discussed?

Mr. Pratt stated that as development continues along Broadway parking will become harder to find. Their development team worked to place as many parking spaces as possible without too much compromise to other resources. If one were to look at the sites which were developed along Broadway opposite the proposed project, they will find that no parking was provided at all.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked if the social service workers will be onsite?

Ms. Wanda Lopez of SUS stated that there will be a Program Director onsite who will be a licensed social worker. There will also be case managers.

Ms. Genese Morgan asked if they will make any effort to have a bank as a tenant in the commercial space?

Mr. Chase stated that the market does not allow them to lease the site at this time, given that the building will not open for about two years. However, they heard from the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee that there is a need for banks, pharmacies, and sit down restaurants in the community and they have engaged with commercial brokers and spoken to Carver Bank and Capital One.

Ms. Morgan stated that there are already several pharmacies in that area.

Ms. Peltonbusch asked why not have the residential entry for both buildings in the same area? Are the tenants of the Site A building not subject to all the commercial activity of Broadway as well?

Mr. Woll stated that based on the internal flow of the building, they thought it best to place it along Broadway. However, they have placed the residential entry along the far edge to give it somewhat of a separation from the commercial part of the building.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglas stated the project appears to be a fancy shelter. Who will want to live in a building where 60 percent of the population have severe and persistent mental illnesses? What effect will the population have on community resources? Are there schools in the vicinity?

Ms. Lopez stated that one should not get caught up in the terminology. The target group are persons who have ongoing mental issues, someone who has had a diagnoses of major depression, schizophrenia, a veteran returning from combat and is in need of support services. This is permanent housing. They will not be transients. They are persons who may have families with whom they are seeking to reconnect. They may be single head of households. They are people who may already be your neighbors. They are often individuals who are working or going to college, but they may have persistent mental illness.

Mr. Pratt stated that P.S. 73 and P.S. 137 are nearby.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated the community is already burdened with issues of safety, what she hears being expressed by the audience is a concern that the facility will add to that burden.

Rev. Joseph Norton stated that overall he likes the proposed project. However, it does seem like another shelter and the community is in agreement that the District is already oversaturated with shelters.

Mr. Chase stated that he wants to emphasize that the units are not shelters. Tenants will have leases which will be renewable. Persons who already reside in Community District #16 will have a preference to the units.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. asked if the veterans mentioned would be housed under the Obama Administration's initiative to house veterans with a \$3,000 monthly stipend?

Ms. Lopez stated that the veterans will qualify for Section 8 and may also have HUD vouchers to assist them with rents.

Mr. Pratt stated that on behalf of the development team, he thanks the Board for the opportunity to present.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that in view of the late hour she is requesting that her report be read at home and noted that there are a number of time sensitive items contained therein. If there are any questions pertaining to the report, please feel free to call her at (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Betty Hinton NY Foundling Foster Care Agency.

Ms. Hinton stated that as was mentioned earlier, this community is saturated with social needs. Every day there are children entering the foster care system. NY Foundling is recruiting foster care parents and if anyone in the audience is interested in becoming a foster parent they may contact her. Informational fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

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

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

The Committee is encouraging all youth ages 14-24 to apply online at www.nyc.gov/dycd for the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program. The deadline to submit applications is April 25, 2014.

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

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 with a representative from Nurse-Family Partnership, a service from the SCO Family of Services, and she shared information about the services NFP provides.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based community health program that helps transform lives of vulnerable mothers who are pregnant with their first child. Each mother

served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday.

The Committee decided that residents of Community Board #16 should be aware of and take advantage of the NFP services. We initially invited the NFP representative to tonight's meeting to elaborate in detail, however, due to the length of tonight's agenda, the NFP representative will be at the April Board meeting instead.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on April 9, 2013 at 6.00 p.m. The Committee is seeking to increase their membership and is always encouraged by your support. Please join them in the service of our community.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that because a quorum was not present during the February meeting, there was an item in the report that requires a vote. She asked Ms. Morgan to come forward and present.

Ms. Morgan stated that the Committee reviewed one (1) "new" application for a retail license in regards to Armond's Lounge. The establishment is a lounge and is located at 2065 Fulton Street; Brooklyn, New York 11233

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visit.
- The establishment has no existing complaints on file with the 73rd Precinct.
- The establishment is not within 200 feet of a place of worship or 500 feet of a school house.

The Committee is recommending that the Board support this application which will encourage economic growth in our community.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 23-in favor, 2-against, and 0-abstentions to approve the license application by Armond's Lounge.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 11, 2014 with developers of Henry Apartments which was presented at tonight's public hearing.

When the proposal was initially presented to the Committee on May 8, 2012, the developers proposed to construct a total of 101 studio units and 30 family units on two sites. The Committee requested a revision to the proposal to provide less studio units and more one-, two-, and three-bedroom units to house senior citizens, working individuals, and families. Subsequently, there were several follow-up meetings during 2013 and the apartment distribution was revised.

On March 11, 2014, the Committee again met with the developers of Henry Apartments and reviewed their revised proposal which you heard earlier tonight.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve the ULURP applications tonight which will facilitate the development of a 6-story mixed use building with approximately 79 residential units of affordable housing and ground floor commercial space on a City-owned site at 768-770 Decatur and 1696-1712 Broadway (Block 1507, Lots 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 41).

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 23-in favor, 1-against, and 5-abstentions to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee and its recommendations.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on March 19, 2014 and continued to work on the nail salon project on educating the community. The information that will be presented this evening to give the community an insight into the diseases related with nail salons and she will make the presentation after the report.

The Committee also worked on a petition to present to Governor Cuomo regarding two vacant seats in Assembly Districts 55 and 60, so that a date may be secured for a special election because this is very important for our community. The Committee will soon be circulating this petition in hopes that you will sign and convince others to do so.

They also looked at legislation drafted by Tenants and Neighbors, and New York Communities for Change, Community Service Society, and Legal Aide Society to deal with the housing crisis, and we will attempt to give a brief overview of this legislation.

Ms. Pierre gave a presentation on diseases related to nail salons which stated that some common diseases that are in nail salons include: 1) staph infection – Staph is a type of bacteria that frequently houses itself on the skin of healthy individuals and can make its way deep inside one’s body to trigger a serious infection. One particular strain of staph, Staphylococcus Aureus (“MRSA”), is the leading source of bacterial foot infections seen by physicians. 2) Nail salon patrons are also susceptible to skin and soft tissue infections from various strains of Mycobacterium living in nail salon footbaths. Mycobacteria infections may begin as what appears to be a small insect bite and develop over time into large boils and ulcerating lesions. 3) Hepatitis is another disease that can be contracted from nail salons. Hepatitis is contagious, virulent, and has a high rate of transmission. The disease’s ability to subsist for approximately seven days on plain surfaces make nail salons prime incubators for hepatitis. Despite this, little formal research exists on the connection between hepatitis and nail salons and, due to this, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) has not formulated guidelines to prevent the spread of hepatitis in nail salons; even though there have been cases of hepatitis that are clearly related to manicures.

The Committee hopes that the audience finds this information of interest and will continue to provide information on the issue in the coming months.

Ms. Lori Boozer, a member of the Legislative Committee, followed with a brief overview on the draft legislation pertaining to the housing crisis from the Alliance for Tenant Power. The Alliance is seeking support for the following bills as part of their 2014 State Legislative Priorities Regarding Rent Stabilized Housing:

- Repeal vacancy destabilization: S1167 / A1585
- Protect tenants with “preferential rents”: S1775 / A1364-2011
- Make MCIs temporary surcharges: S1493 / A2459-2011
- Eliminate the “vacancy bonus”: S1040 / A1309-2011
- Exclude Social Security from SCRIE eligibility:
- Reform the Individual Apartment Improvement Rent Increase System S5296 / A5316-A
- Rent control relief: S1815 / A848
- Reform the Rent Guidelines Boards: S208 / A104
- End source of income discrimination: S187 / A2095

The Committee will be reviewing these bills and will inform the community on their status.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that several members need to leave. Before they do, we will have a vote on tonight’s public hearing items.

District Manager Greene-Walker read the two land use items relating to Henry Apartments to be constructed on two sites at Broadway and Decatur Street.

In a roll call vote with 27 of 48 appointed members present, the Board voted to support the above public hearing items by a vote of 19-in favor, 5-against, and 3-abstentions.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 to discuss the community’s safety challenges and possible resolutions.

The Committee has discussed and would like to move forward in forming a “Community Safety Patrol”. This group will be made up of civilian residents, who will be properly trained in conflict

resolution, first-aid, CPR, and other necessary skills to provide a positive effective community presence.

The consensus of the Committee is, if we have the community directly involved in making the positive changes that are occurring, the community will feel better about it.

The Public Safety Committee is asking for the support of the Community Board to move forward on this action of soliciting manpower from the community-at-large to provide training and equipment which will allow participants to assist in providing safe passages to our schools in the morning and afternoon, as well as safe mid-day passing for the elderly and the everyday consumer in the shopping areas.

The Committee also reminds everyone to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. For those that are wired, please test them periodically to insure that they are functioning.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee and to its recommendation.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, March 10, 2014 and discussed the agencies' responses to the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2015. The Committee suggested that we undertake a petition and letter writing campaign to convey to the Transit Authority that escalators and/or elevators are very much needed at the Rockaway Avenue and Junius Street stations on the IRT #3 line and the Broadway Junction Station to enable our seniors, mothers with baby carriages, and physically challenged persons to access the trains. It is imperative that the community applies pressure on their elected officials concerning funding these project if they are to receive favorable outcomes.

The Committee also discussed issues raised at a meeting on February 4, 2014 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation to get community feedback on locations for additional bike lanes in the community. Several suggested locations for bike lanes were Sutter Avenue, Thomas S. Boyland Street, and Saratoga Avenue.

The proposal to reconstruct Zion Triangle and permanent closure of Legion Street between Pitkin and East New York Avenues to create a public plaza is moving through the approval process. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2015.

Free Wi-Fi service is now available along the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District which encompasses Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard.

On Tuesday, April 1st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair of the Transportation Committee in the City Council and his colleagues will host a Brooklyn Town Hall meeting at Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street on Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero Plan. In New York City, approximately 4,000 New Yorkers are seriously injured and more than 250 are killed each year in traffic crashes. The Vision Zero Action Plan is the City's foundation for ending traffic deaths and injuries on our streets.

The public is urged to come out and give feedback, concerns, and legislative ideas on the Vision Zero Plan.

To R.S.V.P. or for more information, please call (212) 341-2644 or email: events@council.nyc.gov.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked who should the community contact in regards to getting support for the budget items?

Ms. Mack stated that they should write to their elected officials. If they need contact information for their elected officials, they can contact the Board's office. The Committee is seeking to saturate their mailboxes, with emails and letters.

Ms. Latrice Walker asked if the Transit Authority is saying the ridership is not enough?

Ms. Mack stated that they are saying that there are not enough riders to support the requests. What is unknown is what constitutes a sufficient amount.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. commented that near Junius Street and Livonia Street there are a number of senior centers with a senior population who cannot use the trains because they are inaccessible due to number stairs they need to climb. He stated that due to fare evasion, they are not getting a true number of riders. Also, the number of riders exiting the station should be considered.

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

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 to finalize the plans for the 1st Annual Black Women's Footprint Forum which the Committee hosted on behalf of Community Board # 16 on Saturday, March 8th, at Heritage House. The Forum was attended by over 100 community residents.

The Committee's intent for hosting the Forum and inviting social service, mental health, criminal justice agencies and medical sources was to empower the women with the ability to obtain information on appropriate resources that they were in need of. By holding the Forum in an open setting the women were able to remain anonymous as to which services they needed assistance with. The Committee believes that the Forum accomplished this task and the Women's Committee intends to follow-up and host more Forums on social service, criminal justice matters and mental / medical health issues in the future.

The Forum received support from Borough President Eric Adams, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Senator John Sampson, Councilwoman Inez Barron and Juana Gauthier who was the Chief of Staff for the 55th Assembly District. Through Senator Sampson, Khari Edwards, Vice President of External Affairs for Brookdale Hospital, secured for the Forum a medical mobile van and provided sandwiches and water for 100 people. Through Congresswoman Clarke, Latrice Walker was able to secure for the Forum the NYLAG law van. We were also honored that Congressman Jeffries, Congresswoman Clarke and Senator Montgomery personally attended the Forum and spoke to the women.

The presenters included: the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence / Family Justice Center, Civilian Complaint Review Board, Jericho Road, Inc., GRAAFICS, Black Women's Blueprint, Inc., Brooklyn Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Brownsville Partnership, Dr. Cedric Olivera and Rev. Dr. Cheryl Anthony of Judah International. They also want to give a special thank you to Jericho Road for providing desserts and water for 50 people. She would also like to acknowledge the Mistress of Ceremonies, Evangelist Gwendolyn Grey-Moore, who did an excellent job with engaging the audience after each presentation.

Additionally, one of our local artist, Ms. Sophia Dawson, generously donated 2 beautiful pieces of framed artwork which we raffled one during the lunch break and the other at the end of the Forum. Kai Smith, one of the presenters, and Lori Boozer, a community resident, were the recipients of the artwork.

Although the subject matters that we expounded on during the Forum were of a serious nature, the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium's performance created a mellow atmosphere during the Forum's lunch break, which the women in attendance truly enjoyed.

The Committee also thanks Miriam Robinson of Heritage House for working closely with them to make the Forum a success. The Committee is also thankful that Heritage House allowed the Committee to place banners for the event both inside and outside of Heritage House.

She took a moment to acknowledge the Women's Committee members: Margaret Brewer, Danny Goodine, Michael Howard, John McCadney, Genese Morgan, Mirline Desir-King, Maxine Dotson, Ernestine Hodges, and Deidre Olivera-Douglas, who were extremely instrumental in helping with putting the Forum together, for without their help the Forum would not have been possible.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Junior at pjunior2@aol.com. The Committee welcomes 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 Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Youth Services Planning Committee met on Thursday, March 13, 2014 with representatives from C.H.O.I.C.E. T.O. Academy Charter Middle School. It is a proposed charter school to be located in the East New York community and serving Grades 5 through 8. They propose to open in September 2015 with 115 students in Grade 5.

Students will be selected through a lottery process. They are targeting students who live in East New York, Brownsville, and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

As more information about the school becomes available to the Committee, the community will be informed.

Teenagers, community leaders, representatives of community-based youth organizations, clergy, and concerned citizens are invited and encouraged to attend a youth summit on Monday, April 7th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Boys and Girls High School, located at 1700 Fulton Street (between Utica and Schenectady Avenues).

At the Youth Summit, the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau's Juvenile Justice Division will inform the public about potential dangers and consequences of social media and address topics on youth crews and trends in their respective neighborhoods.

The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, contact NYPD's Juvenile Justice Division at (212) 343-3707.

On Thursday, April 8th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, the New York City Department of Probation – Brownsville NeON Neighborhood Stakeholder Group will be meeting with the individual arts providers of Carnegie Hall Consortium to discuss the implementation of the second phase of programing, processes, and presentation of potential projects for our community.

The next meeting of the Youth Services Planning Committee will be on April 10th at 6:30 p.m..

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace presented Ms. Pamela Junior with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for a job well done in putting together the Women's forum.

A bouquet was also presented to District Manager Viola Greene-Walker by Chairperson Kollock-Wallace and her husband, Mr. Curtis Wallace, for being a pillar of the community.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Shelton Jones.

Mr. Jones stated that he represents Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson. He announced that District Attorney Thompson will hold his first town hall meeting, since being elected, in Brownsville. They are anticipating that the meeting will be held some time in June and as more information is available the community will be advised.

He announced that the District Attorney has formed a Citizens' Action Center which has a hotline number- (718) 250-2340 where Brooklynites can file complaints of any illegal activity or quality of life issues. The hotline is manned between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and you may also visit their walk-in center on the 16th Floor at 350 Jay Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

They also have a Public Integrity Hotline- (718) 250-2747 where you can confidentially report any information about government corruption, including misconduct by public officials, fraud in government funded programs, and corruption of the political process.

Mr. Maurice Phillips, representing Senator John Sampson, stated that he has placed information on tonight's distribution table on employment opportunities for positions such as school crossing guards, summer youth employment, and home health care, training in vocational fields such as bricklaying and electricians through WorkForce1.

He recalls a time when training for trades of these types were offered in our public schools and schools in Brownsville were amongst the best. Today, the courses are no longer offered as choices all one hears about are charter schools. Where is the money that went to the schools which offered training in the trades?

Regarding the housing that was discussed earlier, he recalls a time when there were hospitals serving the community that would take care of persons with mental health issues. The community is not against helping those in need, but it should come at the cost of deteriorating neighborhoods. He has seen the pattern, as hospitals are closed our neighborhoods are saturated with these types of facilities.

Ms. Ineisha Williford, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that at last month's meeting she reminded the audience that it is discretionary funding season and encouraged those who have a 501(c) (3) to complete applications. She is pleased that there was a good response and they were able to offer assistance.

On Wednesday, March 26th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Mealy will host a Lien Sale Outreach Session at Calvary Fellowship AME Church, located at 790 Herkimer Street.

Councilmember Mealy will host her Monthly Advisory Board meeting on April 5th and she encourages the audience to attend the meeting as valuable information is often dispensed at the meetings. The May meeting will be held at the Heritage House.

She stated that they have received many telephone calls at their office concerning SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) and DRIE (Disability Rent Increase Exemption). She stated that all landlords must accept the exemptions for qualified individuals. The guidelines have changed and she will provide more details at next month's Community Board meeting.

She encouraged NYCHA tenant associations who are having family days to apply for an available stipend for food by April 8th by contacting Councilmember Mealy's office at (718) 953-3097.

Ms. Lori Boozer commented that all landlords do not have to accept SCRIE and DRIE only applies to rent stabilized housing. If you are a NYCHA resident, it does not apply, nor does it apply to market rate tenants.

Mr. Anthony Drummond, representing Borough President Eric Adams, stated that on Thursday, March 27th there will be a meet and greet event for religious leaders at Borough Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution table.

He announced that as part of the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) process, Borough President Adams will host a public hearing regarding the item heard at tonight's Community Board public hearing concerning public property on Block 1507. The hearing will be on April 8th at 6:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Information can be found on the Borough President's website: www.brooklyn-usa.org.

He introduced Mr. Malcolm McDaniel as the new Liaison from Borough Hall to Community Board #16.

Mr. McDaniel stated that it will be an honor to serve this community. Whatever he and the Borough President can do, please call upon them. He stated that Borough President Adams hosted his Women's History Month event recently and Community Board #16's own Mrs. Bettie Kollock-Wallace was an honoree. He presented her with an enlarged photograph of her receiving the honor.

He is also the Liaison for all the senior centers and would like everyone to know that many of them are subject to close in June. Borough President Adams is planning to visit each one to see what he can do to help keep them open. Also there are a series of seminars held for the senior each month on various subjects. This month's subject is home safety for seniors.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Jesse Hamilton, III, District Director of the 20th Senatorial District of the State of New York.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he was legal counsel to Borough President Eric Adams when he was a State Senator. Because Governor Andrew Cuomo has not called for a special election, there are 12 legislative seats in Albany that will remain vacant for a year. These offices represent over one million residents of New York.

The 20th Senatorial District Office is still open and providing constituent services to residents from Bay Ridge to Brownsville.

With the closing of former Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.'s office, he is recommending that persons visit the 20th Senatorial District Office, located at 1669 Bedford Avenue (at Montgomery Street) and the telephone number is (718) 284-4700.

They will host a housing tenants' forum on April 23rd at the Brownsville Recreation Center. He also advised persons who may be interested in obtaining a reverse mortgage to seek legal counsel before signing any documents.

He encourages anyone who is having a block association meeting to invite them.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Councilmember Inez Barron, stated that there are currently ten New York State Assembly seats that remain vacant. Governor Cuomo, purportedly because of what happened with Malcolm Smith a few years back, is refusing to call for a special election. This should not sit right with you, as it means that residents of East New York and Brownsville are effectively paying taxes without representation. He is calling on clergy to gather their congregations and march to the Governor's office and let him know that we will not stand for the idea of not having representation for a full year.

Ms. Latrice Walker, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that the issue of not having representation in Albany means that there is no one representing the community's interest while the budget is being concluded. She is grateful that the Senate leadership is allowing Mr. Hamilton to provide constituent services to the residents, however, there is no one in Albany to insure that our senior centers are getting the funding needed to properly run their services.

Fifty years ago, leaders of our community fought for the voting rights legislation which said that people of color had the right to choose who represents them in the legislature. However, today we are sitting here and an entire community is without that representation. Our forefathers did not sit idly by while the fight for representation was going on and we must not either. This is a serious legal issue and the Center for Law and Justice is seeking to mount a law suit. They cannot act alone. They need plaintiffs, persons who live in the 55th Assembly District or the 60th Assembly District, or the 20th Senatorial District, who has been affected by the lack of representation. She encourages anyone who fits that description and is willing to be a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against Governor Cuomo for his refusal to allow them representation in the New York State Legislature, to call Congresswoman Clarke's office at (718) 287-1142.

Congresswoman Clarke is working on legislation to assist persons who had to pay penalties for having withdrawn money from an IRA or 401K to cover home repair expenses due to hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. The legislation is being drafted so that the penalty will be forgiven.

She reminded the audience that March 31st is the last day to apply for healthcare insurance under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) without penalty.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jackie Kennedy of the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Kennedy stated that they are working with the Municipal Arts Society (MAS) on the Livable Neighborhoods: Brownsville which is a free eight-workshop training program designed to empower Brownsville residents with the skills, tools, and knowledge to change and revitalize the neighborhood. She encourages anyone who is interested to sign up by contacting their office. The first set of workshops will begin on April 12th. Fliers are available on tonight's distribution .5

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

Ms. McCullough announced a program to reduce gun violence through art which is being offered through the Department of Probation for youth ages 15 to 18. The interview process will begin

on April 9th and applications can be found in the Brownsville NeON office, located in Suite 106 at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

She also invited other young professionals who are interested in improving our community to join them at their monthly gatherings, held at 12:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month at 774 Rockaway Avenue.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. M. Morton Hall who stated that community should continue to remain vigilant regarding the air quality around the Prospect Plaza demolition site. He encouraged everyone to continue to call “3-1-1” to complain about the air quality and the debris which will cause long term health problems.

He was insulted this evening when those who made the presentation (at the public hearing) didn't have the courtesy to remain until the meeting was over. Also, he has not seen a request for community benefits. What are we benefitting when they build these structures? What is here for the future generations? It is a shame that we are rubber stamping everything that comes in here.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that Mr. Hall was out of order and his comments were not appreciated.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Omari Kinsey from the Long Life Unity Food Co-op.

Mr. Kinsey stated that Long Life Unity Food Co-op operates out of 1958 Fulton Street. They provide their members with a selection of between 20 and 24 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. Informational fliers can be found on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Hannah Campbell who stated that she is the Director of Operations at Ocean Hill Collegiate. Ocean Hill Collegiate is part of the Uncommon Schools network which locally includes Brownsville Collegiate, Leadership Prep Brownsville, Leadership Prep Ocean Hill, and Ocean Hill Collegiate. They are currently accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year. The application deadline is April 4, 2014.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace requested a moment of silence in memory of former Community Board member Joyce Anderson who recently passed away.

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