

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 27, 2014

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer.

There was a roll call of the Board members.

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

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

Greenest Block in Brooklyn - The deadline to enter the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest is June 1st. Block and merchant associations and other community groups who are interested in participating the contest are encouraged to visit bbg.org/greenestblock or call (718) 623-7250.

NYSERDA Energy Efficiency Program - The New York State sponsored NYSERDA Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program enables homeowners to have a free energy audit (if they make less than \$130,000 per year) by a NYSERDA approved contractor. Interested homeowners can call New York Communities for Change (NYCC) organizer Steve Wieser at (347) 410-6919 Ext. 208 or visit the NYCC Office at 2-4 Nevins Street 2nd Floor.

Brownsville Community Justice Center - Are you between the ages of 13 and 24? Need help with homework, studying for a test, composing a resume or job searching?

Take advantage of a new Learning Lab at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Suite 305. The Lab is fully equipped with computers and internet access.

Because space is limited, interested persons are asked to call Ionna Jimenez at (718) 484-0680.

Adult Education Classes - Catholic Charities' Riverway Senior Center, in cooperation with the New York City Department of Education and its Office of Adult and Continuing Education will offer FREE Basic Education/ESL/GED classes for adults 21 and over in July.

Registration began earlier this month and will continue through July. Classes will begin on Monday, July 7th and continue through Friday, August 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 280 Riverdale Avenue (corner of Rockaway Avenue). Light refreshments will be served.

To register, please contact Leticia Knowles at (718) 842-5345.

Page two of her report contains a listing of employment opportunities announced by the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

The report continues with various grants (some with deadlines which should be noted) that are being offered. The report concludes with a listing of various complaints handled by the Board's office during the month in an effort to resolve consumer complaints regarding City services.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Charles Sturcken, Director of Economic Development for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Sturcken stated that he is present this evening with Ms. Eva Lynch, Assistant Director and Ms. Denise Hubbard, Liaison to the Brooklyn community boards.

A major problem facing New York City and most large cities in the United States is sewers that are clogged by grease. In 67 to 70 percent of all floods in the nation, clogged sewers can be attributed as a factor.

There are 7500 miles of sewer line in the City of New York which are divided into different drainage areas. Brooklyn is one of the major areas.

Because of the harm that is caused by improper disposal of grease into our sewer systems, the Department of Environmental Protection is engaged in an effort to reach out to businesses through the community boards, business improvement districts, and City Councilmembers. They bring together businesses which engaged in activities which require the disposal of grease to teach them how to properly dispose of grease and avoid the penalties for not doing so. The first fine is about \$200 and subsequent fine can be as much as \$10,000. Some businesses fail to take the matter seriously. However, the City, which is closely monitored by the federal government, is quite serious about keeping grease out of our sewer system.

On the residential side, they have had pilot programs with the New York City Housing Authority to teach their residents how to keep their pipes free of grease and avoid backups. Maintaining waste pipes is very costly to the Housing Authority. This is a door-to-door effort; they knock on doors and tell people not to dump grease into their drains. Many people tell them that they never dump grease in their sinks, they flush it down the toilet. Well, the result is the same – clogged sewer pipes.

He displayed photographs of a ten foot diameter sewer pipe with and without grease buildups. He compared the pipes to human arteries, wherein the grease is the equivalent of cholesterol clogging the pipes and preventing the free passage of waste water leading to flooding when it rains and the fouling of our waterways from sewage overflow.

To properly dispose household grease, one should place it in a container, allow it to cool, and dispose of it with one's household garbage.

The City's next step (perhaps in the next ten years) is to collect used cooking oil. Used cooking oil is a very valuable resource. Used cooking oil can be refined into different types of biofuels used for power generation and heating. The City of San Francisco fuels their entire vehicle fleet of vehicles with biodiesel made from collected vegetable oil. New York City has not reached that stage yet but, it is in the plans.

He showed a video that they use in their workshops for businesses. A link to the video is available to interested businesses, business improvement districts, and community boards. He invited anyone with a group or association who would like to have a workshop done for them, to reach out to his office.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace encouraged the audience to heed the advice given by Mr. Sturcken.

She recognized Ms. Jenis Jenkins from the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

Ms. Jenkins stated that since the appointment of the agency's new Commissioner, Rose Pierre-Louis, they have been making a sustained effort in trying to raise awareness about domestic violence and connecting people to services that are provided by their office. They are reaching out to every community board, and every precinct council in their effort to get the word out about this very important issue. She implores the audience to pass the information that they receive at this meeting to anyone they may know who might need it.

In 2013 alone, the 73rd Precinct responded to nearly 9,000 reports of domestic violence. That amounts to about 23 incidents a day. The 73rd Precinct was ranked 7th amongst 77 precincts in reports of domestic violence. From 2002 to 2013, the 73rd Precinct responded to 36 family related homicides, 4 of which occurred in 2013. The numbers show that this a prevalent issue within the community and there is a need to make everyone aware of the services which the agency provides.

The New York City Family Justice Centers are a program of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. There are Justice Centers located in four of the five boroughs with one slated to open on Staten Island in 2015. The Brooklyn location is at 350 Jay Street and is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Clients may walk-in during these hours and do not need to make an appointment. Victims can meet with a prosecutor, speak with a case manager who can help them assess what is happening to them, safety plan with them, do risk assessment and discuss available options. They can meet with a civil legal attorney who can assist them with family law issues such as custody and child support, order of protection and divorce. They can meet with immigration attorneys. Services are free and available to all victims. Victims can get help at a Justice Center no matter what their income level, immigration status, or language they speak. The Justice Center's staff can speak 46 languages and interpretation services are also available in many more languages. It is important to be able to communicate with the victims in their own native tongues when discussing a sensitive topic like domestic violence.

The Justice Centers are co-located with the borough's District Attorney's Office and while the case can be pursued by the District Attorney, clients need not have an open case or even have dealt with law enforcement at all, in order to receive assistance at a Justice Center.

The Justice Centers have police officers available to assist victims in filing police reports and accessing previously filed reports and any other police assistance deemed necessary. There are counselors on staff who are able to counsel the victim and perhaps their children who may have witnessed the domestic violence. The Justice Centers have child-friendly areas where children can be attended to while the parents receive services.

They also provide preventative and educational services through programs such as the Healthy Relationship Training Academy. The Academy offers workshops on the topics of dating violence and healthy relationships for adolescents, young adults and parents. Each workshop is facilitated by trained Peer Educators and consists of highly interactive activities designed to encourage discussion and critical thinking about the challenging topic of relationships. The Academy also offers training for staff members of organizations who work with adolescents and young adults on the topic of dating violence.

One of their workshops is entitled: "Techno What?" and is designed for parents and others who maybe seeking to aide youth and are unfamiliar with today's technology, i.e.; facebook, twitter, etcetera. The workshop helps them know what to look for and should be a concern.

In general, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence oversees the delivery of domestic violence services, develop programs and policy regarding domestic violence, and work with groups which advocate against and raise awareness about domestic violence.

They define domestic violence as a pattern of behavior used to gain control or power over another person. It may be through psychological, physical, emotional, verbal, economical, and/or sexual abuse. They are not talking about an isolated incident but rather pattern of behavior.

She again encouraged the audience to spread the word about their agency and the services they offer.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Jeneen Johnson from the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Human Resource Administration's Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) may be able to help a noncustodial parent (parent not living with their child) and with a current child support order or child support debt that they cannot afford to pay. This only applies to payments due to social services, the Human Resources Administration (HRA) cannot assist debt owed directly to the custodial parent. Depending upon what the income of the non-custodial parent was at the time the debt accumulated, it can be reduced by as much as \$500. They can get back their driver's license, if it was suspended due to arrears. Non-custodial parents may visit their office at 151 West Broadway to apply.

They also offer DNA testing for \$40 per person, Support Through Employment Program (STEP), mediation, and other HRA services at 151 West Broadway.

Someone asked if SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can be taken from the non-custodial parent?

Ms. Johnson stated that SSI and certain veteran's pensions are not garnishable by OCSE, however, all other forms of income are. While Supplemental Security Income cannot be garnished, it does not preclude a child support order being issued.

Mr. Cory Provost stated that last winter, there was a program offering matching funds for non-custodial parents, can Ms. Johnson elaborate on that program?

Ms. Johnson stated that was a pilot program that was well received and may return. The program matched arrears owed to social services that were paid by the non-custodial parent, dollar for dollar.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014.

The Committee encourages all residents seeking employment and small business resources to review the Committee's Employment and Small Business Resource List for contact information of Federal, State and City agencies and local non-profit organizations to access job openings and small business resource opportunities currently available.

The New York State Empire State Development Corporation-Regional Economic Development Councils Consolidated Funding Application deadline is June 16, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.. Information is available at www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov. Please visit the website to determine if your business or non-profit organization is eligible for funding and apply online.

The Committee received one (1) "Renewal" application for renewal of a Beer and Wine license for Glen Grocery, a small grocery store located at 55 Hegeman Street, Brooklyn, New York 11212.

The owner of the establishment has submitted to the business visit by Committee members. There have been no modifications to the business which contradicts the originally approved application. The establishment has no existing complaints on file with the 73rd Precinct.

Given the above stated facts, the Committee recommends that the Board support the application for renewal. The matter was turned over to the Board for a vote.

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

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

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to support the application for renewal of a Beer and Wine license for Glen Grocery, a small grocery store located at 55 Hegeman Street.

Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 13, 2014 with a representative from the Brownsville Community Justice Center regarding a proposal for a change of use for 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

In addition, the Committee met with representatives of Core Services and a representative from the Brownsville Community Development Corporation regarding proposals for the reuse of the former school building at Rockaway and Blake Avenues.

Pending additional information and further discussion, the Committee tabled the proposal for 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street and the proposals for the former school building at Rockaway and Blake Avenues.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Frances Brown asked if there were any specific issues that is causing the Committee to table the proposals for the former school building at Rockaway and Blake Avenues?

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that the matter was tabled pending additional information on the proposals.

Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a conference call on April 15th followed by a recent meeting on May 21st and came to the conclusion that many residents felt that it was somewhat useless to petition the Governor on holding special elections. The sentiments uttered were that the community would be better off with a field of candidates from which the community would be able to choose.

The Committee also reviewed New York City's Earned Sick Time Act which went into effect April 1, 2014. They are aware of all the meetings and forums that were held giving information on the law; however, the Committee would still like to remind the audience that the "Paid Sick Leave Law" went into effect on April 1, 2014 and states that employers with 5 or more employees who worked 80 hours or more in a calendar year, must provide paid sick leave. Employers with less than 5 employees must provide unpaid sick leave. Employers are encouraged to access more information at nyc.gov/paidsickleave.

In continuing the Committee's project on nail salons, they have compiled a list of nail salons in Community District 16 with the intent of sending a letter to the salon operators alerting them of a citywide investigative report on nail salons highlighting the hazardous conditions and its effect in nail salons. Following this, the Committee will be setting up some simple guidelines so that they can check these facilities under the guise of a secret shopper. Whereby, Committee members will be asked to use one of these facilities and note their experiences. At their next meeting, they will revise these guidelines. She shared the draft letter with the audience.

They also reviewed new legislation, Intro 181 sponsored by Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams with co-sponsors Margaret Chin, Corey D. Johnson, Peter A. Koo, and Helen Rosenthal which deals with Community Board review of hotel development plans and transient hotels. This legislation seeks to review the New York City Charter and Administrative Code of the City of New York to force private developers to go through the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) process. Presently, we have no control over hotels being built in our community because they are being built on privately-owned land, as of right, and within the zoning regulations. Passage of Councilmember Jumaane Williams' legislation will give community boards a voice in the process. The Committee will be closely monitoring this and will be asking for the community's support, in the near future, to speed up the hearing of this legislation.

The final piece of legislation the Committee wants to bring to the attention of the community is "The Youth Promise Act" which is in both houses and attempts to address funding which can help programmers address the youth and gun violence. She requested Committee Member Andrea McCullough to come forward and tell the audience how we can help make this piece of legislation a reality.

Ms. McCullough stated that the Youth PROMISE Act is an acronym for Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act. Fact sheets on the proposed legislation are available on tonight's distribution table. The legislation will fund and allow for greater participation by local programs. Currently, funding is received by the Brownsville Anti Violence Project; passage of the Act will provide more funding through diversified programs. The bill (H.R. 1318, S. 1307), currently sits in Congress and the Committee urges the audience to reach out to our federal legislators, namely, Hon. Hakeem Jeffries and Hon. Yvette Clarke, to inform them of the community's support of the Youth PROMISE Act. The Committee is also asking the community to sign the online petition which is available at: youthpromiseact.org.

The Committee will hold a teleconference on June 18th and Committee members are encouraged to review this report and come prepared to have a fruitful discussion.

As a reminder to those who will be going to a nail salon, please be aware of the dangers in nail salons and put the information given here into practice.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked how many nail salons are there on the list?

Ms. Pierre stated that there are about 10. One has a for sale sign posted but remains in operation.

Ms. Brewer asked if they are all on Pitkin Avenue?

Ms. Pierre stated that they are spread throughout the District.

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, in behalf of Min. Prince Issachar, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 and discussed names of Board members to fill the Executive Officer positions for the period from June 2014 to June 2015.

The Committee submits the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Chairperson – Bettie Kollock-Wallace
- 1st Vice Chairperson – Adrainer K. Coleman
- 2nd Vice Chairperson – Michael Howard
- Secretary – Daisy Jackson
- Treasurer – Sarah Hall
- Parliamentarian – John McCadney, Jr.

The floor was opened to additional nominations for Chairperson.

Ms. Carolyn Benjamin-Smith asked for a description of what the position entails.

By way of explanation as to the Nominating Committee report, District Manager Greene-Walker reminded the Board members that according to the Board's by-laws every year during the month of April, the Chairperson of the Board appoints a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee comes back to the May meeting with suggestions of names to fill the Executive positions. It is at this time that the Nominating Committee reports and the floor opened for further nominations.

Ms. Benjamin-Smith stated that she was at last month's meeting, however, she would like to hear what are the descriptions of the officers.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that the Chairperson not only chairs the monthly Community Board meetings but also represents the Community Board at any other meeting or events in the City of New York.

Should the Chairperson fail to act in that capacity, the 1st Vice Chairperson assumes the responsibilities of the Chairperson. Should the 1st Vice Chairperson fail to act in the capacity of Chairperson, the 2nd Vice Chairperson assumes the responsibilities.

Ms. Pamela Junior nominated herself for Chairperson. Mr. Lamont Carolina nominated himself for Chairperson. There being no further nominations, a motion was made Ms. Marie Pierre, seconded by Mr. Norman Frazier and carried to close the nomination for Chairperson.

The floor was opened for additional nominations for the position of 1st Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Genese Morgan was nominated by Mr. John McCadney, Jr.. There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Lamont Carolina, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack to close the nomination for 1st Vice Chairperson.

The floor was opened for additional nominations for 2nd Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Andrea McCullough was nominated by Ms. Chanel Haliburton. There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson to close the nomination for 2nd Vice Chairperson.

The floor was opened for additional nominations for Secretary.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deborah Mack and carried to close the nomination for Secretary.

The floor was opened for further nominations for the position of Treasurer.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. Norman Frazier and carried to close the nomination for Treasurer.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Parliamentarian.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to close the nomination for Parliamentarian.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that by way of explanation, in that there were no additional nominations for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian, at this time the Secretary will be asked to cast one vote for Daisy Jackson, Sarah Hall, and John McCadney, for Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian respectively.

District Manager Greene-Walker further stated that at the June 24, 2014 Community Board meeting, there will be an election for the positions of Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, and 2nd Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 and had a presentation from the Department of Environment Protection on "Noise". This was more of a continuation of the topic spotlighted by the Health and Human Services Committee about two years ago. The Committee has asked that they come to the June Board meeting with a presentation.

The Public Safety Committee continued the discussion on the Community Impact Safety Team to provide safe passages in school zones and shopping areas. The "Safe Zones" being manned by CIST members proceed as follows:

Order of Process for members:

1. Registration – name, address, and cellphone number
2. Introduction Meeting – Learn expectations and goals
3. Training – Conflict resolution – First Aid & CPR
4. Uniform – Arm bands and caps

Order of Operation for Members

1. Each Member is required to attend weekly meetings.
2. Participate in briefing held the evening before the operation.
3. Teams will learn their position and the zone's area concerns.
4. Teams will need to know the assigned officer and the cell contact number.
5. Each team will be responsible for coverage for the assigned zone for the day.

(if a.m. and p.m., then both)

Order of Operation for NYPD

1. NYPD will provide an officer for each team.
2. The officer will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Logging in team members at the assigned post.
 - b. Providing the CIST the contact number for direct contact w/members while on posts.
 - c. Responding to emergencies reported by members in the zone on post.
 - d. Report any concerns with CIST to Community Board 16

Order of Operation for CB16

1. Organize along with 73rd Precinct the Safe Zones. (prioritizing of 22 schools)
2. Discuss area concerns with CIST, and constructively plan to resolve within the function of the Mission Statement.
3. Monitor activity and progress and report to the Community Board 16.
4. Ensure the needs of CIST members are fairly met, to best equip them to perform as CIST members.
5. Report for community service hours
6. Provide uniforms
7. Provide and collect report forms.

You can register by coming to the next Public Safety meeting, and you may contact me through the Community Board office at (718) 385-0323 for additional information.

On April 22, 2014, she met with Congressman Jeffries who expressed interest and support of the CIST efforts.

On May 12, 2014, she met with Ms. Motley of the Mayor's office who expressed interest and support of the administration as it pertains to the CIST efforts.

On May 6, 2014, Ms. Mikini Brice of City Limits wrote a very interesting article on community safety, citing our community efforts as well.

The Public Safety Committee will meet again on June 4, 2014, 6:30 p.m., at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street in Room 103.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 12th with an engineer who designed a bike helmet that focuses on health and wellness. Studies are now being conducted with bikers in the Gowanus community. As she has reached out to us, Arlene Ducao an engineer at MIT, will be reaching out to other communities to get their thoughts on her invention which we found quite interesting.

At our next meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation will be present to discuss: 1) Highland Park-East New York Study, 2) Slow Zone proposals for Brownsville and East New York, and 3) expansion of the bike lanes in Brownsville and East New York.

At the Committee's April 7, 2014 meeting, they discussed strategies to get the NYC Transit Authority to install elevators or escalators at the IRT -3 stops along Livonia Avenue. These are items that have been perennially submitted by the Board during the budget request process and always denied. The Transit Authority has stated lack of ridership as the reason for not support fund the requests. However, it is the Committee's position that lack of ridership is due to inaccessibility. The Committee will be preparing a sample letter and ask residents to join us in this campaign. The letter will be disseminated in the near future.

Ms. Deborah Williams stated that she is a member of the Marion Street Block Association and they have petitioned to have speed humps placed along their block and have been told that a hump will

be placed, however, the time table given is about two years. Can anything be done to speed up that timeframe?

Ms. Mack suggested that Ms. Williams contact District Manager Greene-Walker at the Board's office to discuss the issue.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee has an update on behalf of the Brownsville NeON Stakeholders Group:

The Young New Yorkers has designed an arts curriculum for the Brownsville NeON Arts Project, Phase I. The program is entitled, "Transforming Futures: Exploring Empowering Responses to Gun Violence through Art and Design Thinking", using photography, film, illustration, and design to tell their stories. The participants have just completed their second week of workshops, and reported as being courageous, open, and creative. They are planning a final exhibition in Brownsville on June 24, 2014. Phase II of the NeON Arts Project is underway.

On another note, the Groundswell Mural Project, so named "Transform/Restore: Brownsville", has installed their 1st mural at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Pitkin Avenue on May 20, 2014. This is one of five murals to be painted by Brownsville teens and placed along Pitkin Avenue. Please check it out.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson.

Mr. Jones stated that at the last two Community Board meetings, he has been announcing that District Attorney Thompson will hold his first town hall meeting sometime in June and he is pleased to say that on tonight's distribution table are flyers for the event which will be held on June 18, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at P.S. / I.S. 323, located at 210 Chester Street. He encourages the audience to attend and have an opportunity to ask District Attorney Thompson about his vision on public safety – what he has done and what he plans to do. He asked that young and old alike be encouraged to attend the town hall.

District Attorney Thompson created a Wrongful Conviction Bureau which is reviewing cases of men who have been imprisoned for long periods of time. In the five months he has been in office, District Attorney Thompson has had seven convictions overturned where men were wrongfully convicted of crimes and have spent over twenty years behind bars. The Bureau is looking at about fifty similar cases where convictions were brought about without evidence being brought properly to trial. It is tedious work, as we know that we don't want guilty persons released. However, for those who were wrongfully convicted because information was withheld or they were not properly represented, District Attorney Thompson wants their cases reviewed.

He can be reached by calling (718) 250-3146.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace relayed condolences to Board Member Jessie Hilliard on the loss of her belated brother. She also offered condolences for anyone else who may have had a loss.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Maurice Philips, representing Senator John Sampson.

Mr. Philips stated that Senator Sampson was instrumental in getting resources to assist about 300 residents of a 15 square block area in East New York wherein property was destroyed by faulty sewer lines in the area. Persons who suffered damages were able to file claims with the Office of the City Comptroller. On Thursday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m. in Senator Sampson's District Office, there will be representatives present from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Office of the City Comptroller to answer questions regarding this incident. He asked the audience to spread the word to persons who they know may have been affected.

Senator Sampson's office can be reached by calling (718) 649-7653. They are located at 1222 East 96th Street between Avenue J and Flatlands Avenue.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Cory Provost from the Office of City Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Mr. Provost stated that Comptroller Stringer has produced a report on the state of housing in New York City. He had a limited number of copies which he distributed and additional copies are available to anyone who requests one by signing the sheet that he has.

He announced that Comptroller Stringer is inviting the audience to join him in celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month on June 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Surrogate's Courthouse, located at 31 Chambers Street, New York.

Ms. Ineisha Williford, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that Councilmember Mealy is sponsoring the Second Annual Greg "Jocko" Jackson Film Festival on Thursday, June 19, 2014 and Friday, June 20, 2014. She is excited about this year's event because it includes participation by three local schools, Brownsville Academy, Mott Hall Academy, and P.S./I.S. 323. The theme of this year's festival is Social Justice / Social Change. There are film submissions from throughout the city. It is their hope that the festival can be built upon and become an economic engine for the community. Going forward, they would like to establish a film committee made up of members of this audience and other community organizations who can help make it sustainable.

There will be dignitaries and other invited guests present as well as adult workshops on film making and editing. She asked that the audience be on the alert for fliers on this free event.

Councilmember Mealy's next Community Advisory Board meeting will be held on June 7th at 10:00 a.m. and the agenda includes a presentation by the Brooklyn Children's Museum on their summer programming. A representative from the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project will be present to provide free legal assistance on issues of consumer debt. The presenter is fluent in both Spanish and Haitian Creole.

In behalf of Councilmember Mealy, she introduced Gabriel McQueen as the new Male District Leader for the 55th Assembly District.

Mr. Charles Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that at a press conference held by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Mr. DiNapoli touted the economic success of Brooklyn and he spoke about areas such Williamsburg, Fort Greene, and Greenpoint. Congresswoman Clarke reminded the Comptroller and other attendees that communities such as Brownville and East New York also have great potential to be economic success and should be included when incentivizing companies to invest in the borough.

Each year, Congresswoman Clarke invites high school students within her district to participate in a Congressional art contest. The winner's art work is sent to Washington, D.C. where it is displayed in the hallways of Congressional office buildings and the winner is flown to Washington, D.C. for a reception. He could not give the name of the young lady who won this year, but was proud to say that she is a Brownsville resident who attends Erasmus Hall High School.

Congresswoman Clarke's office is located at 123 Linden Boulevard - 4th Floor and the telephone number is (718) 287-1142. Their walk-in hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Constituents are encouraged to contact them with their concerns on federal issues.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mary Elizabeth Prall of 596 Acres.

Ms. Prall stated that 596 Acres is based in Brooklyn, however, they work in all five boroughs of New York City. They assist people in obtaining access to vacant publicly owned land. They hang signs on fences surrounding City-owned vacant land to let people know that they may be able to do something on the site. They have an online map that allows visitors to enter an address and see what vacant land is near them. They also do outreach to community boards with a high concentration of vacant land. There are over 19 acres of vacant publicly owned land in Community District #16.

They do not start projects in neighborhoods, they simply help people gain access to the land when needed. She distributed a publication of 596 Acres entitled: "A New York City Advocate's Guide to Community Land Access" which briefly explains the process of gaining access to publicly owned land.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Melanie Lewis, representing Rapha Evangelistic Worship Center, Inc., who invited the community to their second annual S.M.I.L.E. (So Much Inspiration, Love, and Empowerment) event. If you have an organization with information to share, they ask you to bring a table to the event and add to this informative, festive, and foundational experience on Saturday, June 28, 2014, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Saratoga Square Park, located on Saratoga Avenue between Halsey and Macon Streets. For more information, visit www.rapha.tv or email info@rapha.tv.

She also announced a play entitled: "Not My Church" that is being sponsored by the church and staged at Pilgrim Cathedral of Brownsville, located at 572 Rockaway Avenue (between Sutter and Blake Avenues) on Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3:00 p.m.. Informational flyers are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Nupur Chaudhury of the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Chaudhary announced that they will once again operate their summer youth markets at Rockaway and Livonia Avenues, and Thomas S. Boyland Street and Pitkin Avenue. They will begin accepting applications next week for the youths who will work at the markets. The applicants must be between 17 and 20 years old and have a significant involvement with Brownsville, i.e.; live in Brownsville, go to school in Brownsville, or go to church in the community.

They have previously informed the community about the Partnership and some of their partners moving into a facility at 519 Rockaway Avenue (The Greg Jackson Center) sometime around October 2014. Present at tonight's meeting are two of her colleagues, Brian Woll and Kristin Woods who are available to collect questions and comments concerning the move. They also have postcards that they would like to have the community use to send comments to their elected officials about the project.

They will host their second annual HOPE Summit on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Van Dyke Community Center (392 Blake Avenue). For this year's Summit, they are seeking to collect the input and recommendations that they received last year and focus on what are some of the things that can be implemented immediately.

Mr. Aaron Evans stated that he is part of Brownsville Partnership's Community Planning Team and they are seeking volunteers who are willing to commit 12 to 15 hours to assist with conducting a survey of Brownsville residents for four months. Training began earlier today and will be held again on Wednesday, May 28th from 11:00 to 4:00. Interested persons, who are not able to attend either training sessions, should contact either he or Jacqueline Kennedy to arrange a suitable time for training. There will be a \$100 stipend per month and a luncheon held at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street each Tuesday.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Lamont Carolina who stated that Red Bull is seeking to employ drivers and salespersons. Applicant do not need a high school diploma or G.E.D., but they cannot have a felony conviction on their record.

He recently attended a Black Men's Leadership Brunch at Brooklyn Borough Hall where about 200 Black men gathered to share ideas on improving our communities. He was asked to head an internship program for young Black men. They are seeking both organizations in which to place the young men as well as high school and college age young men to participate.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if the internship are paid internships?

Mr. Carolina stated that they are unpaid positions. However, they are looking into providing participants with a stipend for travel.

He announced that the Ocean Hill – Brownsville Coalition of Young Professionals is developing a community garden on Eastern Parkway and Pitkin Avenue (opposite Unity Funeral Home) and they are seeking volunteers to come get "dirty" with them.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Pamela Junior, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to adjourn the meeting.