

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

### Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and said an invocation.

She called forward members of Brooklyn 16's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Mr. Jimmi Brevil stated that CERT members are trained to respond to emergencies that occur within the community. We think about emergency situations such as 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy, and acknowledge that they uprooted people from their homes. However, nearly every day, there are other emergency events which cause New Yorkers to have to evacuate their homes. September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and they are here to remind the community of the importance of preparing for emergencies before they occur. Amongst the training CERT members receive, is the preparation of a "Go-Bag". In the event of an emergency, the evacuee would simply grab the bag and leave with the knowledge that they have the items essential to helping them cope with the disaster.

Minister Prince Issachar stated that every household should pack a Go Bag — a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. A Go Bag should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. Make sure it is ready to go at all times of the year.

Your Go Bag should contain:

- Copies of your important documents (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.),
- credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations,
- bottled water and nonperishable food, such as energy or granola bars to last for at least three days,

- flashlight, battery- or hand crank-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- and other essential personal items such a change of clothing, toiletries, etcetera.

Keep a list of the medications each member of your household takes. If you store extra medication in your Go Bag, be sure to refill it before it expires.

Contact and meeting place information for your household, and a small regional map  
Child care supplies or other special care items should be planned for ahead of time as well.

Ms. Beatrice Saunds, Team Chief for Brooklyn CERT 16, invited the audience to explore joining a CERT. CERT members take a ten-week training course and meet monthly thereafter. Along with the possibility of being deployed during community emergencies, teams perform such functioning as a resource during an emergency, CERT members may be called to do things such as clearing fire hydrants after major snowstorms. CERTs assist police in crowd control at major citywide and local events such as the New York City Marathon and the Five Boro Bike Tour. They may be called upon to assist neighboring teams at their events.

Mr. Brevil stated that on tonight's distribution table there are pamphlets and fliers on how to create a Go Bag, and planning for emergencies. He encouraged the audience to take some of the material and read it so that in the event of an emergency, they will be prepared.

Someone asked where should they go in the event of an emergency?

Mr. Brevil stated that the City has created an updated flood zone map which can be viewed by visiting their website at [nyc.gov/oem](http://nyc.gov/oem). There are two evacuation centers located within Community District #16; they are I.S. 271, located at 1137 Herkimer Street between Saratoga Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street, and P.S. 327, located at 111 Bristol Street between Pitkin and Sutter Avenues.

Minister Issachar stated that it also depends on the nature and location of the emergency. There are times when it is best to shelter in place. There can also be times when we may be asked to evacuate the city. It is important to be prepared and stay aware of conditions.

If you have pets and need to go to a shelter, be aware that not all of the shelters can accommodate pets.

Ms. Digna Layne stated that persons seeking to shelter with pets should also be aware that they will need documentation showing that the pet is theirs and has had any necessary vaccinations.

Mr. Brevil thanked Ms. Layne for the information and stated that there are also Ready New York for Pets pamphlets on the distribution table.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the presenters for their presentation and asked that they return from time-to-time to remind the audience about the importance of preparedness. She also encouraged the audience to join the team.

There was a roll call of the Board members.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Eula Key and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker reported that The Salvation Army, located at 280 Riverdale Avenue, has announced that slots are still available for children born in 2010. The Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) is free for all children born in 2010 regardless of income.

To learn more about The Salvation Army's UPK programs and to download application material, visit [salvationarmy.org/upk](http://salvationarmy.org/upk) or contact Sarah Fay at (212) 337-7439 or [sara.fay@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:sara.fay@use.salvationarmy.org).

Every fall and spring, twenty-five high school students from throughout the five boroughs of New York City participate in Citizen's Committee for Children of New York City, Inc. (CCC) Youth Action Community Leadership Course (YCLC) – an afterschool program for high school students interested in learning the tools of effective advocacy and how to make positive changes in their communities.

The YCLC is a free 10-week course for high school students, which meets on Monday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at CCC's office located at 105 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan.

When you participate in YCLC you will:

- Gain the skills to advocate on behalf of yourself, your school, and your community.
- Learn how to conduct hands-on research, such as public polling and site visits.
- Meet with government officials to discuss your ideas for improving New York City.
- Become a better leader through problem solving and critical thinking.
- Strengthen your communication and public speaking skills.
- Earn community service credit for school and college applications.
- Make lifelong friends with the diverse group of your peers in the program!

The Fall 2014 YCLC begins on October 20, 2014. Application forms and other information about the YCLC can be accessed at the Citizen's Committee for New York City Children website: [www.cccnewyork.org/get-involved/advocacy-courses/youth-action/yclc](http://www.cccnewyork.org/get-involved/advocacy-courses/youth-action/yclc).

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Janstrom at (212) 673-1800 Ext. 20.

Also in her report are several job announcements; two of which are positions for a full-time and a part-time Community Assistant at the Community Board office. Interested persons may send their Letter of Interest and resume to the Community Board's office to her attention at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street – Room 103, Brooklyn, New York 11212.

The New York City Department of Sanitation has announced that the filing period for the next Sanitation Worker exam will be open from October 1, 2014 until October 31, 2014. To file for the exam, go to [www.nyc.gov/examforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examforjobs) starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Open-Competitive Computer-based City exams are offered at the Computer-based Testing and Application Centers, one of which is located at 210 Joralemon Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor downtown Brooklyn. Current exams include Police Officer, School Safety Agent, and Traffic Enforcement Agent.

The report continues with a list of various grants that are available and concludes with a list of complaints received by the Community Board's office during the month in which we have interceded in behalf of community residents.

A motion was made Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014 with Jackie Mallon, Deputy Commissioner of New York City Small Business Services Workforce Development Division.

During the Fiscal Year 2015 capital and expense budget requests process which took place in October 2013, Brooklyn Community Board 16 requested the establishment of a local Workforce 1 Center. The purpose for requesting a local employment center is to address high unemployment in the District and make the search for employment more convenient given the challenges that unemployed residents face such as lack of money to travel.

In response to this request, the New York City Department of Small Business Services has stated "we will try to accommodate the request within available resources" and therefore, a meeting was held with Ms. Mallon to determine the next steps for bringing a local Workforce 1 Center.

Ms. Mallon advised the Committee that currently there are 16 Workforce 1 Centers throughout New York City, five (5) Hubs, nine (9) expansion sites and two (2) sector specific sites and it has been at least 10 years since a new Workforce 1 Hub has been opened in New York City. Additionally, funding for Workforce 1 Centers is provided through the Workforce Investment Act; the recruiting and screening of applicants for employment is a free service offered to employers; Workforce 1 only accepts job orders from employers that pay at least \$10 per hour and/or offer full-time employment.

Ms. Mallon was not able to promise that a Workforce 1 Center will be opened in Brownsville, however, she is very interested in identifying local organizations that can work with Workforce 1

to screen applicants locally and make referrals to Workforce 1 for preparation, training and job placement.

Additionally, Ms. Mallon suggested bringing the Craft Entrepreneurship program to Brownsville. This program is free and helps crafters establish an online business to sell products to the world and earn income.

Also, Ms. Mallon advised that future locations of Workforce development sites could be dictated by Mayor Bill de Blasio's "Jobs for New Yorkers" initiative.

The Jobs for New Yorkers Taskforce was announced back in May 2014 and is comprised of 30 members with various experience in industry and education.

The taskforce will deliver recommendations to:

- Better integrate the \$500 million investment in workforce programs and education resources to serve the unemployed and under-employed;
- Combine economic development strategies with workforce development initiatives to allow more New Yorkers access to quality employment in industries where the City makes investments;
- Address the skill gaps for low-wage workers by creating training programs that teach skills specifically geared to what today's companies need. This will create a pipeline of homegrown workers who can fill the new opportunities being created by the City's growing businesses; and
- Ensure our local employers seek, find and hire talent from the five boroughs.

A report is due to Mayor de Blasio with concrete recommendations on how the City can achieve the goals outlined above this fall.

The purpose of the Economic Development Committee is to identify and respond to issues related to existing or proposed economic opportunities for the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same. The members of the Economic Development Committee are committed to the journey of bringing economic equality to Ocean Hill-Brownsville and invite members of the community with interests in economic development to attend their next meeting which will be Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of her report may contact her at [genesemor@aol.com](mailto:genesemor@aol.com).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior 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, September 10, 2014 and itemized their priorities and major objectives for the community for the year 2014/2015.

Their major project is to identify and engage the resources for persons living with AIDS, and for the mental health and substance use services and ensure that they are real and accountable for the services they provide in our community.

This research and process are aimed at improving not only the services provided for the children, youth, adults, and families of the Brownsville/Ocean Hill community, but also to ensure a quality of life comparable to any other community in the state.

The Committee decided that residents of Community District #16 should be aware of and take advantage of the services when listed.

The Committee's next meeting will be on October 9, 2014 at 6.00 p.m. They are seeking more members and are always encouraged by the community's support. They request that the audience join them in the service of the community.

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

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, via conference call, to discuss which initiatives we would focus on for the 2014-2015 year. The Committee will create a mission statement which will give the Committee guidance as to initiatives that they will focus on. The mission statement will include their focus, purpose, and plan of action to accomplish the mission.

Some of the items that Committee members have expressed an interest in focusing on during the upcoming year include: domestic violence, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, teenage relationships, teenage self-esteem, HIV awareness / testing for both teenagers and seniors, and healthy eating.

Additionally, the Committee will host its Second Annual Black Women's Footprint Forum in June 2015 and will invite all social service providers who present during the year to participate.

Committee member Mirline Desir brought to the Committee's attention the NYC Parachute Respite Program, which is sponsored through the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The NYC Parachute Respite Program provides alternatives to hospitalization for people experiencing emotional crises. Parachute NYC offers free, community-based options that focus on overall wellness, recovery, and hope. This program is largely driven by peers who themselves have had their own experiences with the mental health system. In addition to home-based treatment, Parachute NYC offers crisis respite centers where people can stay overnight in a calm, open, and supportive environment. A Support Line, (646) 741-HOPE, is also available for those experiencing emotional distress. In Brooklyn, the program is open to people ages 16 to 30. The telephone number for the Brooklyn Crisis Respite Program is (347) 505-0870.

The next Women's Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Board's office.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Pamela Junior at [pjunior2@aol.com](mailto:pjunior2@aol.com). They welcome the audience to join the Women's Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

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

Mr. Jones reported that District Attorney Thompson has formed a new unit in his office to concentrate on the Brownsville area. The Crime Strategies Unit is designed to track individuals who repeatedly commit crimes, not only in Brownsville, but in all jurisdictions throughout the City. Sometimes when such individuals go before a judge, the judge may not be aware of offenses committed by the individual in another jurisdiction. The Crime Strategies Unit will be able to put this information together so that they will be able to present to the court all of the defendant's violations; be it a summons for fare evasion or any other violation. This will then be used to hold the defendant on a higher bail or no bail at all. They are working closely with the Police Department and Inspector Gulotta to roll out this initiative.

District Attorney Thompson also has an Immigrant Fraud Unit within his office. The unit will investigate and prosecute crimes against immigrants, particularly those against undocumented immigrants. The Immigrant Fraud Unit investigates and prosecutes individuals and businesses that target and exploit immigrants by utilizing various fraudulent schemes or scams. The Unit is committed to aiding and encouraging both documented and undocumented immigrant victims and witnesses, who may fear cooperating with law enforcement because of their immigration status.

They prosecute persons who claim that they can help an immigrant by having their applications fast-tracked or otherwise aiding them with the completion of their applications for a fee. It is illegal for anyone to charge a fee for aiding in the completion of immigration applications, and there is no fast-tracking.

District Attorney Thompson also has a Labor Frauds Unit which investigates and prosecutes employers and others who commit fraud against workers and the programs designed to protect them.

If you have been a victim of a labor fraud or have information regarding labor fraud, please call the Labor Frauds Unit Helpline at (718) 250-3770

Examples of the kinds of crimes the Labor Frauds Unit investigates and prosecutes are: wage theft - the failure to pay workers the wages owed to them under the Labor Law, failure to pay prevailing wages on public works construction projects, and retaliation. He noted that one's immigration status does not play a role in prosecuting offenders.

He encouraged anyone with a public safety concern to call the District Attorney's Action Center Hotline at (718) 250-2340.

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

Mr. Charles Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that he attended a meeting earlier in the day with representatives from sixteen different agencies, including New York City Housing Authority, the Department of Homeless Services, and the Mayor's Office. Mayor de Blasio is seeking to create a development plan for Brownsville and brought the agencies together to gather some interesting ideas. Congresswoman Clarke's office recommends that members of the Brownsville community be present whenever any type of visioning meeting is held, in order that the community's input be heard. The group will be seeking input through mid-December.

He concurs with what was said earlier by Mr. Shelton Jones regarding persons seeking help to complete immigration documents. He further stated that anyone seeking help regarding any governmental interactions, should first reach out to an elected official. The elected officials can assist with the documentation and/or guide you in the right direction.

Not much is being brought to the Floor of the House of Representatives, at present. There is a possibility that the Senate will go to the Republican party in this November's election. He encourages the audience to reach out to friends and family in other states, especially Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Kentucky, and encourage them to go out vote and take some other people with them.

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 Mr. Christopher Lundy, representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

Mr. Lundy stated that he believes that Congressman Jeffries has done a good job as a freshman Congressman and asks that the community continue to support him.

Congressman Jeffries knows the importance of jobs in our communities. His office, along with New Hope Family Worship Center, recently held a job fair that was very successful. Many of the attendees left the fair having gained new jobs. They were able to pen a deal with Fresh Direct wherein Fresh Direct will offer approximately six jobs a week to them. Job seekers are encouraged to submit the resumes to them.

Congressman Jeffries is also co-sponsoring H.R. 645, the Equal Employment for All Act, which amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions. If this bill makes it to the Floor of Congress and passes, there will be one less thing to impede us from employment. He encourages the audience to reach out to Congress and to encourage their friends and family in other states to do so as well.

He can be reached by calling (718) 237-2211 or emailing [Christopher.lundy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christopher.lundy@mail.house.gov).

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Ineisha Williford, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Ms. Williford stated that Councilmember Mealy holds her monthly Advisory Board Meeting on the first Saturday of each month. A representative from the Mayor's office will speak about domestic violence at the October 3, 2014 meeting. Attendees need not be a victim of domestic violence.

Parents who do not know what to do with their children after school or are unable to afford after school care, should be made aware that the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) has allocated additional funding for afterschool programs and there are seats available in many locations.

There has been much discussion concerning increasing employment opportunities within our communities. Coinciding with their annual film festival, she is working on an initiative which will include all of the community boards with Council District 41. The initiative will make the film festival be something that is economically beneficial to our communities. It will be based on the "Made in NY" template. Made in NY is program championed by former Commissioner of The New York City Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting, Katherine Oliver, to help New Yorkers gain access into the entertainment industry. They will collaborate with Brooklyn Workforce to bring those same opportunities to our underserved communities. She will present more details on this initiative at a future Community Board meeting.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Latrice Walker, the Democratic candidate for the 55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Ms. Walker thanked the audience for their support in the recent Primary Election. It has been two weeks since the election and she has reached out to Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, regarding establishing an office in the District since the seat is currently vacant. Mr. Silver has agreed to help her immediately open a District Office. She is currently looking for office space. She is considering locations such as the old Pitkin Theatre and a location on Rockaway Avenue and wants the community's input on the decision.

She is also seeking the community's input as to which committees she should sit on in Albany. She wants her office to be a reflection of the community. Along with the recommendations, she will also ask for input on what the community's stance should be on issues. She can be reached at (347) 470-7092.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams.

Borough President Adams visited many community events this past summer. If you would like him to visit your event please contact Mr. McDaniel by calling (718) 802-2681 or (347) 902-1692, or emailing [mmcdaniel@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:mmcdaniel@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

Borough President Adams has allocated \$3,000,000 towards education of which \$50,000 was allocated to Brownsville Collegiate Academy. Community organizations are encouraged to reach out to him regarding their needs.

A housing forum is scheduled for November and he encourages everyone to attend and take advantage of the information that will be offered. He asks that interested persons furnish him with their contact information, in order that they be placed on the Borough President's office mail list.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace acknowledged the presence of Mr. Anthony Drummond, the Board's former Liaison to the Borough President. She then recognized Mr. Aaron Evans of Brownsville Partnership.

Mr. Evans stated that he is the Community Mobilization Coordinator for Brownsville Partnership's 5,000 Jobs Campaign. This is an initiative to help connect 5,000 Brownsville residents to jobs through a City-wide network of partners. He announced that they are seeking to hire for two positions within Brownsville Partnership. One is for a Resource Specialist which is a staff position within the 5,000 Jobs Campaign that will report to the Community Engagement Coordinator. Secondly, a Director, Brownsville Partnership who will be responsible for leading their efforts to improve social and economic outcomes in Brownsville and report to the Senior Director, Neighborhood Partnerships. Resumes should be sent to [jobs@cmtysolutions.org](mailto:jobs@cmtysolutions.org).

MGB Pop, an open-air market set to begin operation on October 17, 2014, still has stalls available for Brownsville Entrepreneurs. Interested person may contact Ms. Genese Morgan or Ms. Jackie Kennedy at (929) 252-9291.

He is proud to announce that they are officially the owners of the Greg Jackson Community Center (592 Rockaway Avenue) and thank the Community Board for their support of this endeavor. Reconstruction of the building has begun and he is happy to say they were able to hire two subcontractors from the community to do some of the work. As additional construction becomes required, they will announce it to the community.

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

Ms. McCullough announced that in collaboration with the Center for Urban Pedagogy, the Coalition will host a workshop on ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Process) at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 724 Rockaway Avenue. They invite persons interested in the process of how a building goes up to join them.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Boone.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program located at 210 Chester Street and also the Van Dyke Center.

They are currently enrolling students for their afterschool program. The program operates from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. With advance notice, they can accommodate children a little later than 6:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to have their children 6 years old and older enrolled. Their services are free of charge. Among the activities they perform, is homework assistance. They don't do the child's homework for them, they merely assist. They suggest that parents review the homework with their children once they are home.

Ms. Lorraine Moultrie, of Risen Christ Church, expressed a need in the community for afterschool program for second graders and up with attention on building math skills. She had a parent in her church reach out to her and was saddened that she didn't have a resource for her.

Mr. Boone stated that they offer this type of assistance and asked Ms. Moultrie to reach out to him.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mabel Davis.

Ms. Davis stated that Enterovirus D68 has been found in New York State. She cautioned the audience to be aware of it and suggested some natural remedies.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Parliamentarian John McCadney, Jr.