

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – OCTOBER 28, 2014

Attendance

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

**MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE 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.

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

She called forward Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee.

Mr. Howard stated that the Committee met on October 21, 2014 and discussed recommendations for the Capital and Expense Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2016.

Each year, as part of the City's budget process, the Community Board must submit its capital and expense budget needs and priorities for the District.

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

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

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

He read the recommendations which are listed in his report and are recommendations made by the Committee, Executive Board and the District Manager (Copies of the report are in each Board member's folder with additional copies available on tonight's distribution table.).

District Manager Greene-Walker requested that the Board also consider a request which she received earlier in the day from a Physical Education teacher at P.S. 27 asking that there be an upgrade made to the school's playground. She then read the expense budget recommendations from the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee Report.

The floor was opened to hear additional recommendations.

Ms. Genese Morgan requested that benches be installed along Belmont Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard.

Mrs. Blanche Peltonbusch requested that speed humps be installed on Bristol Street between Dumont and Livonia Avenues to slow motorcyclists who ride widely on the block.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that this request, along with several other locations for which she has received requests for the installation of speed humps, are being worked on by the Department of Transportation. Request of this type do not fall in the scope the capital and expense budget recommendations.

Someone requested that lights be added to Livonia Avenue to better illuminate the area under the elevated subway tracks.

Ms. Mabel Davis suggested that the community take advantage of the numerous grants and sponsorships that are available in order to fund some needed capital projects.

Mr. Daniel Goodine requested that a comfort station be installed at Betsy Head Playground.

Ms. Lisa Kenner requested that a traffic control device placed at Junius and Dumont Avenues to enable safe crossing of the intersection by the area's numerous senior citizens.

Ms. Peltonbusch asked that the management of Marcus Garvey Village Apartment be investigated for their failure to allow tenants to receive SCRIE and DRIE.

Someone stated that only one of the three gates at Floyd Patterson Field is secured at night.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that she will bring this issue to the attention of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Yolanda Matthews stated that her complaints of rodent sightings are not being resolved. How can this be addressed?

District Manager Greene-Walker stated the budget request in the report is to provide the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene funds to allow them to exterminate when rodent issues are found and not resolved.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the audience for their input on the budget requests. She added that many of the issues mentioned during this hearing can be addressed by calling the Board's office with details of the complaint. Ms. Greene-Walker and her staff can direct you as to the most appropriate way to resolve the issue.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried with one abstention to accept the report of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee and its recommendations.

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

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

District Manager Greene-Walker reported that Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's New York City Asthma Initiative is offering Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an environmentally

friendly way to reduce the amount of pests in your home, to Brownsville households where an occupant has asthma.

To learn more or obtain a referral, contact Beverly Johnson, Community Outreach Coordinator, at the Brooklyn District Public Health Office by emailing bjones3@health.nyc.gov.

Depending on what is needed, the inspector may do anything from vacuuming and steam cleaning, to sealing holes or reporting urgent building conditions that promote infestations.

The LaGuardia Community College Green Jobs Training Program is your chance to get the skills you need to apply for a "green" job.

Informational sessions will be held on November 11, 13, 18 or 22 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Register by visiting greenworkforcenyc.org and clicking "Apply Now". For additional information, call (718) 663-8420.

The Citizens Committee for New York City has announced that applications are now available for their \$1,000 "Love Your Block Grants". Applications may be obtained online at www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love-your-block and are due by November 7, 2014.

For more information, contact Imani Brown at ibrown@citizensnyc.org or (212) 822-9567. The Citizens Committee is also offering Micro-grants of up to \$3,000 are also available to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city.

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden is offering their Garden Apprentice Program (GAP) to teenagers interested in an internship that them to learn about careers in public gardens, science, the environment, and education through hands-on work placements in the Garden

For additional information, go to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's open house on Saturday, November 8, 2014. For more information or to register, contact the Brooklyn Botanical Garden at (718) 623-7252 or gap@bbg.org.

Applications for the Garden Apprentice Program are available online: www.bbg.org/gap. Applications are due by December 3, 2014.

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) offers free counseling and services to persons who have mortgage problems. They provide foreclosure prevention counseling, mortgage analysis, and financial and budget counseling. For more information, go to their open house on Thursday,

November 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m. at the Flatbush office, located at 2806 Church Avenue (between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues). RSVP by calling (718) 469-4679.

The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) will host a Halloween Parade and Harvest Festival on October 31st .The BID's Director, Mr. Daniel Murphy, is present in the audience and has fliers on the event.

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.

A motion was made Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sabine Bernards of the Citizens Committee for New York City.

Ms. Bernards stated that the Citizens Committee is a nonprofit organization which has been in existence for about forty years with the mission of helping New Yorkers come together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. They offer free community workshops on how mobilize your neighbors, raise funds, navigate city government, and more. They share tools, and tips custom-tailored to meet the needs of grassroots neighborhood groups.

They are currently offering two grants. The first is their "Love your Block Grant" which allows resident-led volunteer groups receive a grant of up to \$1,000 to and City services provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Transportation (assistance with such matters as having speed humps installed), and the Department of Sanitation of New York to help

improve their block. In addition to the cash grant and City services, groups receive project planning and community building assistance as well as support with local media coverage for the project. Applications may be obtained online at www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love-your-block and are due by November 7, 2014. You may contact her colleague, Imani Brown, for more information, at ibrown@citizensnyc.org or (212) 822-9567.

The second grant is their Neighborhood Grants, a micro-grant of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. They have issued this grant to residents of Community District #16 in the past and look forward to receiving more applications from the community.

The awards enable neighbors to come together to do such things as making healthy food available in their communities, transform empty lots into community gardens, organize tenants to advocate for better housing conditions, and start school recycling drives. The application deadline is January 26, 2015. A 501 (c) 3 is not needed to receive a grant.

For more information, contact Tehmina Brohi at tbrohi@citizensnyc.org or (212) 822-9563.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that it is the responsibility of property owners to maintain the sidewalks in front of their property. If the sidewalk is broken from street tree roots, the City can assist in getting repairs done. However, the damage must be reported to City; if someone trips due to this damage, the property owner is liable. She encourages the audience to take advantage of organizations such as the Citizens Committee to assist them in navigating through the process of having the City do these types of repairs. She then recognized Ms. Sophia James of Inner Force Early Learning Centers.

Ms. James stated she is the Director of Community Affairs for Inner Force Tots Early Education Agency. They are located at 1181 East New York Avenue (opposite Western Beef). They recently opened a second location on Church Avenue between Albany Avenue and East 42nd Street in East Flatbush.

They offer developmental opportunities for children from ages 2 to 5 years old as well as afterschool and summer learning programs. They are second largest single cell agency in New York City. They are currently enrolling students and offer tours of their facilities to interested parents. They accept HRA and ACD vouchers as well as private pay. They serve families who are in traditional housing as well as those who are in homeless shelters or domestic violence shelters. They believe in having a safe and consistent environment for the children. Enrollment information can be found on tonight's distribution table. She can be reached at (718) 221-1246.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2014 and was attended by Rasmia Kirmani-Frye and Aaron Evans of the Brownsville Partnership to provide an update on the 5,000 Jobs Campaign which was kicked off August 21, 2014 by members of the Design Team which consists of individuals from Community Solutions Brownsville Partnership, NYCHA, Brownsville Community Justice Center, NYC Small Business Services, Brooklyn Public Library, Community Board #16 as well as other residents and community based organizations.

The 5000 Jobs Campaign is an initiative of the Brownsville Partnership; with the goal of the initiative being to place 5,000 Brownsville residents into jobs by 2017. The design team has divided into three teams and focus on three NYCHA buildings in the Tilden Housing Development to include 265 Livonia Avenue, 275 Livonia Avenue and 340 Dumont Avenue. These three buildings have the most chronic unemployment rates in the housing development. The first 100 days of the initiative began on September 2, 2014 and will end on or about December 10, 2014 and will involve outreach to residents and gathering of information concerning resident's abilities and interests in employment.

In addition, the Committee encourages all residents who are seeking employment to utilize a Workforce1 Center 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.

The Committee will host "Introduction to Small Business Workshop" on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brownsville Heritage House, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard 2nd Floor; and encourage individuals who own or have interests in owning a small

business to please attend. The Workshop will be facilitated by a representative from NYC Small Business Solutions.

Additionally, The NYC Craft Entrepreneurship Program is coming to Brownsville during the week of November 10-19 and will take place over the course of 4 weeknights or 1 Saturday. The workshop will be held at the Stone Avenue Library, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard. This program is free and helps crafters establish an online business to sell products to the world and earn income. The Program will be facilitated by a representative from NYC Small Business Solutions.

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 Committee invites members of the community with interests in economic development to attend their next meeting which will be on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 6:30p.m.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report please feel free to contact Genese Morgan at bkl6@cb.nyc.gov.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that when information becomes available to the Board it is its duty to pass that information along. As such, she is informing members of the audience who are property owners that Building Inspectors currently in the District conducting building inspections of multi-family residences (3- or more family homes). Owners should ensure that all necessary documents are displayed in the proper manner, hallways are clear of obstructions, and doors are not key locked from the inside in order to avoid violations.

Adrainer Coleman, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 14, 2014 with representatives from the Department of City Planning who gave the Committee an update on the Sustainable Communities East New York study which encompasses the Broadway Junction area in Community District #16.

City Planning has completed their 2 year study and are seeking comments from the Board with regard to their recommendations. Members of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee toured the study area on two separate dates and are in the process of compiling their recommendations.

One of the suggestions is to rezone the area from MI-1 and MI-2 to residential which will bring existing residential properties into compliance and enable future housing development.

By bringing existing residential uses into conformance with zoning, it will reduce the barriers to refinancing and renovating homes. Also, rezoning could potentially discourage unfavorable uses such as hotels which will eventually become shelters.

In addition, rezoning could encourage additional housing to be developed on vacant and underutilized sites.

The Committee also met with representatives from the African American Planning Commission, Inc. and Common Ground who are proposing to develop 118 units of affordable and supportive housing on a vacant, City-owned lot on the north side of Livonia Avenue between Grafton Street and Howard Avenue (Block 3566, Lot 6). There will be a total of 73 units (52 studio; 16 one-bedroom, 5 two-bedrooms) of supportive housing and 45 units (2 studio, 16 one-bedroom, and 9 two-bedrooms) of affordable housing with 50% preference to Community District #16 residents.

By a majority vote, the Committee recommends that the Community Board support this project.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that members of Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee had an opportunity to tour the area of the East New York Sustainable Communities Study which is within Community District #16 to see firsthand the condition of the area and get a feel of how the proposals of City Planning will reflect on it. They went out on to separate occasions.

She requested that Ms. Pamela Junior come forward and give a brief summary of her observations.

Ms. Junior stated that last Saturday, seven members of the Board along with District Manager Greene-Walker toured the area around Broadway Junction and found a mixture of two family homes along with some industrial properties. There were no vacant properties. They recommend that the zoning be left as is in that area. The second area they toured was south of Atlantic Avenue between Van Sinderen Avenue and Sackman Street where they saw an entirely vacant block and recommend that two-family homes be built. They walked in the area adjacent to the Long Island Railroad (East New York Station) and found the area to be dark. Along Atlantic Avenue there is a four- or five-story residential apartment building, a men's shelter, and the King's Hotel. In order to get to one side of Atlantic Avenue from the other, you go down into a tunnel underneath the station which did not give them a pleasant feeling.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Junior for her summary.

Ms. Junior stated that she would like to hear what the other group's feelings were. Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated that it was similar but in the interest of time, the meeting will proceed. She encouraged the audience to also take the time to visit the area as well, if they are unfamiliar with it, and make their opinions and suggestions known to the Board.

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

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy stated thanked the community for their support in re-electing her as Female District Leader in the recent election.

She and District Manager Greene-Walker attended a groundbreaking ceremony at Betsy Head Playground earlier today. She is a little disappointed in the community turnout. It is important that we participate when projects come into our community. If we do not do this, they will take place without our input.

The Imagination Playground is two years in the making and was derived from one of the Advisory Board Meetings where it was stated that we need something new in the way of recreation in Brownsville. The Commissioner reached out to her and said that he had just the thing. That was the Imagination Playground where young people can use their imagination to build play structures. There are only two such facilities in the nation and one is in Brownsville. Something that the community should be proud of.

She holds her Advisory Board Meetings on the first Saturday of each month and encourages everyone to come out to the meeting and voice their concerns and suggestions. There is a plan to bring a court to this building which she is against. They want to bring three floors of court house facilities here. She asked why not build an additional three floors to house the formerly incarcerated who need housing. She believes that this community deserves something better than this plan. She ran on a campaign of jobs, not jails and yet here they are trying to bring another jail in our community. She showed them a facility that already had a courtroom setup but it was rejected as a site. The Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center is nearby and the youth can look out their windows and see their friends going into this building. This not a good thing for their psyche. She looks forward to hearing from the community on this issue good and bad.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that in past, she has requested that some of her Advisory Board Meetings be held on Sundays to allow those who cannot attend on Saturdays an opportunity to participate.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 15, 2014 and discussed follow-up action to improve health conditions in nail shops for both consumers and workers. The Committee will continue to survey consumers to educate them as to hazards in nail shops. They will also continue to collect surveys from consumers.

The Committee will be examining the issue of solitary confinement in the prison system and its impact on the mental health of prisoners. The Legislative Committee intends to collaborate with the Health and Human Services Committee and the Public Safety Committee on this issue because of the number of people who are in the prison system from our community.

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

Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that in September, she attended, completed, and was certified in NeighborWorks America's Emergency Response Training. This training provided very detailed information about:

- What occurs in a natural disaster?
- What you should know?
- Who you should know?
- Where to go?
- How to survive such a disaster?

The Public Safety Committee will collaborate with CERT #16 to share information, collectively plan for the District, and set up training for community members. She was advised that our community's roughly 84,000 residents, should have at least 18 teams to tend to its needs in such a situation; keeping in mind that in an emergency, first responders may not be available to immediately respond to everyone's needs.

The Committee was able to hold up its bargain with keeping things "nice" over the summer months, by working closely with NYPD, as well as being publicly visible and on task as was necessary all summer long. Ironically, just after the summer break was over, the crime spiked.

As Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, she requests that everyone contribute to the betterment of our community. A community needs 3 integral things to be successful:

1. To have pride in the community- Pick up litter and help us keep our community clean.
2. To feel safe- Walk with your family member to the store or school.
3. To be engaged with each other- Share ideas and learn from one another. Build from these ideas.

At the next Public Safety Committee meeting, we will be discussing the following:

- Know your rights on the street
- What to do to be prepared for an emergency
- What more can we do as civilians for safety.

You are reminded to keep your eyes open, and report anything that seems out of place. If you feel apprehensive about reporting directly to the appropriate agency, please reach out to the Community Board's office by calling (718) 385-0323 for assistance.

The Committee will meet again on November 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street in Room 103.

If you any have topics for the agenda to discuss at the meeting, please send it in to the office via email: bkl6@cb.nyc.gov.

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

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that members of the Senior Citizen Affairs Committee met on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 216 Rockaway Avenue.

An educational workshop was given on the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIB). As of July 1, 2014, the income limit has been increased to a maximum of \$50,000 for both SCRIB and DRIB.

The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIB) program administered by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development offers eligible seniors an exemption from future rent increases. If you qualify, your rent amount will be frozen and the City of New York will give your landlord a property tax credit which is equal to the amount of your future rent increases.

To qualify for SCRIB you must:

- Be at least 62 years old;
- rent an apartment that is rent controlled;
- rent stabilized, or hotel stabilized;
- be named on the lease or rent order or have granted succession rights to the apartment
- live in your apartment as your primary residence; have a household income that is \$50,000 or less in the previous calendar year, and
- Spend more than one-third of your monthly household income on rent.

To qualify for the Disability Rent Increase Exemption you must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- be named on the lease or rent order or been granted succession rights to the apartment
- rent an apartment defined as eligible under the law (Rent stabilized, rent controlled, Mitchell-Lama, limited dividend redevelopment, Housing Development Fund Company (HDFC) cooperative, or Section 213 cooperative
- have a total household income \$50,000 after allowable deductions,
- pay more than one-third of household monthly income for rent;
- receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Veterans Administration (VA) Disability Pension, VA compensation, or disability-related Medicaid.

Allowable deductions are federal, state, local, and Social Security taxes paid.

Tenants who live in private homes, a New York City Housing Authority development and/or receive Section 8 rental subsidies do not qualify for DRIE benefits.

The facilitator, Ms. Liz Ivery-Wallace from Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association assisted the seniors through the application process.

Some of the issues were that they needed to reapply for SCRIE and DRIE (some were rejected before the income guideline was changed) and making sure that the seniors understood the SCRIE and DRIE program and that they receive the benefits they are entitled to. Applications for SCRIE and DRIE are available on tonight's distribution table.

The next Senior Citizens Affairs Committee meeting will be on November 19, 2014.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on Monday, October 20, 2014 with a representative from the Department of Transportation who presented a proposal to erect a bike corral on the north side of Pitkin Avenue at Legion Street. One parking space will be eliminated to install the bike corral which will accommodate 8 bikes.

The Committee also heard a presentation from the Department of Transportation and Parsons, design consultants for Zion Triangle. The proposal is to reconstruct the park and temporary plaza bounded by Pitkin Avenue, Legion Street, and East New York Avenue. There will be new asphalt block pavement, benches, lighting, water fountain, amphitheater seating, fencing, trees and plantings, display cases against the Loew's building, and the monument will be reconstructed.

The Committee recommends that colorful pavers be used for the interior of the park.

The Committee also heard a presentation from representatives of the Brownsville Community Justice Center which is proposing to develop a temporary plaza on Osborn Street between

Belmont Avenue and the cul-de-sac. In addition, they are seeking the Community Board's support for a DOT arts project application which will enable them to paint a mural on the street.

The space will be programmed with activities for young people and adults. The Committee recommends that Community Board #16 support:

1. Bike corral on Pitkin Avenue at Legion Street
2. Zion Triangle design
3. Temporary plaza on Osborn Street between Belmont Avenue and the cul-de-sac and a DOT arts project at the same location.

Ms. Erica Mateo of the Brownsville Community Justice Center requested that the Board give recognition to some to the youth who worked on the murals and other community beautification projects in the community.

The youths came forward and were given a standing ovation by the audience.

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

Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

The Committee is presently working on a Proposed Mission Statement for the Women's Committee. Once it is finalized they will share it with the community.

They plan to host two forums for the upcoming year. The first will be in March 2015 during Women's History Month and will focus on incontinence. The second will be in June 2015. Once the exact dates, venues, and guest speakers have been confirmed we will apprise the community.

The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. via conference call.

If you have any issues that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact Ms. Pamela Junior at bkl6@cb.nyc.gov or the District Manager at (718) 385-0323. 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 Senator-elect Jesse Hamilton, III.

Senator-elect Hamilton, III thanked the community for their support during the elections. He introduced several members of his new staff and stated that he will have roving office in the community for the convenience of his constituents. The first of these will be at the Brownsville Heritage House tomorrow from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They will offer assistance in completing SCRIE and DRIE applications, HEAP applications and have employment resources available. He can be reached at (718) 284-4700.

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

Mr. Phillips stated that on behalf of Senator Sampson he thanks the community for their continued support in re-electing him as Senator for the 19th District which now covers Sheepshead Bay, Mill Basin, to City Line.

He echoed some of the sentiments heard earlier. He encouraged the use of services offered by agencies such as the Citizens Committee to bring forth positive changes to the community. Like Senator-Elect Hamilton, he grew up in Brownsville and remembers obtaining his lifeguard certification at Betsy Head Pool. One of his brothers played semi-pro baseball and was recruited by the New York Yankees at Betsy Head Park. He remembers a time when the schools of Brownsville were considered amongst the best the City had to offer, but now, because of lack of leadership the government is replacing public schools with corporate run institutions called charter schools.

We must stop allowing outsiders to control what happens in our community. We need to work cooperatively to build our own housing and develop our businesses. Funding exist on the federal, state, and city levels that we are failing to take advantage of to help us succeed.

We need to meet with our elected officials and come up with a plan to get this done.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, reported that District Attorney Thompson held a news conference about two weeks ago wherein District Attorney Thompson announced the his Conviction Review Board had two additional convictions overturned bringing the total to ten over his first ten months in office.

The District Attorney's website, www.brooklynda.org, is operational and on it you can see information on arrests, convictions and indictments. One of those indictments removed 12 drug dealers from Tilden Houses. District Attorney Thompson is committed bringing equal justice for us all.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, encouraged everyone to go out and vote on November 4th.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, reported that Borough President Adams held a host of events at Borough Hall from an Ebola Town Hall to the welcoming of the Brooklyn Bolts Football Team. On November 20th, he will host a Mitchel-Llama taskforce.

If there is an event that you would like the Borough President to attend, please contact him at (718) 802-2281.

Mr. Cory Provost, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported that a recent report by Comptroller Stringer shows that New York City spends billions of taxpayer dollars to purchase goods and services - everything from office supplies and heavy machinery to professional services and food for the City's 1.1 million school children. However, in Fiscal Year 2014, only 3.9 percent of the City's \$17.8 billion procurement budget went to Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE), a slight increase from the 2.7 percent share in Fiscal Year 2013 and a decline from the already small 5 percent share achieved in Fiscal Year 2012.

This is bad news for both taxpayers and our economy. A robust MIWBE program not only makes government more efficient for taxpayers by increasing competition in procurement, but also helps to foster an inclusive, competitive economy of shared prosperity throughout the five boroughs. Minority and women-owned business enterprises are crucial job engines in communities of color, and are also an increasingly important component of the city's overall economic future.

In an effort to increase transparency and boost agency performance around M/WBE spending, New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer is introducing "Making the Grade," an annual review that will analyze and grade City mayoral agencies based on their M/WBE spending in the prior fiscal year. It is intended as a diagnostic tool for agencies to measure their success in diversifying vendors using the framework of Local Law 1 of 2013 ("LL 1"), a law that updated M/WBE participation goals for certain procurements by mayoral agencies as of July 1, 2013 and set new goals in two additional industry sectors.

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

Captain Minch stated that beginning November 7, 2014, anywhere that there is no speed limit posted within the five boroughs, the speed limit will be 25 miles per hour. This represents a reduction of 5 miles per hour. Studies have shown this reduction will greatly reduce fatalities in accidents involving motor vehicles.

Crime is up slightly year-to-date but has been down in the past two weeks.

Someone asked if there is a speed limit sign with a lower speed will it remain in force?

Captain Minch stated that it would. This is only the case in school zones and nowhere else that he is aware of.

District Manager Greene-Walker reminded the audience that November 4th's ballot contains three propositions and she encourages the audience to familiarize themselves with the propositions before going to the polls.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Boone.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Medgar Evers Beacon Program and the Van Dyke Center. The Program's Director is Ms. Sandra Johnson.

He can be reached by calling (347) 522-3999 or (347) 770-5673. This is his 15th year with the Beacon Program and pleased to announce that a number of the youth with whom he began working with while they were in the first grade are now attending college with two having joined the Marine Corps.

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