

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

Attendance

David Alexander  
Shirley Baisden (A)  
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith  
Margaret Brewer  
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)  
Aaron Brown (A)  
Dr. Cleopatra Brown  
Anthony Clark  
Adrainer Coleman  
Carlos Diaz  
Brenda Duchene  
Christopher Durosinmi (A)  
Norman Frazier  
Danny Goodine  
Rose Graham  
Chanel Haliburton  
Sarah Hall  
Jessie Hilliard (E)  
Michael Howard (E)  
Prince Issachar (A)  
Daisy Jackson (E)  
Carl Joseph  
Pamela Junior (E)  
Eula Key  
Danny King  
Bettie Kollock-Wallace  
Charles Ladson  
Carolyn Lee  
Quardean Lewis-Allen

Albion Liburd (E)  
Deborah Mack (E)  
Yolanda Matthews (E)  
John McCadney, Jr.  
Andrea McCullough  
Genese Morgan  
Marie Pierre  
Mattie Pusey (A)  
Linda Rivera  
Wendy Rutherford (E)  
Celina Trowell (A)  
Ernestine Turner  
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu  
Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)  
Pat Winston  
Sylvester Yavana  
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager  
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant  
Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III  
Hon. Latrice Walker  
Hon. Darlene Mealy  
E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery  
Shelley Barrow for Hon. Nick Perry  
Tahira Moore for Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Oswaldo Pereira for Hon. Leticia James  
Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson  
Roopesh Ramjit for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.  
Charles Jackson for Hon. Yvette Clarke  
Maurice Philips for 19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and requested a moment of silence in memory of the late James Mack who had been a longstanding member of the Board and a staunch advocate for the community.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker requested that the reading of the minutes be suspended, as they are not available this evening.

She highlighted the following items found in her report:

1. The Brownsville Jobs Plus recruitment event on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at 330 Powell Street.
2. New York Drives, a free program that allows for individuals to receive their driver's license and attend training programs focusing on TV/film production, cable installation and woodworking.
3. The American-Italian Cancer Foundation's mobile, No-Cost Breast Cancer Screening Program scheduled to conduct screenings on Saturday, October 3, 2015.
4. The New York City Tenant Protection hotline at (917) 661-4505 for tenants living in Zip Codes 11212 or 11233 whose landlords have: 1) shut off services or refused to make repairs, 2) charged illegal fees or rent increases, 3) tried to evict you, or 4) harassed you in anyway, call for assistance.
5. The HomeBase program for tenants who are in jeopardy of losing their permanent housing because they have fallen behind in their rent.
6. The Youth Action Community Leadership Course – an afterschool program for high school students interested in learning the tools of effective advocacy and how to make positive changes in their communities.
7. The Brooklyn Public Library is seeking volunteers for their After School Homework Helper program. Volunteers give support, assistance, and encouragement to children in

grades 1-8 who need a little extra help with their homework. They are also seeking Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutors to help adults learn to read and write.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Norman Frazier to accept the report of the District Manager.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized the contingent from the Brownsville Partnership.

Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy stated that the Brownsville Partnership is an initiative of Community Solutions. She is present, this evening, with several of her colleagues to give an update on the MGB Pops which began operation on October 17, 2014 on Mother Gaston Boulevard between Belmont and Sutter Avenues. MGB Pops is a product of their 2013 Hope Summit during which they met with members of the community to obtain information on what the community felt was needed in the neighborhood. In direct response to local resident requests, Community Solutions, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association opened MGB Pops, the outdoor marketplace features food and retail options from local entrepreneurs in a community environment. The open air market began its new season in May of this year and will run through November 28th. They will also operate a holiday market in collaboration with the Pitkin Avenue BID.

Ms. Cherisse Abasali, Project Coordinator for the MGB Pops, displayed some before and after photographs of the lot where the market operates from. Much of the work was done in collaboration with the Brownsville Justice Center and Made in Brownsville.

Ms. Alanna Vaughns stated that for their coming one-year anniversary, they decided to interview some of the vendors who have established themselves at MGB Pops to get their views on what makes the market work for them. One in particular, Chef [Edward] Anthony, made an impression on her. He spoke about having found a passion for creating food after being taught to make his first ham and cheese sandwich. MGB Pops allowed him to pursue that passion without having to expend a lot of money which he does not have.

They want MGB Pops to be a space where neighborhood talents can be showcased. They invite the community to participate in the market as vendors and consumers.

Ms. Maygen Moore announced that they will host three special events, beginning with a Community Flea Market this coming weekend (September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) at the Gregory Jackson Center for Brownsville, located at 519 Rockaway Avenue where members of the community can come out and sell items they own and no longer want. Participation is free and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be live jazz played for entertainment.

October 17<sup>th</sup> marks their one-year anniversary and they will host their 2015 HOPE Summit on that date and invite everyone to join them.

Also in October, in collaboration with the Pitkin Ave Business Improvement District, they will host Pitkin POPS at the Zion Triangle (Legion Street and Pitkin Avenue). This is being done to increase awareness about MGB Pops to the community.

Ms. Kennedy thanked the Community Board, Ms. Genese Morgan and Ocean Hill Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement Association, and everyone else who supported them through their first year. Their next step is to take all the positives that have come from MGB Pops and spread it throughout Mother Gaston Boulevard to make it a safe, inviting, and viable shopping corridor that the community can be proud of.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias introduced his new Executive Officer, Captain Ahmad Othman.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct will be a pilot location for the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) Program, a new initiative of the Police Department. The program will change the way manpower is distributed in the Precinct in several key ways. Under the new program, the Precinct will be divided into four sectors. Each will have two NCOs, per sector who will connect with the community; getting to know the people and vice versa. The officers will receive additional training and will act as “one-stop” liaisons. They will coordinate with other agencies to try remedy issues that are brought to their attention, such as getting the Department

of Sanitation to remove an abandon vehicle. The Chief of Department will give a full presentation on the program on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue and he encourages everyone to attend.

Overall, crime, including shootings, is down year-to-date. However, there was an uptick in shootings, at the end of August. They ended with 14 shootings for the month; much of it gang-related. They have been able to identify a few of the perpetrators as well a few of the victims and affect some arrests.

Mr. David Alexander asked what percentage of arrests made in the Precinct, are of people residing in the Precinct?

Deputy inspector Iglesias stated that most of the arrests are homegrown; if not, they are from neighboring precincts such as Kingsborough Houses which is a single housing complex that is served by two precincts.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown requested that they be mindful of residents when setting up lights. One was placed at Strauss Street and Livonia Avenue with the lamp aimed at her window making it seem like day time in the middle of the night.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that on August 13<sup>th</sup> a shooting took place in the area with three persons being shot and one being killed. Based on their investigations, they believe that rival gangs from Saratoga Avenue were causing the mayhem. They decided to place the lights to illuminate the area a bit more. What appears to be happening is that people are maneuvering the lights. He is now having the lights checked daily. The gas caps on the generators are also being tampered with and are now being monitored with the intent of arresting anyone caught tampering with the units.

Ms. Genese Morgan asked if the NCOs will be headquartered out of locations in their zones or from the Precinct?

Deputy Inspector stated that they will operate out of the Precinct.

Someone asked how will the community know who the NCOs are?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he has created a list of the NCOs. Their job will be to reach out to all the community leaders through the Community Affairs Unit.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman asked if the NCO program will be in effect by next month?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that it is set to kick off on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Coleman asked if we will know their names?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that they will all be present at next month's Community Board meeting and will introduce themselves.

The following individuals were called and sworn in as Community Board members by Councilmember Darlene Mealy: Ms. Shirley Baisden (not present) Dr. Cleopatra Brown, Mr. Anthony Clark, Mr. Carlos Diaz, and Ms. Brenda Duchene. This was followed by Councilmember Mealy swearing in the Executive Board.

Councilmember Mealy the announced that her Advisory Board meets on the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

She thanked everyone who participated in the Old Timers Day events, her Brevoort Summer Concert Series which took place on each Thursday during the month of August which this year, featured Harold Melvin, and the Greg "Jocko" Jackson Film Festival which was attend by Rick Ross. These events help bring money into the community's economy and have been growing each year. She has also made sure that whenever a movie or television show is filmed in the community, someone from the neighborhood is hired on that shoot.

As a co-leader for the Women's Caucus of the City Council, she has pushed for there to be an initiative similar to the Black Male Initiative to empower young women ages 14 to 24 years old.

Someone asked what is in store for the community garden on Fulton Street between Rockaway Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street?

Councilmember Mealy stated that the lot was given Garden status by former City Council Speaker Christine Quinn; largely, through the efforts of the late Jerry Summers. It is likely to stay as a garden for the foreseeable future.

Ms. Cynthia Moices stated that today, developers showed their vision for what they want as the replacement to the Prospect Plaza NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) development. It calls for 248 units of affordable housing with 80 set aside for NYCHA residents. Will the affordability be based on Area Median Income (\$50,000 to \$80,000) or the median income of NYCHA residents? Secondly, why are only 80 units set aside for NYCHA residents?

Councilmember Mealy stated that this has been underway for about two to three years. Rents will be based on the Area Median Income.

Ms. Moices stated that she brings this up because there are more development projects coming to the community. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are due on September 30<sup>th</sup> for the NYCHA Next Generation proposal, with the next phase of the Livonia Avenue Initiative also coming soon. Will the community have an opportunity to view the plans before they are built?

Councilmember Mealy stated that they will be presented to the Community Board before being implemented. She encouraged her to attend the meeting and perhaps become a member of the Board.

Ms. Lisa Kenner stated that part of the reason why so many people are able to come into the community and do as they please is because they know that there is friction amongst the elected officials representing the community. Our elected officials must set aside their individual issues and work for the people whom they were elected to represent.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. requested that a comfort station be installed as part of the renovation of Betsy Head Playground.

Councilmember Mealy stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation originally planned to do a run of the mill renovation at this location. However, she insisted that something more be done and it was decided to install the second of its kind in the nation Imagination Playground. Amazingly, it cost about \$1.5 million to install a comfort station in a playground. However, she has just allocated the funds for the improvement.

Someone stated that they are hearing that NYCHA developments are being sold to private developers. Where will all the residents currently living in the developments go?

Councilmember Mealy stated that this concerns her as well; there are two housing complexes in her district that have been used as senior housing for decades that are now suddenly, being declared as not ever being designated as senior housing. Where are the seniors supposed to go?

The questioner stated that it is not just senior housing. This is taking place throughout NYCHA, including developments in this community. She is seeing her neighborhood change into one that she no longer knows. She is seeing people in the neighborhood that she does not recognize. Murals are being painted throughout the community that she does not understand.

Councilmember Mealy stated that she would like the community to sign a petition, that she has circulating, to have the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) place artwork that is reflective of the community in the stations being renovated along Livonia Avenue. When she goes to the station at Coney Island, the artwork depicts a Ferris wheel and beachgoers which reflects Coney Island. Why not have works that reflect the makeup of our community in the stations in our community.

Someone stated that she has a concern that we are paving a way towards the gentrification of our own communities. We create beautification projects such as the MGB Pops only to be forced out five years later. She operates a market in the Bushwick community where she has seen entrepreneurs of color beautify an area, only to have a bunch of Europeans come in and price them out the area. She wants our communities to be wary of this.

Mr. Quardean Lewis-Allen stated that he is a lifelong resident of Brownsville and that he operates Made-in-Brownsville. They worked on the design and painting of the murals at MGB Pops with youth from the community. He believes that it is important to separate this from other murals that may have been done at other locales. What owners paint on walls that they own privately is normally not in the control of the community and it is difficult to have discussion on each and every lot.

He also thinks that there are organizations in Brownsville, such as the Brownsville Partnership and the Brownsville Community Justice Center, that engage the youth of the community and are trying to collectively change the narrative around what gentrification looks like in our community.

Councilmember Mealy asked how many people from Brownsville have been employed at MGB Pops?

Mr. Lewis-Allen stated that Brownsville Partnership should be contacted for that information. However, as a co-applicant for the grant which spawned MGB Pops, he can say that the goal is to reach out to local entrepreneurs and provide a location to serve as an incubator for their businesses.

Councilmember Mealy stated that because it is making use of city-owned land, more discussion should have taken place about its use.

She reiterated that she is against the installation of a Family Justice Center at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. She believes that this sends a poor message to our youth. She is currently seeking an alternative location for the center. She can be reached by calling (718) 953-3097.

Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy invited the audience to visit the MGB Pops and see, first-hand, what it is about. Additionally, Brownsville Partnership, Ocean Hill-Brownsville Neighborhood Improvement, NYCHA - REES (Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability), and CAMBA have worked hard to spread the word about opportunities at MGB Pops. She has personally attended several Community Board meetings to announce these opportunities. Of the first group of vendors, those who were not from Brownsville were either from one of the neighboring communities or had a very strong commitment to their mission which is to ensure that Brownsville has diverse retail options. If someone does not believe that this should be their goal, she invites them to them to come discuss the issue with her. She extends an invitation to Councilmember Mealy to visit MGB Pops and mentioned that invitations to their events are always sent to her office, and they would love to see her at one of their events and would welcome her with open arms.

She encourages anyone with questions regarding their work in the community to reach out to her at (929) 252-9291.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Arielle Newton of St. Nick's Alliance's Skills Training Program.

Ms. Newton stated that St. Nick's Alliance is a Brooklyn-based organization which offers free job training and placement services in specific skilled industries. They offer training to help trainees obtain Class B Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Construction for Environmental Industry Certificates. All of their training programs are free of charge.

Persons interested in the CDL Training, must have at least six months of professional driving experience. This can be from driving a taxi cab, Access-a-Ride, or even driving a "dollar" van. The experience can come from "off the books" employment as long as it is verifiable. Candidates must also possess a New York State driver's license that has been valid for at least three years and a driver's abstract that is no older than three months at the time of registration, with no more than two points on the abstract. The abstract may not contain any driving under the influence (DUI), driving while impaired (DWI), or drug possession violations.

The Environmental Training Program offers the Ten-hour OSHA Construction course, the Forty-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (Hazwoper), and Confined Space Certification. Candidates are required to have at least six months of experience working in a construction related field. Again, this can be from verifiable "off the books" employment.

General qualifications for their programs include possession of valid IDs and things of that nature. She offered flyers to interested persons.

Someone stated that on most construction sites, employees are required to have OSHA Certification. How can prospective trainees have construction related work experience if they are required to have a certificate to work such jobs?

Ms. Newton stated that the construction related experience can be from many different sources. They may have worked as a painter or another trade not requiring certification. They may have worked as an “off the books” laborer where, frankly, many contractors overlook the OSHA requirements. They may have had the certificate and allowed it to lapsed and are reapplying.

They offer information sessions every Wednesday and Thursday at 2:00 p.m. at their offices, located at 790 Broadway (between Ellery Street and Marcus Garvey Boulevard) near the Flushing Avenue station on the “J” train and Woodhull Hospital. Their telephone number is (718) 302-2057, extension 245.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015. The meeting was attended by Maygen Moore and colleagues of Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership, Opal Bablington of Roc Magic Taste Kitchen Inc., and Blas Brown of Brooklyn Rotisserie Chicken.

The Committee reviewed two (2) liquor license applications:

Roc Magic Taste Kitchen Inc. is applying for a beer and wine license. The business is family owned and is located at 140 Lott Avenue.

- a) The business is not located within 200 feet of a place of worship
- b) The business is not located within 500 feet of a school house
- c) The business has submitted to a tour of business

Brooklyn Rotisserie Chicken is applying for a beer license. The business is a family owned Caribbean restaurant located at 109 Belmont Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11212.

- a) The business is located within 200 feet of a place of worship
- b) The business is located within 500 feet of a school house
- c) The business has submitted to a tour of business

The Committee recommends that the Board support both applications as the Committee feels that they will add to the economic growth of our community.

The Committee also met with Maygen Moore from Community Solutions/Brownsville Partnership to receive an update on programs of the Brownsville Partnership. The Brownsville Partnership continues to operate the MGB Pops Marketplace at 425 Mother Gaston Boulevard where at least one former business has successfully opened a brick and mortar operation following its initial business launch at the marketplace. Additionally, the Brownsville Partnership will host a flea market which is free to vendors of the community on Friday, September 25, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 519 Rockaway Avenue and Pitkin POPS will be held on Friday, October 23, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Furthermore, the 5,000 Jobs Campaign continues to undergo a re-organization; however, additional information regarding job fairs in October/November will be forthcoming.

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 our next meeting which will be Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report should feel free to contact Genese Morgan at bk16@cb.nyc.gov

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Sylvester Yavana and carried by a vote of 14 – in favor 4 – against, and 2 – abstention to accept to accept the report of the

Economic Development Committee and its recommendations to support the above mentioned liquor license applications.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported that on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, the Committee held a teleconference and discussed safety in our community. Where we were, where we are currently and where we would like to be.

Two years ago, the Committee began to reach out to the community to learn and identify stakeholders and organizations.

Last year, they began planning with the community stakeholders and organizations to improve the safety conditions.

This year, the Committee would like to continue the momentum by strengthening the positive resources available to the community.

This includes discussions about revitalizing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), getting in shape as a community for emergency situations, communicating the value in each and every one of our members and using every strength and talent we have to improve our lives as a community.

She is excited about this upcoming season and the Committee welcomes all comments and suggestions which may be forwarded to the District Manager's office.

She extends a welcome to the new members of the Board and invites them to be a part of the Public Safety Committee. The Committee covers many topics having to do with everyday life in our community.

The next meeting will be held on October 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board's office.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester Yavana, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 with representatives from Brownsville Partnership who informed us that the MGB Pops Street Seats had its ribbon-cutting on July 28, 2015 on Mother Gaston Boulevard between Belmont and Sutter Avenue.

The MGB Pops marketplace is open on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the Committee encourages the community to support the vendors.

The Committee met with representatives from the Dr. Walter A. Kyte Memorial Foundation who are requesting that Glenmore Avenue between Watkins Street and Van Sinderen Avenue be co-named in memory of Dr. Kyte.

The Committee also met with a representative from the Universal Temple Church of God, Inc, who requested that Eastern Parkway between Ralph and Howard Avenues be co-named in memory of Bishop Landon Penn.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support the following resolutions:

Whereas, Dr. Walter A. Kyte began his career with the Board of Education in School District #23 as a Title I Reading Teacher in 1973, and

Whereas, Dr. Walter A. Kyte was appointed as an Assistant Principal of JHS 263 in School District #23 in 1991, and

Whereas, Dr. Walter A. Kyte was appointed in 1996 as Principal of P.S/I.S. 298 in School District #23, and

Whereas, Dr. Walter A. Kyte was appointed in July 2004 as Superintendent of School District #23, and

Whereas, Dr. Walter A. Kyte was an outstanding Superintendent, Principal, Teacher, mentor and a pillar of the community.

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #16 support the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue between Watkins Street and Van Sinderen Avenue in memory of Dr. Walter A. Kyte.

Whereas, Bishop Landon E. Penn was the Founder of the Universal Temple Church of God which was organized and established in 1969, and

Whereas, Bishop Landon E. Penn was a pillar of the Brownsville community and served as President of the 73rd Precinct Clergy Council and a member of Community Board #16, and

Whereas, Bishop Landon E. Penn as Pastor of the Universal Temple Church of God invested both naturally and spiritually in the development of the Brownsville community by providing affordable housing, feeding and clothing the homeless,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #16 support the co-naming of Eastern Parkway between Ralph and Howard Avenues in memory of Bishop Landon E. Penn.

Ms. Joyce Simmons, representing Councilmember Inez, read a testimonial letter from Councilmember Baron in support of co-naming Glenmore Avenue in memory of Dr. Kyte.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Penn, daughter of the late Bishop Landon E. Penn, read a biography and testimonial letter in support of co-naming Eastern Parkway between Ralph and Howard Avenues in memory of Bishop Penn.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded Ms. Linda Rivera and carried by a vote of 20 – in favor 0 – against, and 1 – abstention to adopt the resolutions for the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue between Watkins Street and Van Sinderen Avenue in memory of Dr. Walter A. Kyte and the co-naming of Eastern Parkway between Ralph and Howard Avenues in memory of Bishop Landon E. Penn and to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of Women's Committee, reported that the Committee held its "Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville Forum" on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at Heritage House and it was well attended. The attendees shared stories of personal overcoming's and encouragement. The Committee had many giveaways which were a huge hit. It was a successful event that the Committee will consider hosting yearly.

The Committee recently met on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> via conference call. Discussion was had as to initiatives that the committee should focus on through June 2016. Suggestions included:

- Hosting an event in June 2016 similar to the Young Queens of Ocean Hill – Brownsville event that the Committee sponsored this past June 2015
- Hosting a Mother / Daughter Brunch with a guest speaker in May to celebrate Mother's Day
- Partnering with other women organizations in the community for events and inviting those organizations to engage in Committee meetings

Grandparents are known to be instrumental to the family, the Committee will find ways to involve them in their events.

The Women's Committee has also created a Facebook page entitled "Ocean Hill - Brownsville Women's Committee" as an additional means to get information to the residents of Community District #16 and the surrounding communities.

Lastly, she sadly shares with the audience that one of the Committee members, Ms. Maxine Dotson, passed away last week. Her homegoing service was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Dotson was very committed to the Committee and serving the girls / women of Ocean Hill – Brownsville and will truly be missed.

Please let us know if there are any issues that you would like for the Committee to address. The Committee can be contacted by either calling our District Manager, Ms. Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or sending an email to bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

The Committee invites you to join them as advocates for the community.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre reminded Board members that as members of the Board, they are expected to join and be active on at least one committee. Members who have not met that criteria are urged to complete a committee request application which can be found in their folders.

Mr. David Alexander stated that the application asks for a resume. Is that necessary?

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace stated it is for new members.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that she sees that there is a Youth Service Planning Committee to address the needs of 14 to 24 year olds; however, she believes that there should also be an Education Committee to address the needs of our elementary school aged children and the public schools serving them.

Mr. Alexander invited her to attend the Youth Service Planning Committee meeting as they also address those concerns.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Assemblywoman Latrice M. Walker who announced that her District Office, located on the second floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue (between Pitkin and Glenmore Avenues) is now open, permits for usage of the elevator have been issued and become effective on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The office design was done by a neighborhood Harvard trained architect who is known as "Q". She invites the community to visit the office. The telephone number is (718) 342-1257. Her regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting are held on the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

She is also pleased to announce that Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie has name her Chairperson of the Renewable Energy Subcommittee. She is proud of the appointment, as it is rare for a new member to be named a chair of anything in the Assembly. They are set to embark on the REV (Renewing the Energy Vision) initiative which will have Con Edison making a \$300,000,000 investment in this community. Adding this to the previous \$700,000,000 of investments she previously obtained for the community, they now have a billion dollars of slated investments for the community in nine short months. Along with these investments, they have allocated nearly \$4,000,000 in funding for local community-based organizations and schools. She is not stopping there either.

Lastly, on a personal note, she announced that she is now engaged to be married to Mr. Johnathan Anderson (a date has not been set). It has, indeed, been a blessed year for her and she thanks the community for their part in those blessings.

Mr. Charles Ladson requested that a bill be drawn, to get persons with mental health issues who are walking our streets without the help that they need, off the streets.

Assemblywoman Walker stated that this is the type of input she wants to hear about and discuss at her Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Ladson stated that we also need to have elevators installed at the subway stations in the community.

Assemblywoman Walker stated that it is not in this year's MTA budget. However, it is something that can be looked at for future budgets.

Senator Jesse Hamilton, III stated that Brownsville is the next frontier. People are discovering Brownsville as the new frontier to make things happen. They want to place new housing; they want to create jobs, and to create a youth court. He, however, thinks we should be putting the money on the front end. Instead of focusing on rehabilitating our youth after they become involved in the justice system, let us put programs in place that will help the child that is not

reading on grade level get help so that they get supplemental assistance to get on grade level. We should not have a fifth grader reading at a second grade level. We should not have young men without jobs unable to get job training, unless they are court involved.

What he wants to do is ensure that our young people have the skill sets necessary to compete in the open market. We need to bring technology into our classrooms. There are schools in some places that no longer use textbooks. In today's world, if you write a standard textbook on technology, it is already out of date by the time it goes to print. We need to get tablets into your classrooms. We need to teach our children how to code. A properly trained youth can earn \$80,000 a year to code, straight out of high school. Youth from other communities are getting these types of jobs. They are not smarter than our youth; they are just getting better opportunities.

He has placed resource guides and a Brownsville specific newsletter on the distribution table. His district consists of neighborhoods that are diverse; the issues of one are not necessarily the issues of the others. For this reason, he has created newsletters specific to each of the communities. He asks that the audience take advantage of the information.

He is a member of the Senate's Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and is astounded by the fact that people of color do not seek the help of mental health professionals. Whites go to a psychologist without issue, but in the Black community you hear things like "She's okay, she's just a little 'touched'." We end up not getting the help we need to deal with the stresses we may have. Everyone deals with stress differently; some people drink, some smoke, others may shout the rafters off at church, and still others become violent. Youth who may already be challenged with lack of direction, end up hurting themselves or others. Few people wake up in the morning and say I'm going to shoot somebody, just for the fun of it. They are stressed and have not found a way to manage their anger and someone gets hurt.

Governor Cuomo's Aide, Carey Gabay, was shot just blocks from his office. There is talk of shutting down the Labor Day Parade by saying there is too much violence. Do not let them fool you, the most violence takes place on the Fourth of July, and yet, you will never hear anyone talk of not having Fourth of July or St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The violence occurs because we lack jobs, better education, and affordable housing which amasses to some people acting violently. In Crown Heights, affordable housing is nearly non-existent with one-bedroom apartments at \$1,800 being termed as affordable. The wave is coming into Brownsville; we cannot stop it. The question becomes how are we going to deal with it? Are we going to let it overcome us or will we choose to organize and control it?

He will host a seminar on navigating the restaurant business on the September 24<sup>th</sup> and a Mental Health Forum on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mental health issues is at the core of many of our problems. We have young women entering a shelter with one child and leaving with three. If she cannot care for one child, how will she care for three?

They offer assistance with many issues at his District Office and also have their Mobile Office that come to the neighborhood. You will see them often near the train stations and other neighborhood locations. Call his office to get information at (718) 284-4700.

Ms. Lisa Kenner asked who is the liaison to the community from his office.

Senator Hamilton stated that he is in the process of hiring a permanent liaison with an eye toward someone who is from the community. Stuart Nesbitt will serve the community in the interim. The position will initially be a part-time position, but could end up being a full-time position, for the right person. Interested persons may submit their resume to his office.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that Black people are being forced out of their homes in the community through gentrification. Where are we supposed to live?

Senator Hamilton stated that it is not a color thing. It is financial. He talks to Whites in Park Slope and they are saying they cannot afford to live there anymore, so they move to Prospect Heights, forcing those residents out. It has a cascading effect. We need to better our economic position so that we can afford the rising prices. Whites are not moving into Brownsville to be with us; they are moving here because it is what they can afford.

Mr. Charles Jackson, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that Congresswoman Clarke will be voting to support the nuclear deal with Iran. It is an imperfect deal but the best we

have available. If you have questions concerning the agreement, feel free to call Congresswoman Clarke's office. However, before calling, please take the time to read firsthand exactly what is contained in the agreement by visiting the State Department's website (state.gov). Do not rely on what you heard by the various talking heads.

Over the summer, they fielded numerous calls from concerned constituents who received telephone calls from parties stating to be the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) demanding money of the caller. First and foremost, no government agency will ever call anyone without that person first having reached out to the agency with a request or concern. They may send many letters, but they will not call you. Should you receive a call or other correspondence you suspect to be fraud, please call the Treasury Department's Hotline at (800) 366-4484.

Congresswoman Clarke's office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142, Extension 17. Her District Office is located at 123 Linden Boulevard, Fourth Floor. Constituents may also email him with their concerns at richard.jackson@mail.house.gov. He asks that you provide as many details as possible to help resolve your issues.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, reported that Borough President Adams held an emergency meeting with stakeholders and the Police Department regarding the shooting of Mr. Gabay and the future of the Labor Day Parade. Borough President Adams will not support any plans to shut down the parade. As Senator Hamilton stated, there would never be talk of shutting down the Fourth of July Parade. The Boston Marathon had a bombing and there was no talk of not having it again. However, we must find ways to reduce the violence plaguing our communities.

An Anti-Gun Violence Forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Borough Hall. Borough President Adams wants to hear from community leaders, community organizations, and rehab organization to try to find some answers to the problem.

Borough President Adams' website is in operation and is user friendly. He encourages the public to visit the site.

Mr. McDaniel announced the Borough President is making turkeys available to community organizations providing Thanksgiving dinners to the community. Groups should contact Ms. Eileen Newman at (718) 302-3806 or email her at enewman@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

The Borough President's Office can be reached by calling, (718) 802-3700, (718) 802-2681 for Constituent Services, and (347) 942-1692 (cell) or (718) 802-3777 (office) to reach Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Oswaldo Pereira, representing Public Advocate Letitia James, reported that the following actions were taken by the Public Advocate over the summer:

- 1) She filed a lawsuit against the Department of Education over a consistent lack of air conditioning on buses that transport disabled children to and from school.
- 2) She filed a class action lawsuit in federal court against the New York City Administration for Children Services and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, accusing them of "causing irreparable harm" to the 11,000 children in the city's foster care system.
- 3) She introduced a resolution calling for the New York City Employee Retirement System (NYCERS) to divest from companies such as Walmart.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the Board of NYCERS voted unanimously to divest from these companies. These shares were valued at over one hundred million dollars. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Walmart announced that it will no longer sell semi-automatic rifles or the ammunition for such weapons.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, reported that on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the Brooklyn District Attorney's office held a 'Begin Again' event to lift open arrest warrants related to summonses for low-level offenses ranging from public intoxication, the most common violation, to being in a park after closing. Over one thousand individuals attended the two-day event and 592 warrants were cleared. A second one-day event was held earlier this month, with 786 individuals seen and 652 warrants cleared.

The Begin Again initiative is part of a larger summons reform movement that aims to make it easier for individuals to respond to summonses and ultimately, avoid arrest warrants. The

success of the Begin Again events highlights the importance of this ongoing initiative to enhance equal justice and District Attorney Thompson delivered a letter directly to the Mayor requesting that the City also participate in funding the events.

The District Attorney's office was recently involved with the takedown of 26 individuals in a heroin trafficking ring operating out of Williamsburg thereby, removing 2 kilos of pure heroin taken off the streets.

He wants Brooklyn to be a place with equal justice for all; If you do wrong you will be prosecuted. However, those who are trying to do right, but somehow made a minor mistake deserve to be helped. He encourages everyone to reach out to their hotline at (718) 250-2340, to report issues crime or quality of life. The hotline is answered live, Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Messages maybe left at other and you will receive a call back.

Mr. Roopesh Ramjit, representing Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., announced that Councilmember Espinal wants to hear from the community on the issue of rezoning and other city-related issues. His District Office is located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

Ms. Shelley Barrow, representing Assemblyman Nick Perry, reported that Assemblyman Perry strongly supports Brookdale Hospital and has allocated \$400,000 for the purchase of a CT Scanner and funds to install an automatic front door at the Hospital. He is also supporting legislation to bring New York's minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour. His District Office is located at 903 Utica Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 385-3336.

Ms. Tahira Moore of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit announced that she is the newly appointed Brooklyn Borough Director for the Unit and can be reached by calling (212) 788-1369 or via email at [tmoore@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:tmoore@cityhall.nyc.gov).

Mr. Henry Butler, representing the Brooklyn Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), announced that the NAACP, in collaboration with Build Up NYC, the Consortium Workers for Education, Jobs to Build On and the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation are sponsoring Trade Union Learning Day, on October 28, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. They invite everyone to come out and learn about new opportunities for careers in construction, building maintenance and operations, security and the hotel industry.

Representatives from construction pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, 32BJ SEIU and the Hotel Trades Council will be on hand to answer questions about their industries.

A closing prayer was said by Mr. John McCadney, Jr.

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