

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

Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Carolyn Lee (E)
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)
Margaret Brewer	Albion Liburd (A)
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	Deborah Mack
Aaron Brown (A)	Yolanda Matthews
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	John McCadney, Jr.
Anthony Clark	Andrea McCullough (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Genese Morgan
Carlos Diaz	Marie Pierre (E)
Brenda Duchene (E)	Mattie Pusey (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Linda Rivera (E)
Norman Frazier	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Danny Goodine	Celina Trowell
Rose Graham	Ernestine Turner
Chanel Haliburton (E)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Sarah Hall	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Jessie Hilliard (E)	Pat Winston
Michael Howard	Sylvester Yavana
Prince Issachar	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Daisy Jackson (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Carl Joseph (A)	Hon. Latrice Walker
Pamela Junior (E)	Richard Nelson Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Eula Key	Frieda Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Danny King	E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Shelton Jones for Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Charles Ladson	

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and requested a moment of silence in lieu of an invocation.

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

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that year-to-date crime is down 8.5%, robberies are down 11%, shootings are down 14% (this represents 10 less shootings this year- 61 versus 71 last year), and homicides are down by 40%. He credits some of the success to the many initiatives which were implemented this year.

The program he is seeking to exploit the most is the NCO (Neighborhood Coordinating Officer) Program which seeks to foster relationships within the community and gather information to help their crime fighting efforts in the community.

When reporting crime statistics, he likes to focus on the person to person crimes such as robberies and shootings. If anyone would like him to discuss other policing issues he will gladly oblige.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that there is a lot of activity, especially those involving youth, in the area of Betsy Head Park. She requested that police officers patrol the area between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days. This would reduce the many instances of the youth ganging up on each other.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he has youth officers in the area of Thomas S. Boyland Street and Blake Avenue from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. He can move some officers to the Betsy Head Park area.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that the spotlight located at Thomas S. Boyland Street is blinding oncoming traffic. Can it be dimmed slightly?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that it cannot be dimmed. The light was placed at the location in response to an increase of gang activity in the area and has resulted in lower crime. Since its placement, he has heard arguments for and against keeping it there. He will see if it can be maneuvered to be less obstructive to oncoming drivers.

A roll call of Board Members was taken and a quorum was not present.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Sylvia Ancrum from the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Ms. Ancrum stated that she is an Outreach Coordinator with the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). CCRB is an independent agency. They have an Administrative Prosecution which prosecutes police officers found to committed misconduct. They are empowered to receive, investigate, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers alleged to use excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. The Board's 13 members are made up civilians appointed by the mayor (5), the City Council (5), and the Police Commissioner (3). The Board's investigative staff, composed entirely of civilian employees, conducts investigations in an impartial fashion. The Board forwards its findings to the police commissioner.

Police officers have a dangerous job and our communities depend on them. However, they must do their jobs using the rules set forth in the Patrolmen's Guidelines. Police officers are expected to perform their duties with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. To be frank, this does not occur in all situations. However, we should still expect that police officers to comply with the rules.

The case law used to determine an officer's compliance with the rules is the People of the State of New York v. De Bour. The ruling establishes requirements for police interaction.

In the course of his or her duties a police officer is allowed to question individuals. Level 1 encounters deals with a police officer who has an objective credible reason to approach someone. If a police officer has such a reason, De Bour says he may approach you to request information such as your name, your destination, and/or your purpose for being in the area. He or she may ask for identification. CCRB urges you to comply with such request even though it is not required of you.

A Level 2 encounter involves a founded suspicion regarding a person. If a police officer has a founded suspicion, he may engage that person in the common law right of inquiry. The police officer may ask accusatory questions such as "do you know about a robbery?". Once again, CCRB suggest that you try to de-escalate by answering the officer's questions. However, at a Level 1 or Level 2 encounter, you are free to leave. Your question to the police officer is "Am I free to leave?". [Failing to wait for an affirmative response to this question may lead the officer to interpret your leaving as fleeing and raise the encounter one level; raising a Level 2 encounter into a Level 3 encounter where a police officer may now lawfully pursue you.]

Level 3 deals with a police officer who has a reasonable suspicion regarding an individual. In such case, the police officer may forcibly stop such person and if the police officer is in fear of weapons, may frisk the person for such weapons. When a level 3 encounter takes place a police officer must provide you with a stop receipt stating the exact reason why he or she stopped you. A Level 3 encounter does not give you the right to leave freely prior to the officer completing his or her investigation.

[Level 4 deals with a police officer who has probable cause regarding a person. If a police officer has probable cause, he may arrest and search such person.]

If you are the victim of or witness to police misconduct you are asked to call CCRB at (800) 341-CCRB [2272], 3-1-1, or visit their website at [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb).

As an Outreach Coordinator, she gives presentations at schools, probationary programs, and other not-for-profit programs. Anyone who would like to speak to her about a presentation, may see her at the end of tonight's meeting.

Having acquired a quorum, a motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall, and carried to waive the reading of the minutes of last month's meeting.

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

- The availability of applications for Prospect Place, and King’s Villa.
- A “Get Alarmed” event to take place at 444 Thomas S. Street on January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Department Sanitation’s holiday garbage collection schedule.
- Mulchfest 2016 locations and guidelines.
- The Department of Homeless Services’ request for volunteers for their 2016 Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE).
- Job opportunities with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Geneva Farrow from Ideal Properties Group.

Ms. Farrow stated that she works for Ideal Properties Group, LLC. as a Licensed Real Estate Sales Agent. She is here this evening to inform property owners on ways to protect themselves from losing their homes through fraud.

She has noticed an increase of this type of activity, of late. She recently went to the home of an individual who told her that it was not for sale, although it was in-fact listed as being for sale. The owner had unknowingly signed the home over to someone who he thought was assisting him in resolving a foreclosure situation. This is happening more frequently, as Brownsville and East New York are becoming the next targeted place because of the low cost of homes in the communities.

If you are having trouble paying your mortgage such as being in lis pendens – meaning that the mortgage on the property is at least two months in arrears but not yet in foreclosure, you will receive calls concerning possible sale of the property. When a property is in lis pendens status it is placed on a publically available list of all such properties. There will be offers to purchase the property all cash. Be wary of such offers and tell your friends and family, especially the elderly, to be wary of these offers, as they are often scams.

There are a few ways in which they function. One way in which the fraudsters scam property owners is to offer to buy the property at a price that is well under market value. They may offer to buy a home for \$200,000; telling the homeowner that they can close in a short period of time, clear their \$150,000 and walk away with \$50,000. The homeowner, being in a state of duress, accepts the offer not realizing their home’s true value is \$500,000.

One thing that you can do when someone approaches you to buy you home is to ask them who they are. In the State of New York, Real Estate Agents must be licensed and operate under certain guidelines that protect the consumer. The same is true of lawyers. There are many players involved in the sale of property, but oftentimes, the parties soliciting you to sell your property are investors seeking only to make themselves rich without any concern of what happens to you. They will usually tell you that they can provide everyone necessary to close the deal, i.e.: lawyers, brokers, etc. The problem with this is that no one is there to protect your rights and interests. You should always have someone at the table who represents you and your interests.

If you find yourself in a lis pendens situation, communicate with your bank and find out what programs are available to assist you. Do not act in a panic, do not avoid phone calls from your bank.

If you are not in foreclosure you do not need to short sale your home. It is only when your mortgage holder forecloses on your property that you must sell on their terms. Until then, if you wish to sell, speak to a licensed realtor who can help you in properly pricing the property.

Mr. Charles Ladson related a situation wherein a family member’s property had a lien placed on it due to water bills that were in arrears.

Ms. Farrow stated that this is another reason why home owners get placed on a list which cause them to be called about buying their homes. When entering any agreement regarding your home you should seek out the assistance of a lawyer. She realizes that a lawyer can be costly at a time when money is hard to come by, however, with some resourcefulness, you may be able to find a pro-bono lawyer who can help you.

Someone asked what is “lis pendens”?

Ms. Farrow stated that lis pendens is when you have fallen 90 days or more behind on your mortgage. When you are in lis pendens your property will be populated on a list. Because there are so many foreclosures, it may take a while before your bank places you in foreclosure. As long as you are not in foreclosure, you may sell your home at full value.

The questioner asked if you have been in foreclosure for two years can you sell your property at full value.

Ms. Farrow stated that the key distinction is foreclosure. If your bank has placed you in foreclosure, they must approve any transaction with the property.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2015. The meeting was attended by Mr. Quardean Lewis-Allen of Made in Brownsville a local non-profit organization.

Made in Brownsville has been awarded \$25,000 in funding from the New York City Department of Small Business Services to conduct capacity building along Belmont Avenue.

Mr. Lewis-Allen shared with the Committee a draft of the survey that has been designed to obtain feedback from Brownsville consumers and local merchants. The final survey will be distributed throughout the month of January 2016 in preparation for planning and implementation of a project that is directly informed by the responses to the survey. The implementation phase will begin in March 2016 and end by June 2016.

On Friday, December 11, 2015 the New York City Department of Small Business Services held the first vision meeting to plan for the locating of a WorkForce1 Center in the Brownsville/East New York community. The meeting was attended by Ms. Genese Morgan and District Manager Viola Greene-Walker. As part of the initial discussion, each organization attending the meeting was asked to indicate barriers to employment related to their community in three different categories.

The NYC SBS questions and Community Board #16’s answers were as follows:

*Youth Services*

Question: What are the primary drivers of out-of-school/out of work youth?

Answers: Family obligation, housing/homelessness, lack of awareness of occupation options and career paths.

Individuals who were formerly incarcerated.

Question: What are the major barriers to employment?

Answers: Educational requirements, lack of use of faith based institutions and discrimination

*Occupational Training*

Question: What are major barriers to participation?

Answers: Must pass criminal history checks, lack of awareness of training opportunities and transportation.

Question: What candidate services are needed to best prepare residents for employment?

Answers: Job search services, professional identity development and financial education.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, may contact Ms. Morgan at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov).

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that in an effort to address and resolve quality of life issues raised at the October and November 2015 CAMBA Advisory Council meetings, a follow-up meeting was held on December 9, 2015. Present at this meeting were Mr. Louis Molina, Senior Advisor for Security and Emergency Operations to the DHS Commissioner, CAMBA Vice Presidents and Program Directors for Atlantic House, Magnolia House, and Flagstone Center, and representatives from the 73rd Precinct.

Mr. Molina was very upfront with his answers to most of our questions and actually explained some DHS policies and the current homeless shelters situations and their strategy to combat the growing statistics.

At this meeting, the following update was reported and facts were provided:

- In addition to CAMBA's security guards, DHS Peace Officers have been assigned to the Atlantic Men's and Magnolia Women's Shelters from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily. This has resulted in less emergency calls to the 73rd Precinct.

Police Officers of the 73rd Precinct confirmed the welcomed impact of the presence of the DHS Peace Officers in the shelters. Loitering and suspicious activities near the shelters have been significantly reduced.

- At the Magnolia Women's Shelter, full-time psychiatric services are provided two days per week. Additionally, two case managers and two peer counselors have been assigned.

- Year to date Placements in Permanent Housing:

Magnolia House-100

Atlantic House-135

The Gathering Place Drop in Center-75

Flagstone Family Shelter-113

Generally, the mayor's housing initiatives and enhanced funding provided to MICA shelters have increased permanent housing placements.

As a result of the discussions, the Committee has a better understanding of DHS policies and is able to convey the impact that the shelters have on the Ocean Hill–Brownsville community.

The Health and Human Services Committee advocates for policy for shelter capacity and effective management that mirrors our community needs, reflecting the number of individuals/families from our community. This is our community and it is our responsibility to be good stewards; helping to move it towards a more just and sustainable future with a great quality of life.

On December 10, she attended a town hall meeting at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center organized by New York Recovery Community Coalition. The discussion was on "Navigating the Criminal Justice System and Understanding the Impact on the Community". Our own Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, Esq. was a Special Speaker.

It was very informative and exposed the difficulty imposed on the recovery process by the system and how we, as a community (coalition), should work together to engage the system towards enhancing the recovery process.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if the shelters were offering enough programs such as GED, afterschool, and day care?

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that prior to the meeting, they asked to see some schedules of the clients. Some of the children attended afterschool programs in their individual schools. Some of the adult clients participate in self-skilled programs. Clients cannot be forced to participate in programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Sylvester Yavana, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 8, 2015 with Mr. Quardean Lewis-Allen, founder and Director of Made in Brownsville.

Mr. Lewis-Allen informed us about a project they are working on with New York City Small Business Services to do a corridor district needs assessment along Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard. The assessment will be used as a base tool to understand how the city and neighborhood organizations can move forward with business attraction, placemaking activities, and merchant organizing.

They are presently administering a merchant survey and a customer survey. Once the surveys are completed, they will design and implement a communication tool.

The Committee encourages everyone to participate in the survey.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on December 2, 2015 and discussed the following:

1. Follow up meeting with CAMBA and DHS on December 9th, 2015 to discuss and resolve issues that negatively affect the community and program clients.

2. NYCHA Social Services - Within NYCHA exists a Social Services Department which is expected to attend to social issues that affect the quality of life of the residents. The Committee will request a meeting to learn more about the functions of this department and work to improve communications between this department, NYPD and the Resident Association Presidents to collectively improve quality of life issues in public housing.

3. Public Safety Announcements (PSA). Years ago, PSA commercials ran on TV during after school programming and Saturday morning cartoons that targeted the impressionable audience, and planted messages of practice that would improve the quality of life in communities. Today, they don't exist and we need an apparatus to get this type of information out. The Committee would like to disseminate such information for our District. We are looking for volunteers to work on slogans and visual art. Please contact our District Manager's office with your ideas. I would like to start the PSA campaign at the beginning of the year.

4. Active community organizations performing public safety functions – The Committee will identify and compile a list of organizations with their mission.

5. Community Concerns – Wide spread use of the drug “Spice” aka “K2”. If you or someone you know come in contact with this substance, do not consume! The effects can be detrimental. You can find more information online about Spice/K2. You can also contact Poison Control at (800) 222-1222.

On December 9, 2015, she attended the meeting with CAMBA and DHS's Louis Molina, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner for Security and Emergency Operations, to discuss the community's concerns at the CAMBA shelters. She is pleased to report that since the Committee's inquiries, the assignment of DHS peace officers the number of emergency response calls have declined measurably, the loitering and other reported activities have also been reduced. These adjustments will relieve much of the pressure from our first responder resources as well as increase safety along the already desolate corridors.

The Committee will meet again on January 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. She would like to have community volunteers to assist in the PSA project as well as interested members to attend this meeting.

Ms. Lisa Kenner stated that a stop sign is needed at the intersection of Junius Street and Dumont Avenue, as well as having the entrance and exit of the parking lot to the supermarket reversed.

Ms. Brewer stated that she has been informed that the request for a stop sign was sent to the Department of Transportation with a response that it is not necessary at the location. They are

also in conversation with the owners of the supermarket with regards to reversing the entrance and exit to the parking lot.

Ms. Kenner asked if the response is available in writing?

Ms. Brewer stated that it is. She suggested that Ms. Kenner reach out to Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee to have the item placed on her Committee's agenda.

Mr. Charles Ladson stated that he heard that elevators will be installed on the "L" line. Is this true?

Ms. Brewer stated that it was stated at the last Board meeting. There will be four elevators placed at Junius and Livonia Avenue, however, no timeline has been given.

Mr. John McCadney added that there will also be a free transfer instituted between the Canarsie and IRT lines at the location.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, reported that on December 10th, 2015, the Committee met to discuss the previous agenda concerning low performing schools where the committee found that most schools were under performing. However, the data that was collected was for the school year beginning September 2014-2015 and did not reflect how well the schools in District 23 are doing within the current school term beginning in September 2015 – December 2015 as will be discussed in future reports.

The Committee also met with youths from the Brownsville Community Justice Center who attend various high schools such as Teacher's Prep and Transit Tech. They expressed concerns about disconnected youth, ages 16 to 24, who do not attend school and what services are available to help them succeed. They also expressed concern about the lack of cultural programs in the community and in their schools. In addition, they stated that their school's curriculum was not interesting to the students. They don't have science labs, workshops, and college preparedness. Students, teachers and principal engagement and relationships are poor. Disconnected youth impact on the schools in regard to gangs that gather around the schools and cause safety concerns.

The Committee recommended that the students form student government bodies in their schools to address their concerns and report back to the Committee so that the Committee can follow-up to address their concerns.

With regard to disconnected youth, the students were informed about the GED program at Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, located at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street that offers career and employment assistance and has open enrollment. Applicants must be 18 years of age and older.

In regard to cultural programs, the students were encouraged to visit Heritage House which is located on the second floor of the Stone Avenue Branch Library at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard.

With regard to gangs, there will be a discussion with the 73rd Precinct.

To inform disconnects youth about GED programs and other services, the students suggested posting information around the community as well as on facebook.

On December 15, 2015, he and District Manager Greene-Walker met with Ms. Mendonca, President of the Community Education Council to discuss underperforming schools.

Ms. Mendonca informed us that the statistics were inaccurate concerning most of the schools. However, the majority of the schools were doing very good in science and math, but English scores were below levels at nearly all school levels from 3 to 8 grades. The Committee will arrange to visit one high performing school and two low performing schools in the community to ascertain why one of the schools is doing well and two are not.

On December 18th, 2015, he attended the monthly meeting of School District 23's Leadership Team and Community Education Council where an array of subject matters were discussed. There are 30 schools in the District – 5 elementary, 8 middle, 11 kindergartens to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2 secondary (6 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade), and 4 high schools. Schools with 100 students or less are slated for merger or closing. The student's fund will follow the student from school to school to ensure that the incoming school has the budget to receive the student. There will be a reorganization of schools in 2016 wherein pre-k to 5 graders will be in the same building and 6 to 8 grades will be in another building.

A trade school initiative is being considered by Chancellor Farina.

He also met with Ms. Page Best-Hardy, Family Leadership Support Coordinator for School District #23, who informed him that one-fourth of the students in this community attend schools outside of the community.

Ms. Best-Hardy informed me that the Department of Education offers GED programs at P.S. 184 and 156. Persons must be 18 years of age or older to attend.

Parents are encouraged to attend Lobby Day in Albany on January 12, 2016 to discuss education matters.

NYCHA has a partnership with Green City Force, AmeriCorps that is open to NYCHA residents, ages 18 to 24 with a high school diploma or GED (HSE). Participants receive a semi-monthly stipend. The program engages young people in national service while offering hands on green job training, college preparation, and job placement assistance.

Benefits include job training through hands on experience, a semi-monthly stipend, national certifications, \$2,822 or \$5,645 towards college education, monthly Metrocard, and support for job/college placement.

To apply, residents must attend an information session on Mondays, 11:00 a.m. at NYCHA Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability at 787 Atlantic Avenue. You can register online at <http://tinyurl.com/GCFREES> or call (718) 289-8100.

The CUNY Fatherhood Academy is presently recruiting fathers between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age who are unemployed or underemployed and are ready to make a change in their lives. This is a FREE program that can help you earn a High School Equivalency diploma while focusing on academic and personal growth, explore career options and participate in job readiness classes, enhance parenting skills, learn about personal health and financial literacy, and envision a better tomorrow for you and your child.

For additional information, contact Kingsborough Community College at (718) 368-4637 or visit their website at [www.cewdkbcc.com](http://www.cewdkbcc.com), or Hostos Community College at (718) 319-7931 or email [drogers@hostos.cuny.edu](mailto:drogers@hostos.cuny.edu), or LaGuardia Community College at (718) 730-7336 or email [dspeal@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:dspeal@lagcc.cuny.edu).

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Mr. Sylvester Yavana, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Service Planning Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Frieda Menos representing the office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

Ms. Menos stated that she is always pleased to hear the amount of information that is disseminated for Community Board #16 and thanks District Manager Greene-Walker for the phenomenal job she does in distributing the information.

She invites the audience to attend Congressman Jeffries' 2016 State of the District address on Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Long Island University's Paramount Theatre.

She also announced that Congressman Jeffries is encouraging youth from his District to participate in the Congressional App Challenge, a congressional initiative to improve student engagement in coding and computer science, which will run through January 15, 2016. During the Congressional App Challenge submission period, students in participating districts can submit their original apps (created anytime between January 1, 2015 and January 15, 2016) for the chance to be recognized by their Member of Congress.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Richard Nelson representing the office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III who thanked the members for their cooperation and wished everyone season's greetings.

Mr. Shelton Jones, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, stated that on December 5<sup>th</sup>, they held two events as part of their Citizens' Safety Day. Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson sponsored two important community-based initiatives that were successful in helping residents dispose of unwanted guns and get rid of outstanding warrants stemming from summonses for minor offenses.

The first event held at the Lenox Road Baptist Church in East Flatbush, in partnership with the NYPD, yielded 60 firearms. All of them were functional – mostly revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, and included an assault rifle. He is pleased to have the firearms off the street before the holidays.

The District Attorney held his third Begin Again event at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, some 575 people attended and 336 warrants were cleared.

He thanked the many community residents who came out and assisted them and help make the day successful.

The District Attorney said that this program helps foster trust between law-enforcement and the community and allows different agencies and the people they serve to come together and achieve a common good. Additional Begin Again events are planned for 2016 beginning in April. Persons who wish to volunteer at these events may email him at [joness2@brooklynda.org](mailto:joness2@brooklynda.org). Volunteers will undergo a minor background check to ensure that they don't have any outstanding warrants themselves.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers – Oasis Beacon Program who stated that in behalf of Ms. Melina Terry, the Program Director, and Ms. Sandra Johnson, the Director of the Langston Hughes, Van Dyke, and Tilden Cornerstone Programs, he offers gratitude to all who helped them with their goals this year, especially the merchants.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mabel Davis who stated that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has suggested that some African-Americans might be better off at "less-advanced" universities. She encourages the audience to show Justice Scalia how wrong he is by taking advantage of two scholarships that being offered by Concord Baptist Church. The deadline is January 12, 2016.

Assemblywoman Latrice M. Walker, Esq. stated that there will be buses going to Albany on January 12<sup>th</sup> for persons seeking to advocate for support for schools in our community. Informational flyers can be found on tonight's distribution table. She also has some alternate side parking regulation calendars on the table.

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