

## MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 26, 2016

### Attendance

David Alexander	Carolyn Lee
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)	Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)
Margaret Brewer	Albion Liburd (E)
Rev. Mark Broomes (A)	Deborah Mack
Aaron Brown (A)	Yolanda Matthews
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (E)	John McCadney, Jr. (E)
Anthony Clark (E)	Andrea McCullough (E)
Adrainer Coleman (E)	Genese Morgan
Carlos Diaz	Marie Pierre
Brenda Duchene	Mattie Pusey (A)
Christopher Durosinmi <sup>1</sup>	Linda Rivera
Norman Frazier	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Danny Goodine	Celina Trowell (E)
Rose Graham	Ernestine Turner
Chanel Haliburton (E)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu (E)
Sarah Hall	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Jessie Hilliard	Pat Winston
Michael Howard	Sylvester Yavana
Prince Issachar	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Daisy Jackson (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Carl Joseph	Hon. Latrice Walker
Pamela Junior (E)	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Eula Key (E)	Richard Nelson Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Danny King	Maurice Phillips for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	E. Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
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 7:06 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer.

A roll call of members failed to yield a quorum.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Mary Salig of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Salig stated that she is the Director of Capital Projects for Brooklyn parks. Last year, a proposal was presented for the development of Saratoga Ballfield, located on Thomas S. Boyland between Dean and Pacific Streets. The plan calls for a new playground, synthetic turf field with a surrounding track, exercise equipment for adults, and a spray shower for the youth. They have received approval for the plan and it is now in what they term as the procurement phase. While it may seem that progress has halted during this phase, much is taking place in the background. They expect to begin construction in the fall of 2016 and ask that the audience be on the lookout for the groundbreaking ceremony.

She reminded the audience of the Partnership for Parks team availability to assist the community and encourage everyone to get involved with their local parks on a volunteer basis. Community District #16's Outreach Coordinator is Claudette Ramos who can be reached by calling (718) 965-8907.

She stated that there is information available on tonight's distribution table about a few Park's initiatives. One is Parks Without Borders which seeks to improve connections between communities and parks.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. David Headley of Breaking Ground.

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<sup>1</sup> Inadvertently marked absent for December 22, 2015 General Board meeting.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. David Headley.

Mr. Headley stated that he is a Director at the Hegeman, located at 39 Hegeman Avenue which is a project of Breaking Ground, formerly known as Common Ground. Breaking Ground is a non-profit organization which owns and operates supportive housing facilities throughout New York City. Their permanent housing units consist of affordable rent stabilized units along with units that are set aside for formerly homeless individuals. They provide support for clients with mental health, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS issues. They currently manage 13 sites with a total of 2,900 units. He is the Property Manager of the three-year-old Hegeman. The building is LEED certified and has 160 supportive housing units.

Present with him this evening is Ms. Shana Wertheimer, Assistant Vice President, Housing Operations and Programs. They are present to provide the community an update on the garden they are installing at the Hegeman. They plan to open the garden in the spring of this year. The entrance will be along the Thomas S. Boyland Street side of the building. They are hoping to not only share the design for the space, but get some feedback from the community through surveys, that are being distributed tonight, concerning the hours of operation and programing of the space. They want to create a space that is both practical and desirable to the community.

The space will incorporate gardens as well as seating options and open areas for programing. They will grow a mixture of decorative plants along with herbs and produce. They will plant herbs and produce that respond well to the lighting and space constraints available in the garden. Programing will include cooking demonstrations relevant to the culture of the community.

They are in the process of completing a partnership agreement with Sprout by Design, an organization that is currently doing some wonderful work in neighborhood schools and the Crossroads Juvenile Center. The build out will begin in the spring. Programing will primarily center on health and nutrition. Additionally, they plan to have opportunities for community members to volunteer and participate in the space.

He stated that copies of the survey have been distributed along with sketches of the garden. He encourages everyone to complete the ten question survey and return them. The sketch shows the layout of the garden which will be ADA accessible. The space is well suited for activities such as yoga classes, cooking demonstrations, etcetera. They invite the audience to visit the space, when they are in the area.

Someone asked if the garden space will only be for tenants?

Ms. Wertheimer stated that it will be for everyone.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Mr. Headley for the job he is doing at the location and the presentation.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 11, 2016 with representatives from the Department of Transportation who made a presentation on safety improvements they are proposing along St. John's Place between Ralph and East New York Avenues.

She asked Ms. Nichole Altmix to come forward to make the presentation.

Ms. Altmix stated that she is the Deputy Director of the Research, Implementation & Safety Group of the New York City Department of Transportation. She is present tonight to speak about St. John's Place between Ralph and East New York Avenues.

As part of the City's Vision Zero project – a Multi-agency effort to reduce traffic fatalities in the City, Borough Action Plans were released in 2015. Priority intersections, corridors, and areas identified for each borough with St Johns Place between Ralph and East New York Avenues being identified as a Priority Corridor.

Their study showed that in the years 2010-14 there were 123 total injuries and 12 KSI (persons killed or severely injured), which is a very high amount for such a small span. A PowerPoint slide was displayed showing the number and location of accidents with injuries and fatalities. Based on their findings, the locations of Eastern Parkway, Ralph and Howard Avenues along St. John's Place were focused upon.

Some of the existing conditions are:

- St. Johns Place is a wide roadway (50 feet) with one travel lane in each direction
- Long crossing distances-pedestrians have to cross 170 feet of roadway at Eastern Parkway, with no refuge
- High Speeds-cars traveling at twice the city speed limit

They are proposing the following:

- No changes to vehicle capacity.
- Add a 4-foot flush painted center median.
- Mark bicycle lanes in both directions (which connect to existing route on East New York Avenue and a planned route in Community District 8).
- Extend center median tips along Eastern Parkway to provide a refuge for slow pedestrians.
- Add left turn bays on St. John's Place at Eastern Parkway to alleviate back pressure of drivers wanting to go straight.
- Restrict low volume north and southbound left turns from Eastern Parkway which will prevent vehicles on Eastern Parkway from getting stuck behind left turners and allows center medians to be fully extended into crosswalks. Drivers seeking to access the segments denied by the restrictions may do so by turning unto Saratoga Avenue or Howard Avenue.

At St. John's Place and East New York Avenue, they are proposing to add a new crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection which will allow safer and easier access to the B7 and B12 bus stop.

The proposed project will provide shorter, safer pedestrian crossings with the installation of two median extensions on Eastern Parkway. It will also reduce speeding by installing a center median on St. John's Place, allow simpler and safer left turns by installing left turn bays, simplify intersections for both pedestrians and motor vehicles with the construction of curb extensions and provides a new bicycle connection for the Brownsville area.

Someone asked how will it affect the St. John's bus?

Ms. Altmix stated that there will be no change in bus operations.

Mr. Gerald Childs stated that there is also a speeding issue at Linden Boulevard and Hegeman Avenue. Can that be addressed as well?

Ms. Altmix stated that it is not part of the scope of this proposal. However, there is an ongoing project for Linden Boulevard which may address it.

Someone asked how many injuries are expected to be prevented with the implementation of the proposed project?

Ms. Altmix stated that they, of course, expect the number to decrease, but will not not know how well the changes perform until a year after the project is completed.

Mrs. Blanche L. Peltonbusch asked if the project will affect the B14 bus?

Ms. Altmix stated that it will not.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if they deal with traffic and streetlights?

Ms. Altmix stated that her particular group does not. However, the Department of Transportation does.

Mr. Ladson stated that he has been requesting that traffic lights be placed at the intersections of Strauss Street and Blake Avenue, and Strauss Street and Dumont Avenue, since 2007 to no avail. He has also been told that each block may have up to three streetlights. Strauss Street only has two streetlights and the middle of the street tends to be very dark due to the tree on the block.

Ms. Altmix stated that they will take a look at the requests.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Altmix for her presentation and stated that the Board will vote on the item upon achieving a quorum.

She then recognized Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias, Commanding Officer of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that road conditions are still questionable (due to the recent snowstorm) and he encourages the audience to use mass transit. By doing this, the roads will be more accessible to first responders.

He opined that the past year was a decent year with regard to crime in the command. However, with the new initiatives and the enthusiasm of new officers, he looks forward to having a better year in 2016. They ended 2015 down 7% in overall crimes in the Precinct. Shootings were down 13%, robberies were down 10%, burglaries were down 38% (their largest decrease), and auto thefts increased due in part to a new method of theft being employed by some youth in the community.

He thanks persons who participated in the recent symposium on violence in the community and feels that it was a successful gathering. By being able to visually show where and when the violence is taking place was quite telling and shows that while they are making progress, much remains to be done. With the assistance of his Community Partners, he is hoping to accomplish the tasks and envisions a big light at the end of the tunnel.

Someone asked for more information about the symposium.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that it was a meeting held with deeply entrenched organizations and leaders in the community who gathered together to discuss the issues of violence in the community.

The questioner stated that she is involved with a domestic violence group and asked how can she participate in such symposiums?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that the meeting was not about domestic violence singularly, but rather violence as a whole and its effect on the community. He invited her to attend the Community Council meetings and meet with the Precinct Domestic Violence Officers.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if they will deploy additional foot patrols on the streets?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that they are part of the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer initiative which basically broke up all of their specialty units and put them back on patrol. While you may see less foot patrols, you will see more patrols by car. During his third platoon (3:00 p.m. to 11:30 / midnight), he has four posts that are always manned. These are locations where he feels that propensity for violence is high.

Mrs. Blanche L. Peltonbusch thanked Deputy Inspector Iglesias and his officers for cleaning up some of the crime that was occurring in the area of Marcus Garvey Village. She also stated that she had conversation with Deputy Chief Jeffrey Maddrey who said that we should greet the officers we come across and that they should engage us in conversation as well.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that he encourages his officers to be the ones who break the ice and have conversations with the public and get to know the people they serve.

Mr. David Alexander asked for the location of the Precinct Council meetings.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated they are roving locations. You may call the Community Affairs Unit at (718) 495-5422 to find the location of upcoming meetings.

Mr. Ladson asked about the Clergy Council meetings.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that the Clergy Council consists of clergy who serve the Precinct and they meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 1630 St. Mark's Avenue.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace spoke of her recent encounter with Neighborhood Coordinating Officers who rang her doorbell. She answered the door knowing that she had not called for the police and was pleased to have them tell her that they just wanted to reach out to her and let her know that they are in the neighborhood working with the block associations. She too encourages

the audience to greet the officers they come across and tell them thank you. She sees the difference this kind of engagement makes and is encouraged by it.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to inform and/or remind the community of several opportunities for residents.

The NYC Ladders for Leaders Program is now accepting applications for youth ages 16-21. The program is a component of the Summer Youth Employment Program; however, applicants should be aware that the application process is competitive. Interested individuals should apply online at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or call 1(800) 246-4646 for more information.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (CBEDC), a NYC Small Business Services Department Community Partner, will conduct initial employment screenings for applicants interested in employment through Workforce1. CBDEC is located here at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. For more information, please call (718) 498-4513.

Brownsville Jobs Plus, operated by Grant Associates, is seeking to assist residents of Van Dyke I and Brownsville Houses with job placement services, financial counseling, and personal and professional development workshops. Brownsville Jobs Plus is located at 330 Powell Street. For more information, contact Debra Griffin-Daza at (347) 599-9655. She acknowledged the presence of Ms. Griffin-Daza at tonight's meeting.

Workforce1 is available to residents of New York City seeking employment and employment services. Workforce1 centers are 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, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, downtown Brooklyn. Please call (718) 875-3400, for additional information.

Individuals interested in registering as a temporary snow laborer to remove snow and ice from bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants, and other locations throughout the City may register in person at a Department of Sanitation Garage or a Department of Transportation Garage, Monday through Saturday between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., except on City holidays. Interested individuals must be at least 18 years of age, be eligible to work in the United States, and capable of performing heavy physical labor.

All applicants must bring:

- Two small photos (1 ½ square)
- Original and copy of two forms of identification
- Social Security card

For more information, please call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation)

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 held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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).

At the Board's November 24, 2015 meeting, there was a vote taken on a liquor license application for the MacDonough Café located at 83 Saratoga Avenue which resulted in a tie. The owner of the business was unavailable for the meeting. The Committee felt that it would be fair to allow the owner to have an opportunity to answer questions and have another vote.

Ms. Morgan requested that Ms. Busseuil, the proprietor of the café, come forward for a brief presentation. Ms. Busseuil stated that they opened the café about six months ago. She owns the building and has a young daughter. In moving to the neighborhood, she saw that there was a need for someplace where one can sit down and have a healthy treat. The building already had a storefront which had been vacant for 10 years. There were a few options open to her for its use.

She decided on the café where she offers high quality coffees and teas, as well as baked goods that are made from scratch on the premise.

She teaches all of her employees how to bake and pays above minimum wage. She also encourages her employees to better themselves and get college educations. Each also must obtain food handling certifications.

She grew up in the 40 Projects (South Jamaica Houses) and understands what it is like to grow up in a neighborhood where there are difficulties. The café offers her the opportunity to give back.

She is seeking a beer and wine license. However, she has a vested interest in not bringing in anything that will cause harm to the community. Currently, there are no other venues where you can sit down and have something healthy to eat. She currently closes the café at 6:00 p.m. and persons return home from work do not have the opportunity to enjoy the space.

Ms. Deborah Mack asked what are her operating hours?

Ms. Busseuil stated that they are open Tuesday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Morgan stated that as was stated in her report, Ms. Busseuil intends to extend the hours of operation when she receives the liquor license.

Ms. Busseuil stated that if she gets the license she will adjust the hours and food offerings to accommodate a late crowd. It is her vision to offer small plates and wine or craft beer.

Ms. Linda Rivera stated that she lives near the café and has enjoyed some of the offerings there, and looks forward to being able to come home, drop her things and be able to go there to enjoy the offerings and meet people after work.

Ms. Carolyn Lee stated that she enjoyed Ms. Busseuil's presentation and thinks that based on the presentation, the venue will be successful. She asked Ms. Busseuil to repeat the location of the café.

Ms. Busseuil stated that they are located at the corner of MacDonough Street and Saratoga Avenue. The address is 83 Saratoga Avenue. She thanked Ms. Lee for the comment and stated that they pride themselves in customer service.

Mr. Carl Joseph stated that he has a concern about customers leaving her establishment and being disorderly in the streets.

Ms. Busseuil stated that she lives above the café and has no desire to see this either. She wants to offer adult beverages in a responsible manner. She would like to offer her clientele an opportunity to try something new.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil stated that he can testify to quality of customer service based on their handling of his request to offer products that meet his dietary wants.

Ms. Busseuil stated that they offer fresh non-fried food with vegetarian and vegan options. All ingredients used in the café are natural.

Minister Prince Issachar asked if they offered wifi?

Ms. Busseuil stated that they have free wifi. They also offer free knitting classes every other Sunday, as well as children's story telling programming from time to time.

Mr. Danny King stated that he lives near the café and he is pleased to see someone of color investing in the community. However, there is an epidemic of alcoholism in the community and he fearful the selling of alcohol from the café will add to this.

Ms. Busseuil stated that she and her family live in community and she does not want to create an unsafe community. She has a responsibility to not serve alcohol to anyone who is inebriated. She does not want her customers to say "I don't want to be here. It's too rowdy.". She wants them to come and enjoy themselves, leave and get home safe.

There are no other venues of this type in the community. Having the café allows residents to stay here and have this type of entertainment in their own community. This helps them take pride and ownership of the neighborhood.

In a roll call vote, the Board voted 20-in favor, 1-against, and 2 present but not voting in support of an application for a retail liquor or wine license for MacDonough Cafe.

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.

In a roll call vote, the Board voted 21-in favor, 0-against, and 2 present but not voting in support of the proposal by the Department of Transportation to make safety improvements along St. John's Place between Ralph and East New York Avenues.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 12, 2016 with a representative from the Local Development Corporation of East New York and Best Development regarding an affordable development, known as Van Sinderen Plaza, which will be physically located in Community District #5 on New Lots Avenue and Van Sinderen Avenue. The project will consist of 130 units of housing, 21,000 square feet of retail space, and 5,000 square feet of community space.

Because the project will be located on the border of Community District #16, the developers are requesting a letter of support from Community Board #16.

The Committee also met with representatives from Kingdom Faith Builders and Brisa Builders who are responding to a Request for Proposals issued by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development to develop a city-owned vacant lot at Broadway and Hancock Street. The developers are proposing 62 units of supportive housing and 12,000 square feet of commercial space.

The developers are requesting a letter of support from the Board.

Because a quorum was not present, we will revisit the two items and report our recommendation at the February Board meeting.

Mr. Sylvester Yavanna stated that a quorum is now present, why not have a vote tonight?

Rev. Kermit Williams stated that the presenters are in the audience and ask that they be heard this evening.

Rev. Williams stated that Kingdom Faith Developers, a coalition of churches who've been working with the Borough President Eric Adam's office to get affordable housing built. Kingdom Faith Developers began with three pastors and since grown to include 42 pastors. It started out with the original three pastors wanting to stop the land grab that is going on in Brooklyn.

With land becoming scarce they decided to form an alliance with Erica Keller, a second generation developer with Brisa Builders, to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) specifically aimed at women-owned businesses to develop the city-owned vacant lot at Broadway and Hancock Street.

Ms. Keller stated that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has identified six city-owned lots (three of which are in Brooklyn) as set asides for development by minority and/or women owned business enterprises (MWBE). This is a result of work done by former HPD Commissioner Matthew Wambua, himself a person of color, who did a study which showed the disparities amongst developers. There were few opportunities for MWBE developers to be successful in the RFP process.

This particular parcel is one that they have been seeking to develop for a number of years and they were pleased to see it in this particular RFP which allows them to propose what they have already been working on.

They have solicited the support of HeartShare Human Services and HeartShare St. Vincent's, both offshoots of Catholic Charities which has been in existence for more than a century. They

provide services to developmentally delayed individuals, as well as other underserved individuals.

For this particular site, they are proposing to develop 62 units of supportive and affordable housing, along with 11,500 square feet of commercial space with an eye towards having a fresh produce market as an occupant. Another 8,000 square feet will be for community facilities which will house Kingdom Faith Developers and services such as employment referrals, job training, and counseling for the tenants.

They are also reaching out to the owner of the adjacent privately-owned lot and if they are able to acquire that lot, they will increase the number of units to 89. They are targeting incomes of about \$83,000 for a family of four. They want to keep the brand new apartments affordable to persons in the community. They are proposing that ten (10) of the units be set aside for developmentally delayed adults who can live independently. Oftentimes, this population is priced out of the housing market, particularly in Brooklyn. Thirty-six (36) units will be set aside for persons who are aging out of the foster care system. They are finding that it is particularly hard for this population to find housing that is affordable, as many developers are not interested in providing housing for that group.

They will be working with these young adults to provide them guidance. Many of them have never had consistent relationships with mentors or other caring adults. They may not know how to pay bills, write checks or understand many of the things we take for granted. Kingdom Faith Developers will provide them with mentorship programs onsite as well as support them with employment referrals and provide apartments at a rate that will allow them to be successful.

Ms. Summer Alhamash, a principal of Heritage Architecture, stated that they are seeking support for an as of right structure at the proposed location.

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 and approve the letters of support for the projects.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 11, 2016 and reviewed the following legislation:

A 6509, S 5592 - Special Prosecutor by Law Enforcement establishes the Office of Special investigator in the Department of Law. This bill will increase transparency in grand jury proceedings involving the use of deadly force by police and peace officers. It also authorizes the designation or appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate and or prosecute such cases. Passed by the Assembly.

- A 8084 - Grand Jury information availability .This requires legal instructions and charges submitted to a grand jury in cases involving a death following an encounter with the police to be more readily available to the public. The final action, the charges and legal instructions explained to the jury would be presumptively available for public release. However, names or identity of witness would be redacted if revealing these poses any danger to theses individual. Passed the Assembly.
- A 1094, S 2034 - Determining Awards for Crime Victims. This bill extends the circumstances under which a crime victim may receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred when travelling to appear in court. It covers victim's testimony, and scheduled court appearances through trial and sentencing. Passed the Assembly.
- A 2699 S 5593 - Sealing of Records. Allows a person who has been convicted of one or more misdemeanor offenses, other than sex offenses, to apply to the court to have the record of such convictions sealed. Allows unsealing of records if the individuals later charged with or convicted of a subsequent offense. Passed the Assembly.
- A3949 - Prohibits police officers from using racial or ethnic profiling. Also allows for the filing and review of complaints of racial and ethnic profiling. Passed the Assembly.
- A7212 - Alters the current practice where defendants 16,17, 18 are considered for youthful offender status. This bill addresses the disparity between first-time youthful offenders who are charged with misdemeanor in local courts where youthful offender

status is automatic and in superior court where it is not. The bill will allow a first-time offender charged with a misdemeanor in superior court would automatically be adjudicated as a youthful offender. Passed the Assembly.

- A1322 - This establishes the right of tenants to call police or emergency assistance without fear of losing their housing for a violation of nuisance ordinance, this protects domestic violence victims from losing their apartment. Passed the Assembly.
- A 1910 - This adds a number of synthetic Cannabimimetic to the group of controlled substances. Possession of these controlled substances would be a class A misdemeanor which carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and one year in jail, and those who are charged with selling will be charged with a Class D felony resulting in a \$5,000 fine and a Class D felony and a prison sentence of up to 7 years. Passed the Assembly.

Next set of bills go under the heading of CORRECTIONS:

- Solitary Confinement Restrictions A 1346. Prohibits holding juveniles and people with both mental illness and developmental disabilities into solitary confinement.
- Pregnant Women in Solitary Confinement, restricts placement of pregnant inmates in the Special Housing Unit to those exceptional circumstances when any other housing option would create an unacceptable risk to other inmates or staff. Passed the Assembly.
- Posting Parole Appeal Decisions on website A 1984 This requires decisions from the Parole Unit to be published on the agency web site. Passed the Assembly.
- Holding Mentally Ill Inmates in Psychiatric Center This authorizes the Central New York Psychiatric Center to continue to provide appropriate treatment to inmates transferred to the center due to a mental health emergency after the emergency has been resolved. Current law requires inmates to return to prison where they often experience psychological instability. A 2009. Passed Assembly.
- This is the Committee's first attempt to bring you some of the pieces of legislation that directly affect our community. They will continue to report on other pieces of legislation in the future. However, the Legislative Committee would greatly appreciate if all our representatives can send us their legislative agendas.

The Committee also considered the recent concerns from our community regarding the Area Median Income guidelines that are being used to determine affordability for housing developments that are being proposed in our area and we will be reaching out to our congressional representatives for assistance.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Assemblywoman Walker announced that she is sponsoring a National African American History Month essay contest and encourages students to send in their essays about the contributions of the African American who inspires them the most.

She also announced a series of senior center movie luncheon to take place on Fridays in February in celebration of Black History Month.

She is the Chairperson of the Energy Committee and will host an Advisory Board meeting on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, where the topic will be Renewable Energy.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 6, 2016 and discussed the following:

A presentation by Brownsville In - Violence Out, a CAMBA/Cure Violence program. Mr. Anthony Newerls, Program Director, along with the Outreach Worker and Violence Interrupter presented.

The presentation detailed the program's targeted areas, also the many efforts and resources to combat gun violence in our community.

She thanked Brownsville In -Violence Out for their willingness to help.

Improving communications between the community-at-large and NYCHA. This Committee is and will be working with Resident Association Presidents to collectively improve quality of life issues in public housing.

Community concerns were brought to the Committee. Residents of the 500 Block of Ralph Avenue voiced displeasure with the recent conditions of their neighborhood and cited the shelter at 599 Ralph Avenue as one of the causes. This matter has been recorded and reported to the appropriate agencies and offices. There will be a community advisory committee formed to bridge a working relationship with the program.

In addition, the Committee is still looking for slogans and visual art for our PSAs. Please contact our District Manager's office with your ideas. The PSA campaign is underway.

She would like to share that last year, New York City had an all-time low for fire deaths at below 60 for the whole city from hundreds in past years. This is good, however, one death is too many.

Let us continue to keep the smoke and carbon detectors up. Let us talk about fire safety and look out for each other.

The Public Safety Committee will meet again on February 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Marcus Burchell stated that he is a community activist and has been receiving telephone calls regarding checkpoints being placed in our communities. He stated that these checkpoints are illegal. Is the Committee doing anything to address this issue?

Ms. Brewer invited Dr. Burchell to the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee to further discuss the issue.

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.

Ms. Pat Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, the Committee met at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The guest speaker was Liz Ramos, Program Director from Wayside Outreach (Meals-on-Wheels).

Ms. Ramos inform the Committee that the first step one must take to obtain this service is to call Special Services at (718) 257-1600. Special Services will assign a case manager to do an assessment and home visit to see if you qualify.

Once this is done and you qualify, a referral is given to the Meal-on-Wheels Program as to when the meals will start. To be eligible, you must be aged 60 years old or over, or be handicapped or homebound and be at least 55 years old. Hot meals are given each day for 7 days. The frozen food is good for 90 days. The chilled food, which consists of a salad, lasts one day. You may also qualify to get a pantry bag.

For additional information or if you need someone to assist you in Spanish, please contact Ms. Ramos at (718) 922-1787.

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

Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 with Ms. Cheryl Powell from "The Family of Sanuces" who invited the women of the community to join her at the Van Dyke Houses on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., specifically for a free hour long self-defense class. There will be additional activities after the class which are not free. Ms. Powell is continuing her father's legacy of teaching others martial arts. Dr. Moses Powell, was an American pioneer of martial arts in the United States from 1967 to early 2000's. The Committee agreed that it has become extremely important that women in

today's society be able to defend themselves from attackers. This modified form of martial arts will teach us a simple form of survival to protect ourselves from an aggressor.

The Committee plans to host an event in March 2016 during Women's History which will focus on Breast Cancer. They look forward to sharing more ideas in the near future.

The next Women's Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

If there are any topics that you would like the Women's Committee to address, please contact her at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) or the District Manager at (718) 385- 0323.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Carl Joseph, and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, reported that on January 20th, 2016 the Youth Service Planning Committee met with Kevin Xuereb, RN and Manager of the Burn Outreach Center at New York-Presbyterian Hospital to discuss his role in caring for children with burns of various ages. Although the New York-Presbyterian Hospital will care for burn victims of all ages, Mr. Xuereb deals primarily with younger aged children, mostly infants to 3 years of age who are victims of scalding due to the lack of preventive measures where the caregiver may not be cognizant that when drinking something extremely hot, or the temperature of the bath water, or unshielded plumbing in the home could cause these unexpected occurrences until it is too late. Mr. Xuereb realized there is need to implement preventative measures to address the matter. He did not rule out child abuse as a possible cause for the burns, but insisted that the injuries were mostly accidental. A Committee member mentioned how this also impacts on the elderly or mentally ill, which Mr. Xuereb agreed. In addition, he added that if plumbing is a problem in the residence that the resident should contact management of the complex or call 311 to lodge a complaint.

The Committee also met with Cristy Gonzalez, Afterschool Program Director at Roads to Success at Brownsville Collaborative Middle School at 85 Watkins Street. She is organizing a Rally Against Youth Violence with the youth at the above school and sought the Committee's support. The Committee informed her that we were supportive of the idea. The Committee will be working with Ms. Gonzalez to organize a youth workshop at her school to address youth concerns, which would include all students attending middle schools in District 23.

Melanie Mendonca, Chairperson for the Community Education Council (CEC) for School District 23 also attended the meeting and enlightened us about the rally in Albany on January 12th. The rally was to get more money from Albany, which owes 2.5 billion to the New York Schools based on a lawsuit by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) for New York City Schools. The CFE filed a constitutional challenge stating that New York State was under-funding the public schools in New York City. The details are still being sorted out as to the amount of the disbursements by Governor Cuomo's office to the schools in New York City.

The Committee also discussed smaller classrooms and the re-implementation of paras for grades 3 – 6 to ensure that the students in these grades are being successfully engaged during the education process. More rallies in Albany to address inappropriate funding for New York City schools will continue throughout the school year to ensure that funds are appropriately allocated to New York City schools. When the Committee is informed of the dates of these rallies we will inform the public.

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be on February 11th at 5:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas Boyland Street. If you have any questions you can contact me at [bk16@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk16@cb.nyc.gov) or (718) 385-0323.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Service Planning Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Carlos Soto representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr..

Mr. Soto stated that he noticed that there are people who wait until an issue comes to a point that they have to go directly to an agency to have it addressed. He suggested that they reach out to their elected officials as a first measure to address the issues. The elected officials should be the voice to preemptively address the concern before it become a major problem.

Councilmember Espinal's office offers information on housing and immigration, as well as others. They have attorneys available to consult with constituents on a weekly basis. They also have programs for youths and young adults. Additionally, they have information on job training opportunities and he has placed some flyers on tonight's distribution table.

He encouraged the audience to reach out to their office by calling (718) 642-8664 or visiting 786 Knickerbocker Avenue.

Mr. Maurice Philips, representing the office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that Councilmember Mealy also provides legal services on Wednesdays to assist with general legal matters at no cost. On Thursdays, they have immigration lawyers available to deal with immigration issues.

Flyers on upcoming events are available on tonight's distribution table, as well as her monthly newsletter.

Councilmember Mealy hosts her monthly Advisory Board meetings on the first Saturday of each month. All are invited to attend.

Mr. Richard Nelson, Representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III, invited the audience to join them at their Know Your Right Housing Forum on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, to learn about your rights.

The Senator's office can be reached by calling (718) 284-4700. The office is located at 1669 Bedford Avenue.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing the Office of Senator Velmanette Montgomery, requested that the community work in unison to work on the issues affecting the community. She encourages the community to continue to make their voice heard at the ballot box.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Michael Matthews.

Mr. Matthews stated that he is the Executive Vice President of DUECES which stands for duty enlightenment culture empowerment services. He is pleased to announce that they now have a 501 (c) (3) status and look forward to working with the Community Board on issues such as public safety, economic development and others.

He also announced that they will be sponsoring a spring fashion show and a voter registration drive on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He plans to have flyers available at next month's Community Board meeting.

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