

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Attendance

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

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the hearing to order at 7:06 p.m. and requested a moment of silent prayer.

She recognized Mr. Jessie Garrett.

Mr. Garrett stated that he is working with Mr. Daniel Murphy of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District (BID). They are using a grant provided by the New York City Small Business Service to conduct a survey on what the community wants to see on Pitkin Avenue and invite the audience to participate in the survey.

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

IN THE MATTER OF the City's Preliminary Budget Statement and Community District Register for Fiscal Year 2017.

The Hearing is to obtain public comments on City agencies' responses to Community Board 16's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2017 (A copy is available for review at the Office of Community Board #16.) so that we can prepare a written response to the Office of Management and Budget.

The Budget Register was reviewed and Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. asked if it would be possible for seniors to get full-time home attendants? Some seniors end up getting hurt, when there is no one available to assist them.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that the agency performs evaluations on the clients. Depending on the assessment, a number of hours of service are allotted to the client.

Mr. Daniel Murphy stated that regarding Item 6 of the Capital Budget Requests, it is ultimately the responsibility of the property owners to maintain the sidewalks and facades of their buildings. The BID has applied for several grants and subsidies which they would like the Board to support, but ultimately it remains the property owners' responsibility.

Ms. Genese Morgan stated that regarding Item #8 on the Capital Budget – reconstruction of Betsy Head Park - the Department of Parks and Recreation has repeatedly stated that it has insufficient funds for this project and recommended that this project be brought to the attention of our elected officials. It is her understanding that some funds have been allocated by Councilmember Darlene Mealy. She does not know who keeps track of the funding but suggests that a mechanism be placed to let the Board know how much money has been allocated so that we can know how much is needed to complete the project. This would inform the community as to how much longer it will take to complete the renovations.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation is in ongoing discussions with the elected officials covering the park.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. stated that a renovation was recently done at the Betsy Head Playground, but did not include a comfort station. We need to have a comfort station in the park to accommodate its visitors.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that this is correct and she understands that Councilmember Mealy has allocated funds to install a comfort station at the location.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Senator Roxanne Persaud and welcomed her on her first formal attendance of Community Board #16's monthly meetings as a Senator.

Senator Persaud stated that she is pleased to be here and she is reminded of her days sitting on Community Board #18 where they heard similar responses to their budget requests.

She stated that she is the newly elected Senator to the 19th Senatorial District. Prior to that, she served as a member of the State Assembly and did not represent any portion of Community District #16.

Yesterday, she called the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and requested a list with the status of all their outstanding projects within her district and some of the projects requested by Community Board #16 can be found on the list. However, funding is not final. The elevators at the Rockaway Avenue, and the Junius Street stations are on the list and she is working with MTA on these issues.

Gun violence continues to plague our communities, and she and a colleague in the Assembly (Joanne Simon) wanted to take some action to help reduce gun violence. They put together legislation that would restrict the amount and type of ammunition that could be legally sold to an individual. The NRA (National Rifle Association) took offense to the legislation and is, of course, opposing the legislation. She will continue to push for it to become law.

She is also involved in discussions concerning the mental health of mothers – prenatal and postnatal depression, in particular. They want any health care practitioner involved with the women to screen the mothers for mental health issues.

She encourages everyone to reach out to her office to make their concerns known.

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker requested a round of applause for Senator Persaud for her courage in proposing the gun legislation.

Assemblywoman Walker stated that she, Senator Persaud, and Public Advocate Leticia James will host a breakfast for clergy on Thursday, February 25th, to introduce Senator Persaud to the clergy of the district and exchange ideas.

On Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m., she will host her State of the District Address at Little Rock Baptist Church, located at 375 Bristol Street. All are invited to attend.

She has submitted her budget requests based on discussions she has had with community stakeholders. She will soon publish and make available a list of the requests along with explanations of why they were chosen.

She introduced Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that the Command is up six crimes for the year – 106 this year versus 100 year-to-date, last year. Robberies are down 39% year-to-date and last year was a good year for them. They are down one shooting year-to-date and even at 3 shootings for the 28-day period. There were two shootings on Decatur Street last week for which they are seeking information and one shooting at the Brownsville Houses which took place last Saturday night and involved an individual with whom they are very familiar because of his frequent run ins with law enforcement.

They are spiking in auto-thefts and burglaries and he is concerned about this because of the way the crimes are being committed. Although the weather has recently been relatively warm, the method being used to commit the crimes is a winter method – thieves are taking advantage of people warming up their cars unattended or cracking the windows on their ground floor apartments, allowing the perpetrators easy access. He spoke on the issue last year around the same time. The area of Eastern Parkway to Pacific Street between Ralph Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street is being targeted for these crimes and he asks everyone to be alert and to tell their friends and neighbors about this.

The NCO (Neighborhood Coordinating Officer) Program is working well in the Precinct and he encourages anyone who has not met with their NCOs to make an effort to do so. They can attend civic organization's meeting. He wants the officers to get to know as many community members as possible. Members of the Ralph-Lincoln Association are very familiar with them and he wants this to be the case throughout the 73rd Precinct.

He encourages everyone to use 3-1-1 for non-emergency complaints.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that the Ralph-Lincoln Association borders Community District #8 which is covered by the 77th Precinct and Community District #16 which is covered by the 73rd Precinct. She commends the 73rd Precinct for their strong presence at a recent meeting where there were many people from Community District #8 who were upset that there was no presence from the 77th Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Iglesias thanked Ms. Mack for the complement and reintroduced the NCOs: Sector A – P.O. Wendell Dias and P.O. John Velez, Sector B – P.O. Scott Walicki and P.O. Grid Troci, Sector C – P.O. Gary Allen and P.O. Daniel Wood, and Sector D – P.O. Jaime Ramirez and P.O. Guy Randel. (Maps demarking the sectors are available in the Board's office.)

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. asked if there will be additional officers on foot patrol?

Deputy Inspector Iglesias stated that there are three areas of the Precinct that will always have foot patrols every night. They are Rockaway and Livonia Avenues, Livonia and Saratoga Avenues, and the area of the Noble-Ali Drew housing complex (Mother Gaston Boulevard and New Lots Avenue). These are areas that are violence prone.

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

- GoPost - a new, automated and convenient way to receive and ship packages, from the United States Postal Service. Sign up by visiting usps.com/gopost.
- Free Tax Preparation – persons earning \$62,000 or less in 2015, may qualify for FREE TAX PREP services. In Community District #16 you may visit: Neighbors Together, 2094 Fulton Street, (718) 498-7256. Community Solutions-Brownsville Partnership, 519 Rockaway Avenue, (347) 682-5606.
- Guidelines for 2016 Street Activity applications including this year's blackout dates on which the 73rd Precinct has stated that no events will be allowed.
- Lawyers Alliance for New York City - the leading provider of business and transactional legal services for nonprofit organizations servicing New York City. Their staff and extensive network of pro bono attorneys of almost every expertise can assist eligible nonprofit organizations with a variety of legal issues.

Additionally, the report contains a number of grants that are available, some of which are time sensitive.

A motion was made by Ms. Yolanda Matthews, seconded by Min. Prince Issachar to accept the report of the District Manager.

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

Mr. Soto stated that Councilmember Espinal represents the northern portion of Community District #16. He has attorneys available to assist with housing matters at his office, located at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, the telephone number is (718) 642-8664.

At last September's Community Board meeting, the Board voted to support the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue, in honor of the late Dr. Walter A. Kyte. Councilmember Espinal was just settling into his new position at the time and missed the deadline. However, he does support the co-naming of Glenmore Avenue from Watkins Street to Van Sinderen Avenue, and has submitted the paperwork to have it done. The ceremony should take place this summer and once they have all the information they will invite everyone to join them for the ceremony.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Morgan Monaco of OneNYC.

Ms. Monaco stated that she is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Operations. In preparation for tonight's meeting, she reviewed the Board's District Needs Statement. Having worked at the Parks Department prior to coming to the Mayor's Office, she was pleased to see so many requests supporting the community's parks. Parks play an important part in the wellbeing of our city.

She is here tonight to talk about OneNYC. They reached out to the Board, before they put the initiative together, last April. As the one-year anniversary approaches, they want to provide an update to the community.

OneNYC, in short, is their vision for the 100 years of the City's future. It encompasses all policy areas and attempts to describe what our values as a city should be. It involves all agencies and how we can work together to achieve a better New York City by the year 2030 and beyond.

The initiative is building on a solid foundation. The City is required to produce this plan every four years. The first plan came out in 2007, under the Bloomberg Administration and was updated in 2011. We had hurricane Sandy hit and they created a plan for better resiliency to supplement the sustainability plans. The plan has built upon what they have learned from the previous iterations and in 2015 they produced OneNYC.

They visited this Community Board and 40 others and received input from over 1,300 residents. They also had an online survey, called people on the phone and asked for their visions for a better New York. They know from the Board's District Needs Statement that this community is particularly interested in affordable housing, healthcare access, and in reducing violence and crime.

Since 2007, they have been dealing with issues regarding our growing population, infrastructure needs, and thinking about how climate change is affecting our world. Now, in 2015, they have gone back and thought about issues regarding equity, the importance of the region, not just the five boroughs of New York City, but how we connect to the region for jobs, transportation support, etcetera. The City does not exist in a vacuum.

Citywide, 45.1% of New Yorkers are at or near the poverty threshold. That means many New Yorkers are not getting the right jobs or the right income to be self-sustainable. In Brownsville particularly, but citywide it is nearly half the city. They know that 56% of New Yorkers are rent burden – 30% or more of their income goes straight to rent. For this reason, the mayor has an affordable housing plan which is fully funded and they are making progress on their commitment to that goal.

They thought about how people have access to their government. This audience is an example of people who care about their community and want their voices heard. Unfortunately, only 56% of eligible voters are actually registered to vote. Meaning that there are another 44% of eligible voters who are not voting. So, they are thinking about ways to get out to people and empowering them to get involved and actively participate in their government.

The plan is based on four themes: growth, equity, sustainability, and resiliency.

When thinking of growth, they talked about housing, jobs, transportation, and what are all the elements needed to make a neighborhood thrive. It is not just about throwing up a bunch of apartment buildings, houses, and other structures; it is about how they relate to the community, how they make residents feel when they are walking in their neighborhoods? Do the shops feel as if they belong in the community, is transportation accessible, are there jobs available? All the initiatives, from workforce development to housing development to fixing broken transportation are part of their vision for creating thriving neighborhoods.

One of the projects that she is personally involved in deals with culture in the city. They have placed funds within the Department of Cultural Affairs' budget to help create culture hubs which will help small local organizations get marketing support, and/or technical support that they might need to help them grow and increase their audience. They want people to have access to culture right in their own neighborhoods. Being able to get on the subway and go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art is great, but access to culture in their own neighborhoods is also needed.

The second theme, an equitable New York City, looks at having a city where all New Yorkers are able to live with dignity and security. One of the key goals is to lift nearly 800,000 of poverty or near poverty by the year 2025. By 2040, they want to reduce mortality rates by 25%, dramatically decrease racial and ethnic disparities, and increase household incomes. To accomplish this, they are thinking about things that affect early childhood. They want there to be more baby friendly hospitals to help new moms. They want to bring focus to maternal depression, something that is a new piece on the mayor's mental health roadmap.

It is great that we are building better parks and streets, but they also want to ensure that people have improved access to affordable, healthy food and physical activity opportunities in all neighborhoods.

The third theme, a sustainable New York City, seeks to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% over 2005 levels, by the year 2050; send zero waste to landfills and reduce waste disposal by 90% relative to 2005 levels by 2030, and ensure New York City has the best air quality among all large U.S. cities by 2030. To accomplish this, there will be full recycling at all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) facilities. Schools that should already be recycling will be composting organic waste and they will be teaching their students about the value of reducing waste.

The fourth theme, building resiliency, OneNYC will ensure that our neighborhoods, economy, and public services are ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change and other 21st century threats: every city neighborhood will be safer by strengthening community, social, and economic resiliency. The city's buildings will be upgraded against climate impacts. Infrastructure systems across the region will adapt to enable continued services. New York City's coastal defenses will be strengthened against flood and sea level rise.

As was stated earlier, they are required by the City Charter, to update the plan every four years. In between, they prepare an annual update. This year's update is scheduled to come out on April 22nd. They appreciate any and all ideas regarding what the community feels is important to them. They want to be thinking about the long-term as well as the near-term as they work collectively to shape our city's future.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked what is in the plans for our schools? Schools in Brownsville need sustainable programs. They need cultural programs, after school programs, science laboratories, and technology.

Ms. Monaco stated that they are being thoughtful with aligning what is being taught in the schools with where the jobs will be in the future. There is a whole initiative focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) where there is technology, where they can get programming into the schools, where they are thinking "green" jobs will be.

They are also working with the City University of New York (CUNY) to ensure that there are college persistence programs to help students reach the finish line of a college degree with the training that they need to get well-paying jobs.

Along with Universal Pre-K, they are rolling out Universal Afterschool. They want to continue to maintain a dialogue with the Department of Education and the NYCHA Cornerstone Programs

which have been successful. There has also been funding funneled to the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Programs to help students, who do not go to college, gain skills required to enter the job market.

Someone asked what determines whether housing is affordable?

Ms. Monaco stated that there is a formula that is used that incorporates several different factors such as family size and income.

Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr. stated that there is a need for training in the building trades.

Someone asked how the plan relates to small businesses?

Ms. Monaco stated that the vision is that they will provide what possible financial support that they can, provide training and mentorship for small businesses, and try to reduce unnecessary fines and fees.

Ms. Carolyn Lee stated that she heard much about long-term goals for the plan this evening. What are the near-term goals?

Ms. Monaco stated that by nature, this is a long-term plan. However, they do make updates on an annual basis and look to the community to get feedback on what direction the city should be taking.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked Ms. Monaco for her presentation.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee invited the Branch Manager of Chase Bank at Pitkin Avenue to the Committee's meeting on February 18, 2016 to discuss the community's dissatisfaction with services at the branch, such as long lines for tellers and ATMs.

The Committee was informed by the State Government Relations Civic Engagement Officer who attended stated that their Legal Department has advised their employees not to discuss banking matters off-premises or during non-banking hours. That being the case, the Committee will arrange a meeting with the Branch Manager on site to discuss our concerns. She asks that anyone who has specific concerns regarding Chase Bank to contact District Manager Greene-Walker with those concerns, so that they can be addressed at the meeting.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the contents of this report, may contact Ms. Morgan at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

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

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 11, 2016 with Cheryl Pahaham from the State Comptroller's office and discussed a survey that their office is doing on noise.

Research has demonstrated that noise can have an adverse impact on your health. For example, noise can disturb your sleep and increase stress levels.

In an effort to learn more about noise in New York City neighborhoods and solicit ideas for reducing noise, everyone is being asked to fill out the survey by going online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5XMGCG>.

The Committee advocates for policies for reduction of noise, and implementing effective management and cures for noise hazards.

On February 20, she attended Assemblywoman Walker's meeting on renewable energy at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center. The discussion was on the development of our community's renewable energy by Con Edison using the \$125 million funding secured by Assemblywoman Latrice Walker for our community. BlocPower and NYSEERDA, two existing energy solutions agencies, and Brookdale Hospital's vice president made presentations explaining the impact of the venture on our community.

It was very informative and exposed the importance of this system and how we, as a community should work together to avoid possible blackouts in 2018 due to the growth of the community according to Con Edison's data.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held a teleconference on February 8, 2016 and continued to review legislation put forward by the State Assembly. The Committee dealt with some pieces of legislation under the heading of Labor. The first ones they looked at were A7257 and S5602 which deals with minimum wage increase. This raises the State's minimum wage and tipped wage rate to ensure minimum wage earnings keep pace with inflation. The bill increases the minimum wage incrementally over a three-year period to \$12.50 an hour for Downstate which covers New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester and \$10.50 for upstate on December 31, 2016. The wage would then increase to \$13.75 Downstate and \$11.55 Upstate on December 31, 2017. On the last day of 2018, the minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 an hour Downstate and \$12.60 Upstate. The bill also incrementally increases the tipped wage, beginning at \$10.40 Downstate and \$8.75 Upstate in 2016, \$11.45 and \$9.65 in 2017, and \$12.50 and \$10.50 in 2018 with the raises becoming effective on the last day of each of those years. In addition, beginning on the final day of 2019, both the minimum wage and tipped wage for Downstate and Upstate would be increased annually according to the rate of inflation. It passed the Assembly.

The next piece of legislation looked at was Elevator Safety - A1787 and S1945. These bills establish standards and guidelines for the inspection and maintenance of elevators and other automated people moving devices and certain requirements for the training and licensing of contractors or individuals responsible for the design, construction, inspection, maintenance and repair of elevators. It passed the Assembly.

The Committee also reviewed A3870 and S3004 - Paid Family Leave. This provides family leave with pay for injury or sickness, pregnancy or other family matters under the State Workers Compensation Law. The bill expands the State's temporary disability benefits program to ensure that employees who need family care receive paid leave and are protected from employer retaliatory action. It passed the Assembly.

The final piece of legislation reviewed concerning labor was A4839 and S2873, known as the Partial Unemployment Benefits. This bill ensures that partially unemployed workers have access to unemployment insurance benefits by modifying the way unemployment insurance benefits are calculated in order to remove a disincentive for unemployment insurance recipients to take a part-time job for fear their benefits would be reduced to inadequate levels. It passed the Assembly.

Most of these bills have passed in the Assembly, but they have been vetoed by the Senate or are stuck in committee. She encourages the community to reach out to the Senate to have the bills move forward.

Finally, they reviewed A08626, the Modernized Voter Registration Bill of New York State introduced by Assemblywoman Latrice Walker. This bill seeks to amend the New York State Election law and allows automated voter registration of eligible consenting citizens at designated government agencies. It will permit same day registration on the day of election. It also permits a casting of a vote in the same day election, and allows voter registration through the internet and also the updating of registration information through the internet. It will mandate that any proposed changes to the state or local election law, policy practice or procedures affecting these target areas must go through a clearance process with the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's office. The Committee urges all our community residents to support this bill and they will be writing a letter supporting this bill.

As mentioned in their last Committee report, they are reaching out to our federal representatives to consider crafting legislation that will allow HUD (Department Housing and Urban Development) to use the medium income of the area where the development is being considered to determine affordability.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on March 14th in the Community Board Office.

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

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on February 3rd, the Committee met and discussed the following:

Deputy Inspector Iglesia and Community Affairs reviewed the Precinct's crime status and updates in the District.

At the January 26, 2016 Community Board meeting, Dr. Burchell Marcus shared a concern of constitutional infringement regarding assumed "Road Blocks" in our District. She invited Dr. Marcus to attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting for further discussion.

Dr. Marcus did attend and had the opportunity to clarify his concern as well as ascertain from Deputy Inspector Iglesia, the function of a "Pedestrian Safety Check" and "DUI Check" in the District.

Residents of the 500 Block of Ralph Avenue attended and again stressed the dysfunction of the housing program located at 599 Ralph Avenue. The residents asked the Community Board to attend their next block association meeting.

On February 18th, she and District Manager Greene-Walker attended the meeting, where they were able to enlist members for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the shelter at 599 Ralph Avenue.

The CAC will be an apparatus that will enable direct communication, and community partnering, that will in turn provide a direct relationship working to satisfy all involved.

On February 17th, she attended the CAC meeting for CAMBA where the directors gave a monthly status report of their program sites. Regarding daily activities, she suggested that the organization collaborate with the adult day centers for daytime activities.

The Public Safety Committee will meet again on March 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Pat Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

The Committee discussed resources available for seniors. Their findings are as follows:

1) Carrier Alert Program-Under the direction of the Department for the Aging (DFTA)-The program is intended to enhance the safety of the elderly and disabled. Once the senior enrolls in the program, DFTA will share your address with the United States Postal Service (USPS). Once you complete the registration your letter carrier will place the carrier alert stickers in the mailbox.

The senior authorizes USPS to alert DFTA if there is an accumulation of mail which could indicate the senior could be sick. DFTA then notifies the emergency contact to check on the senior to ensure that everything is well with the senior.

Nearly 18,000 older New Yorkers are hospitalized each year for falls.

- 1) To prevent falls, think of your health and be physically active
- 2) Ask your health care provider to review all your medications
- 3) Have your vision checked
- 4) Make your home safer
 - a. Furniture – is furniture in your way?
Rearrange it so your path is clear.

- b. Throw rugs – it's easy to slip on throw rugs, you can use double-sided-tape or a non-slip backing to keep them in place.
- c. Clutter – are there papers, books, shoes or other objects on the floor, pick them up.

Kitchen - Items used the most should be moved down to waste level. Step stools can be dangerous. Buy a stool with a bar to hold onto.

Bathroom - Use non-slip mats or self-stick strips in the bath tub and on the shower floor. Have horizontal grab bars properly installed next to the tub and the toilet.

Bedroom - Place lamps close to the bed, where they are easy to reach.

- Is the path from your bed to the bathroom dark? Put in a night light so you can see where you are going.

Seniors may visit www.nyc.gov and search for ACCESS NYC to screen their eligibility for several of the programs listed in the booklet. These include food stamps, Medicaid, HEAP, Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemptions (SCRIE) and Veterans Exemptions.

The next Committee meeting will be March 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Ladson, Sr., seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that last year, the Community Board approved a request by the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District to have the New York City Department of Transportation install a Street Seats Platform in front of Sal & Paul Pizzeria, located at 1686 Pitkin Avenue. The seating was heavily used on a daily basis.

Once again, they are requesting the Community Board's support to install street seats at 1686 Pitkin Avenue from April to November 2016. The Committee recommends that the Community Board approve this request which will provide outdoor seating for shoppers along Pitkin Avenue.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, and carried to accept the recommendation of the Transportation and Franchise Committee to approve the request by the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District to have the New York City Department of Transportation install a Street Seats Platform in front of 1686 Pitkin Avenue.

The next Committee meeting will be March 7, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Genese Morgan, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchise Committee.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Service Planning Committee, reported that on February 11, 2016, the Committee met with Ms. Melanie Mendonca, President of the Community Education Council to discuss underperforming schools, which there are many. Ms. Mendonca stated that the statistics of these schools were predicated on the 2014-2015 ratings. The underperforming schools may have improved in each of the schools since then. Although the results are outdated, the Committee made a request to meet with the superintendent to ascertain how the Committee can assist at the community level to improve the quality of education for the children in School District 23. Several schools have a high percentage of children living in the shelter system. The Committee plans are to ensure that these are children receiving appropriate services and if additional services are needed.

Also discussed were community schools, renewal schools, and the role of the parent coordinators in School District 23. Ms. Mendonca stated that there were 7 parent coordinator vacancies. The role of the parent coordinator is to be the mediator between the parent and principal of the school whenever a problem arises with the child(ren) in question.

The Committee and Ms. Mendonca considered workshops to engage the middle school students concerning violence in schools and more, which was initiated by Ms. Gonzalez, Director of Roads to Success Program at the previous Committee meeting. A survey will be created to

ascertain what type of workshops the middle school students would want to discuss and the data will be presented at the next Committee meeting where the Committee will construct the workshops.

The Committee also met with Mr. John Cheeks, Director of the Atlantic Plaza Towers Plaza Youth and Recreation Program. Mr. Cheeks is planning a march/procession on February 27th, starting at 249 Thomas S. Boyland Street going south to Pitkin Avenue and making a left on Pitkin Avenue to Rockaway Avenue, left on Rockaway Avenue to the Ocean Hill Playground on Dean Street where a prayer will be done and the march will end at 216 Rockaway Avenue. After which, refreshments will be served at Atlantic Plaza Towers, where a talent showcase, singing, dancing, poetry and other entertainment will end the festivities at 10:00 p.m. Any youth organization interesting in participating in this youth event should contact Mr. Cheeks at (347) 866-4779.

There will also be a Black History Celebration on February 26th at The Oasis Beacon Program: PS/IS 323, located at 210 Chester Street from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and on February 27th at Langston Hughes Community Center, located at 301 Sutter Avenue.

The next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting will be on March 10th at 5:30 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room at 444 Thomas Boyland Street.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Carolyn Lee, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Service Planning Committee.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Borough President Eric Adams.

Mr. McDaniel stated that Adrainer Coleman, Carlos Diaz, Norman Frazier, Sarah Hall, Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Genese Morgan, Ernestine Turner, and Pat Winston achieved perfect attendance for the calendar year 2015 and will be receiving certificates at next month's Community Board meeting. Board members whose reappointment application are due and persons seeking to become new members may now complete the applications online by visiting brooklyn-usa.org.

He announced the following upcoming events: a Black History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m., a Chinese New Year Celebration on Friday, February 26th, Embrace Your Hyphen throughout the year to celebrate the diversity of the people of Brooklyn, a Mitchell-Lama forum on February 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Borough President Adams held a reception to honor 75 of Brooklyn's "Golden Couples" — those who have been married for more than 50 years, earlier this month. He also held a Youth Organization Capacity Forum where they informed attendees on how to obtain funding and how to form a 501(c)3, among other topics.

He reminds eligible organizations that capital funding applications are due and may be completed on their website: brooklyn-usa.org. He also encourages everyone to participate in a petition effort for free transfers between the IRT Junius Street station and the Livonia Avenue station on the "L" line.

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. Reginald Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clark, stated that Congresswoman Clark represents the 9th Congressional District and she is currently working on several issues that affect her district on the national and local levels.

As a new member to Congresswoman Clark's office, he has been working on the complaints that they have been receiving concerning the Brownsville Postal Station. Complaints about long lines and only two clerks at the windows. He has attended a number of meetings concerning these issues as well as District Manager Greene-Walker and they are working hard to resolve the issues. The Postal Service has informed them that they are understaffed and are seeking to hire for the location. He encourages unemployed community residents to apply. They also want consumers to complete complaint sheets and forward them to the Service, either directly or through the Congresswoman's office.

Congresswoman Clark recently attended a Small Business Committee meeting at City Hall. At this special meeting, they discussed accessible small business loans, specifically federal loans. They also discussed HUD and affordability. She is working on bills that will help make housing truly affordable.

Congress will soon hold committee meetings regarding the Flint water crisis and she will actively participate in the hearings because if it can happen in Flint, it can happen anywhere.

Also in her workload are grants.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown stated that she is a former employee of the Postal Service and warns the audience not to be satisfied by them stating they are understaffed. The managers have the ability to place bids to have temporary workers assigned to the station.

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