

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – November 22, 2016

Attendance

David Alexander
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith (E)
Margaret Brewer
Aaron Brown (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (E)
Anthony Clark
Adrainer Coleman
Carlos Diaz (A)
Brenda Duchene (E)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)
Norman Frazier
Danny Goodine
Chyanne Hairston
Sarah Hall (E)
Jessie Hilliard
Mawuli Hormeku (A)
Michael Howard
Prince Issachar (A)
Carl Joseph
Pamela Junior
Eula Key
Danny King
Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)
Wendy Lanier (A)
Carolyn Lee (E)
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)

Albion Liburd (E)
Deborah Mack
Yolanda Matthews
John McCadney, Jr.
Virginia McClam (E)
Andrea McCullough (A)
Ronella Medica (A)
Shemene Minter
Genese Morgan
Anita Pierce
Marie Pierre (E)
Linda Rivera (E)
Wendy Rutherford (A)
Evelyn Sanchez (E)
Delores Slaughter
Celina Trowell (A)
Ernestine Turner
Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Patricia Williamson (A)
Pat Winston
Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Hon. Latrice Walker
Shawn Harris for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Marie Boone for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
H. L. Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry
Cory Provost for Hon. Scott Stringer

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The roll was next called and a quorum was not present.

Chairperson Morgan requested that Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu read the District Manager's Report in behalf of District Manager Greene-Walker. The following are the highlights:

- *Humanities New York's* Grants Program is a statewide resource for support of a wide variety of lectures, festivals, panel discussions, walking tours, and the planning and implementation of exhibitions and other ventures at small and large not-for-profit institutions throughout New York State. Through this program, the Council distributes federal funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities directly to notable projects created by museums, libraries, historical societies, and other cultural and educational organizations. The Grants Program gives priority to projects that engage hard-to-reach audiences (e.g.: families, groups with special needs, veterans, etc.) or that serve communities from all around the state. From now to 2020, projects that mark the state or national centennials of women's suffrage are also encouraged. For more information about the 2017 grant guidelines, please visit humanitiesny.org.
- *The Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarships* recognizes students who are driving awareness and mobilizing youth to be catalysts for innovative models that provide solutions to eliminate hunger in America. Scholarship winners receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$5,000 grant for their hunger-related charity. For more information, please email StopHunger@sodexofoundation.org or visit the scholarship website: us.stop-hunger.org/home/grants/2016-scholars.html.
- *DYCD's Ladders for Leaders* is a nationally recognized program that offers high school and college students the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies in New York City. The program also offers a broad opportunity to join a growing network of alumni, post-internship opportunities and networking events open only to past participants of the program. Applications are evaluated based on academic performance, response to an essay question and résumé. For

more information, please contact 1-800-246-4646 or apply online at <https://application.nycsyep.com>.

- Foot Locker Scholar Athletes Program - The Foot Locker scholarship award is \$20,000 and will be distributed in four equal, annual installments. Applications are due December 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Visit the Foot Locker Scholar Athletes website at: footlockerscholarathletes.com, for additional information and to apply.
- AmeriCorps State and National Grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. Grant award amounts vary — both in the level of operating funds and in the type and amount of AmeriCorps member positions. The deadline for applications to the 2017 Notice of Funding Opportunity is Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Notification of Intent to apply for this competition, but it is not required. Notifications of Intent to apply should be filed by Wednesday, December 7, 2016. For more information, visit nationalservice.gov.
- Education Matters Scholarship - Unigo's Education Matters Scholarship is giving you the chance to state why education matters. Speaking up for education could lead to helping you pay for your own. One applicant will be awarded the \$5,000 Education Matters Scholarship. Applicants must be thirteen (13) years of age or older at the time of application and a legal resident of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia. The Application deadline is Wednesday, November 30, 2016. For additional scholarship details, please visit unigo.com.
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program - The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will select up to 10 communities to participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. Applications are submitted through grants.gov, and are due by Wednesday, November 30, 2016. The selection of the 10 communities will be announced in January of 2017. For complete grant information and eligibility, please visit grants.gov.

Additionally, the report contains several complaints received by the Board's office which were forwarded to various agencies for resolution.

Chairperson Morgan called forward representatives from Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center (Brookdale).

Ms. Sharon Leid stated that she is the Director for Community Relations at Brookdale. They are present this evening to provide a brief presentation on their Ambulatory Care Center (ACC). She also invites the audience to join them for Brookdale's World AIDS Day event on November 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Sharon Smith stated that she is the Manager at Brookdale's ACC. They are located on the Second Floor of the main hospital building. Their goals are to improve the healthcare disparities of individual residents by providing services that will improve the health outcomes of the patient population, increase access and focus on preventive care.

Services include, but are not limited to the Breast Center, Cardiology, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Medication Management, Oncology, Pediatric Developmental, and Renal.

The importance of Ambulatory Care Services in Brookdale Hospital's healthcare delivery system is essential to the needs of the community. Beyond their presence in the hospital's main building and the Urgent Care Center, located directly across the main building at 1235 Linden Boulevard, they are represented at most of Brookdale's Family Care Centers, located at key locations throughout Brooklyn such as BFCC Urban Strategies on Eastern Parkway between Atlantic Avenue and Herkimer Street.

New pediatric patients will need their birth certificate, immunization records, children's insurance and should be accompanied by their parent. New adult patients will need photo identification, insurance, and a list of medications being taken.

Brookdale also offers myBrookdale, a website which gives patients secure access to their electronic health records.

Chairperson Morgan thanked the presenters and called forward Ms. Desiree Walker of SHARE.

Ms. Walker stated that SHARE is a not-for-profit organization offering dedicated experienced support for women facing breast and ovarian cancers. She is an Outreach Coordinator for the organization. She is present this evening because about five years ago, SHARE received funding for outreach into the Black and Latino communities and formed their Ambassador Program. Ambassadors are available to give presentations which last about an hour and discuss all aspects of breast and ovarian cancers.

While breast cancer in men is rare, it does exist and Richard Roundtree, the actor known for his role as the original Shaft in film, is currently touring the country to inform people about men's breast cancer issues. She also noted that you do not have to have a family history of breast cancer to have breast cancer yourself. Women have been diagnosed with the disease in their 20's and as late as their 90's, having acquired a certain age does not mean you can no longer get breast cancer.

Persons or organizations that wish to get additional information or have an Ambassador give presentation may reach out to her this evening.

Chairperson Morgan thanked Ms. Walker and recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, the new Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that while he is new to the Command, he is not new to the community, having served as the Commanding Officer of PSA 2 prior to being assigned to the 73rd Precinct. He looks forward to working with the community in addressing the needs and concerns of the area.

Earlier today, he attended a meeting with area residents regarding an officer involved shooting at the Van Dyke I Houses where he gave a preliminary report on the incident. This is a relatively new incident, so there was not much to report at the time. He takes officer involved shootings very seriously and wants to offer a level of comfort to the victim's family. This is a tragedy, no matter the outcome.

Regarding crime in the Precinct, they are down in overall crimes for the 28-day period. However, there has been an uptick in burglaries in the command with no discernable pattern as well as a rash of break in of commercial trucks. There were two shootings in the 28-day period, both of which have resulted in arrests.

Ms. Ruth Haliburton stated that she is seeing recruitment billboards in this community and elsewhere. Are there efforts also being made in the schools and other local venues?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that to his knowledge, there are no efforts being made to recruit from schools. The Department has reduced its hiring, for the time being, to re-evaluate some of the previous applications which were marked as ineligible.

Ms. Haliburton stated that in her youth, there were police officers policing the community who looked like the people of the community. What is the Department doing to increase the minority representation on the force in communities of color?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that the Police Department is one of the most diversified agencies in New York City. There are people from a multitude of ethnicities, nationalities, and religions serving as police officers in the city. When the Department is actively recruiting, they have a recruitment unit that works at keeping them diverse.

He encourages youth with an interest in becoming police officers to visit the Precinct and speak to them. As the Commanding Officer for PSA (Police Service Area) #2, he worked with Ms. Sandra Johnson (Director of the Medgar Evers Cornerstone at Van Dyke) to bring about program wherein they would bring together youth of the community and former and current residents who are now professionals working at various agencies. He has a strong belief that youth cannot become what they don't see. Having them meet these professionals gives them something to aspire to.

Chairperson Morgan next recognized Ms. Shana Besley of New York City Small Business Services (SBS).

Ms. Besley stated that the Compliance Advisory Unit is a new initiative led by the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) in coordination with multiple City agencies to improve the regulatory climate in New York City. The initiative builds upon previous reforms and seeks to make changes that will assist businesses by:

- Providing better information about government requirements and how to comply
- Simplifying rules and compliance processes to reduce violations
- Ensuring enforcement focuses on promoting compliance through education and flexibility
- Easing the process for correction and adjudication of violations
- Delivering improved services to immigrant and low-/moderate-income entrepreneurs and outer-borough businesses

They can assist businesses in getting an understanding of the rules to resolve or prevent issues surrounding compliance. Business owners need not travel to SBS. Representatives from the agency can meet with business owners at their place of business and at a time that suits the owner. The consultations are free of cost to the business owner.

Chairperson Morgan thanked everyone for attending the Community Board meeting and gave a special welcome to those who are attending a community board meeting for the first time.

She reported that in her September 2016 Chairperson's Report, she shared some very important matters that should be followed and discussed in our community. Included are: the Brooklyn Queens Demand Management (BQDM) Project, possible changes to Brookdale Hospital, funding allocated to Betsy Head Park, the re-consideration of possibly locating a criminal justice center in Brownsville, the Mayor's health initiatives to expand access to health care, the need for handicapped accessibility at our train stations, and small business and job creation in our community.

There have been three (3) workshops related to the HPD Planning Process, a visioning session for the renovation of Betsy Head Park, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Brooklyn Health Action Center has opened at 259 Bristol Street, and the Northwell study has been released which is a 160 page report that outlines recommendations to establish a regional health system that will consolidate Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center, and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

Each month, several committee meetings take place which allow us the opportunity to get information, discuss and ask questions about projects in advance of the Community Board meeting, and collate our concerns to inform the community and our elected officials to take proactive action rather than be reactive when it's almost too late. Unfortunately, board members and residents are not participating in committees at record numbers and this is alarming considering all the changes that will be taking place in our community in the next few years.

To put these things into perspective, there are a few things to think about: four (4) parks/recreation sites are being renovated and/or scheduled to be renovated in our community including the Brownsville Recreation Center which will displace recreation programs, four (4) large parcels of land will be developed in our community as part of the HPD planning process, and four (4) hospitals that serve our community will be restructured.

How will these projects overlap and impact our community? Will there be funding and other resources available to our churches and non-profits to assist with providing alternative space for displaced programs? How will the community get the jobs they have been asking for when all these projects take place? How will these projects impact our daily travel in and out of the community? These are the types of questions that we can take the time to think through during committee meetings and come up with recommendations to city agencies and our elected officials.

The members of Community Board #16 need to hear your thoughts and ideas. She asked the audience to assist the Board by making the sacrifice to join a committee.

Next, as Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, she reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016.

On Monday, November 14, 2016, the East New York WorkForce1 Center opened at 2619 Atlantic Avenue between Sheffield and Pennsylvania Avenues. Beginning Monday, November 28, 2016, the Center will begin offering its full core of services for adults 18 years old or older with tailored services for individuals 18-24 years old and formally acquainted with the criminal justice system. The Center will operate from 9:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday and will work with neighboring organizations to provide services. Career advisement appointments are available 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. each day and resume workshops are available every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Recruitment calendars are available at www.nyc.gov/workforce1 and you can contact the center for appointments at (646) 606-0301.

The Committee reviewed two (2) liquor license applications for business establishments seeking liquor licenses within the District as follows:

An application for a beer and wine license was submitted for a restaurant located at 109 Belmont Avenue which will open in the next 30 days; the application was made by Rosa Espinal, owner & Business Manager. The purpose of the license is to allow beverages containing alcohol on premises during dine-in food services.

An application for a beer and wine license was submitted for a restaurant located at 2017 Fulton Street by Mosun Balogun, Business Manager and owner. The purpose of the license is to allow beverages containing alcohol on premises during dine-in food services.

The Committee recommends that the Board support both applications.

The Committee invites members of the community with interests in economic development to attend their next meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Because a quorum was not present, there was no vote on the Committee's report.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, to discuss the new information received about the Department of Homeless Services contracting shelters in Brownsville disregarding the Committee's 2015 communiqué regarding DHS' accountability and commitment to reduce and stop further allocations in our community which is already inundated with thirteen (13) homeless shelters.

The Committee examined the following updates in view of the City's homelessness situation and Mayor di Blasio's current objective.

Under contract with Department of Homeless Services, Howard Johnson Hotel at 524 Rockaway Avenue, La Quinta Hotel at 1424 Pitkin Avenue, and Quality Inn at 95 Chester Street are sheltering families. The terms of the contract with the hotels are that these families are housed for an average stay of 31 days, contingent on transition to permanent housing. The families get meals and all their supportive services on the hotel premises.

The Community Board was not notified by DHS that these locations were being used to house homeless families due to the urgency of the placement and the overwhelming number of homeless families available.

On Monday, District Manager Greene-Walker and I met with the DHS Assistant Commissioner, Matt Borden and staff. It was a very engaging and informational meeting

Assistant Commissioner Borden stated that DHS has agreed and committed to close cluster shelters and return clients to affordable housing. 40,000 people have moved out of the shelters. Although, there is a right to shelter rule in New York City and not right to housing, DHS is committed to transition all to affordable permanent housing when available.

While the above is the DHS mandate, Assistant Commissioner Borden promised to revisit Brownsville's homeless shelter issue and respects our stand that "enough is enough". In addition, he would also investigate and reexamine the macro problems with The Renaissance and the 2042 Atlantic Avenue shelters and help resolve them.

He would review the responsibilities of the DHS Peace Officers and the Police Department to alleviate the current concerns and restore community peace, safety and quality of life.

We will forward information on three-quarter houses surrounding Renaissance Shelter for him to engage HRA on the issues and update the Committee.

On November 15, 2016, I attended a meeting at Brookdale University Medical Center about the “The Northwell Feasibility Study on Brookdale. The Feasibility Study was press-released on November 17.

Based on all the information shared, there is a lot of work and meetings to be done before details of the findings and possibilities can be disseminated to all. The most important information is that ‘in a letter sent to the State Department of Health’, this study represents the latest step toward the creation of an integrated health care delivery system that could one day replace the voluntary hospitals: Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center, and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center-the only four unaffiliated hospitals in Brooklyn.

Each hospital will have its own specific healthcare brand and work as a group of hospitals under one name to be determined. An update will be given at the next Community Board meeting.

The Committee remains committed to identifying and engaging the mental health and substance abuse services and resources available to the community, ensure their existence and hold them accountable for the services they provide in our community. Please visit the links provided by Neighborhood Health Action Center register and attend the training programs in Mental Health Care Aide and Health and Wellness classes: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/take-a-course/find-a-course and www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mental-first-aid.page.

This research and process are aimed at improving not only the services provided for Ocean Hill-Brownsville community’s children, youth, adults and families, but also ensure high quality of life comparable to any other community in the state.

As always, our Community Board #16 and all Ocean Hill-Brownsville residents deserve to be aware of and take advantage of the support services provided. Please support your Community Board in community building efforts by participating in the committees.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be on December 13, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Rev. David Demera stated that it is his understanding the residential units being built on Mother Gaston Boulevard, near the library, will be for special needs individuals. Is the Board proactive in ensuring services will be available to assist that population?

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu stated that whenever such proposals are made known to the Board, the Committee does request that the developers/programmers come before them to inform on their proposals. The Committee also follows up to ensure that what was presented is what is being done.

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 November 15, 2016 with Mr. Matthew Okibeyi from the African American Planning Commission, Inc. and Mr. David Beer from Breaking Ground who are proposing to construct 126 units of affordable housing and retail space on a City-owned vacant lot at Livonia Avenue and Grafton Street (Block 3566, Lot 6).

She asked the developers to come forward and give a brief presentation of their proposal.

Mr. Matthew Okebiyi, Executive Director of the African American Planning Commission, Inc., stated he is present this evening with Mr. David Beer, Director of Development with Breaking Ground, and Sarah Polight the African American Planning Commission’s Board Chairperson.

The African American Planning Commission (AAPC), Inc., is a nonprofit organization committed to reducing homelessness and addressing the related issues of domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, substance abuse, shortage of affordable housing, and unemployment in the communities they serve.

In the interest of full disclosure, he reported that Community Board #16 member, Pamela Junior is a former chairperson of their board and a current member of their advisory board.

The project they are proposing has been in the works for some time. They have received approvals and support from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of City Planning, the Department of Health, the Brooklyn Borough President, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and several community-based service providers.

They presented this project to the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee on several occasions and received a letter of support from the Board in September 2014. Since that time, HPD and the Department of City Planning have requested that they add ground floor commercial space to the design. They returned to the Committee to update them on the revised plans and were asked if the plans could be further revised to accommodate more family units and demonstrate that the units would be truly affordable to residents of the community.

AAPC will provide onsite supportive services, around the clock, seven days-a-week and Breaking Ground will provide building services. They have already received funding commitment from the Department of Health to provide the resident services. HPD will be providing 100% project-based Section-8 funding to all the supportive housing units. The remaining units will be affordable in accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's income guidelines.

Mr. Beer stated that the building will have a 24-hour/7 days-week attended lobby, a state-of-the-art camera system, and exterior lighting that will enhance community safety. The project will create many construction jobs as well as permanent jobs for area residents. Breaking Ground, formerly known as Common Ground, currently operates a building known as The Hegeman, located at Thomas S. Boyland Street and Hegeman Avenue. At that site, they employ forty individuals. Twelve of whom are Brownsville residents with an additional thirteen residing in neighboring community districts.

Regarding the construction jobs on this \$40,000,000 project, they will be participating in NYC HIRE, an initiative of the New York City Small Business Services, that requires all general contractors to post their entry- and mid-level job offerings on WorkForce1's website. All applicants on the website will receive interviews. Breaking Ground will work closely with local elected officials and the Community Board to assure that the community is aware of the postings.

Another benefit to the community will be the retail space which activate a long stagnant area of Livonia Avenue. They have not decided on a commercial tenant and will work with the community in identifying a retailer that will meet a community need.

Rev. David Demera asked if there will be any units set aside for senior citizens?

Mr. Beer stated that there will not be a specific set aside for seniors in this project. Breaking Ground does operate a senior building (62 years of age and older) on St. Mark's Avenue near Saratoga Avenue.

Someone stated that the income guidelines do not include certain income levels for persons that have fixed incomes. Are these persons eligible to rent the units?

Mr. Beer stated that on a case by case basis, persons who can demonstrate that they have been paying similar rent for a considered amount but fall out of the guidelines, will be considered for the units.

Someone recommended that regarding the employment opportunities, further outreach be done. While WorkForce1 and the Community Board are excellent resources, not everyone comes in contact with them.

Mr. Beer stated their outreach plan will include a multitude of resources including churches and other community organizations, community board, and elected officials. They want to spread the word as widely as possible and get people to use the website.

Ms. Deidre Olivera-Douglass asked how will they assure that such a large influx of homeless people will not negatively affect the community?

Mr. Okebiyi stated that he lives in a 13-story apartment building and has no clue of what issues his neighbors have or not have. He knows that they do not all pay the same rent and that in New York City, you are required to have a variety of income renters.

They have been trying to take people out of the shelters. They are not building a shelter. Anyone who builds affordable housing in New York City is required by law to take folks out of the shelter system.

Ms. Deborah Mack stated that there are various reasons why people become homeless. Some may have lost their homes to fire or domestic violence. We cannot assume that they all have issues that will negatively impact the community.

Mr. Okebiyi stated that that she is absolutely correct. The shelter system is full of a whole gamut of people.

Mr. Beers stated that this is permanent housing, not a shelter. All residents will have leases. Persons coming from shelters would have to be interviewed by Breaking Ground and African American Planning Commission. They do not have to accept any referrals from shelters. They will only accept people who they think will be successful living in this independent, supportive environment.

Assemblywoman Walker asked if Breaking Ground is formerly known as Common Ground? Why the name change?

Mr. Beer stated that they changed their name last year. In 2011, there was a group named Common Ground that formed Community Solutions and Brownsville Partnership. It's a different group from Breaking Ground.

Ms. Morgan stated that we do not have a quorum to vote on this matter and will need to bring it up again next month.

The Committee also met with representatives from D.U.E.C.E.S. which is seeking a letter of support from the Community Board to develop a green thumb garden on a vacant lot at Somers Street and Rockaway Avenue (Block 1538, Lot 43 and 45).

The Committee also met with representatives from Green Valley Community Farm which is a green thumb garden at 93 New Lots Avenue. The group is requesting a letter of support to maintain the garden at the site.

Pending additional information from the group, the matter was laid over until the next meeting of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee on December 13, 2016.

In the absence of Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, District Manager Greene-Walker read the report. The Committee met on November 10, 2016 and briefly discussed how the results of the election will impact their legislative agenda, as they assess the imbalance of power that will be put into place, and the fact that it will be more difficult to push forward a more progressive agenda. They began to review U.S. Senate Bill #3384, which deals with giving credit for building more housing for the middle class. However, the NHLIC (National Housing Low Income Coalition) asks that we not support this legislation as their research shows a need for more low income housing. The Committee will continue to review this bill at their next meeting.

They also discussed correspondence sent to Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, to consider legislation adjusting the AMI (Area Medium Income) guidelines to reflect each area, for which they are still waiting on an official response.

They next discussed a resolution submitted to the Legislative Committee by the Public Safety Committee for review. This resolution was put forward by two groups, the Brooklyn Defenders and Broken Windows, both located in East New York. This resolution addresses the issues of quality of life as it pertains to police harassment and the ticketing of individuals for low level crimes, for example, double parking. There was the consensus that research is needed to document facts as to whether our community is being targeted. They also felt that the Transportation Committee should also consider this proposal. Currently, the Committee cannot support this resolution.

Finally, they briefly reviewed a bill submitted by a Committee member which was created in California which calls for parents of public school students to fund school supplies at the start of the school year and in some instances, it can also include toilet tissue, facial tissues, copy paper, paper towel and other supplies. There is also a concern of parents having to pay for trips that are part of an educational experience which reinforces the curriculum. The Committee will continue the discussion on this topic and suggests that the Youth Committee also be involved and that the Board reach out to School District 23 to assess the situation here in New York before considering similar legislation.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on December 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

Mr. Daniel Goodine, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 7, 2016 with representatives from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation who presented a proposal to renovate the Brownsville Recreation Center.

He called forward Mr. Marty Maher and his colleagues to make a presentation on the project which Board members will be asked to vote on.

Mr. Maher stated that tonight's presentation is the result of a number of community meetings regarding the scope of their plans to rehabilitate the Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC). Present with him this evening are Eileen Dalton, Claudette Ramos, Davey Ives, and Spencer Lee of their consulting designer. Kate Riley is the manager of this project.

Using input from the scoping meetings, they came up with a plan to make use of the \$18 million allocation to rehabilitate the BRC. The main building of the BRC was built in 1953 and there have been piece-meal additions along the way. This plan will rehab 4 sections of the BRC but will not include the Golden Age portion of the Center. This will allow for some of the programming to continue during construction.

Diagrams were displayed showing pre- and post-construction layouts of the Center. It is their aim to make the entry along Linden Boulevard more inviting. It will continue to be accessible and have improved landscaping and lighting. Parking will be relocated to the other side of the facility, to increase safety and allow for a youth entry that better relays to the ballfield. Landscaping will offer a nice color palette for every season.

The interior of the building is currently segmented and lacks clear sightlines for optimal supervision of youth using the Center. The rehab will create better flow, clear sightlines, implement updated building codes, and bring the BRC completely up to date to allow for maximum flexibility of programming.

Seating will be moved to the other side of the gym to create a corridor allowing movement from one side of the building to the other without having to cross the court in the middle of a game. On the 2nd Floor, the fitness area will be moved to overlook the gym creating a balcony which can be used for additional seating to watching tournaments and other performances.

Much of the Center's space will be multi-functional for flexible programming. The Information Technology Room will be an exception.

The design is based on the community's input, not the Park's Department. It will take about two years to complete and construction should begin in early 2019. During the construction, the Golden Age Center will continue to operate with some of the programs using that space. They have a committee that is working with local religious organizations and schools to find space for other programs such as pools and gyms.

Rev. David Demera asked if new locations for the programming will be in place prior to the closing of the BRC?

Mr. Maher stated some will be accommodated in the Golden Age Center and the committee will relocate as many as possible in other locations in the community.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the \$18 million will be adequate to see the rehab to fruition, considering that it will not start until 2019?

Mr. Maher stated that it will and takes into consideration inflation.

Someone asked if the pool will be closed during construction?

Mr. Maher stated that it will be. The committee is looking for other locations where the programming can be relocated during the construction. They will also re-open the pool as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mr. David Alexander asked if the hall of fame will be preserved?

Mr. Maher stated that it will be. There is a committee working on preserving the hall of fame and the mural art. They are doing a couple of things. The Parks Department will capture images on film for permanent preservation which they can reproduce on boards that can be displayed elsewhere. They are also working with the committee to incorporate elements into the design of the rehab.

Ms. Dalton stated that the committee was asked to look at the themes of the art work and determine how it can be incorporated into the design and where the plaques should be placed.

Someone asked if the fees will be increased?

Ms. Dalton stated that they will not be increased. She also stated that current members may also make use of other Parks Department recreation centers such as St. John's Recreation Center which is not too far.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked if they would be creating additional space for new programming?

Mr. Maher stated that they are not creating new space. However, the space will be fluid. It will be dynamic and able to accommodate new programs as needs change.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu asked if it would be adaptable to new technologies?

Mr. Maher stated that it would.

He thanked the Board for allowing them to present their plan and acknowledged the good working relationship that they have had.

There being no quorum present, the vote on the item was postponed.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on Wednesday November 2, 2016, the Committee met to discuss plans for their upcoming Public Safety Town Hall meeting set to take place in mid-December.

She has asked that the Legislative and Transportation Committees give a closer look to the resolution against Broken Windows presented by PROP and the Brooklyn Defenders and how it might affect our District. After those committees review the proposed resolution, the Public Safety Committee will respond to the request for support.

The Police Department's COMPSTAT Report for the period October 1-28 showed that the overall crime levels were down. However, domestic violence crimes are up.

She reminds everyone that they are assembling individuals for the upcoming CERT training. Please provide your contact information to the District Manager, to receive more information and remember that every day is a day to be thankful, loving, helpful, and understanding towards our neighbors. All of this can combat crime.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on December 7, 2016, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Assemblywoman Walker reported that when she was first elected, she worked hard to obtain funding to keep Brookdale Hospital open. She knew that about \$500,000,000 was needed; but asked for more, knowing that there would be some negotiation.

She was recently informed that the Northwell Study was completed. The Study recommends a new emergency room, new ICUS (intensive care unit), and a cancer unit (supplementing the existing breast care unit and bringing a distinguished cancer care unit to our community).

The Study looked at four hospitals in the area and seeks to make Brookdale the hub of a coalition formed by the four hospitals. This will bring about 120 new jobs in Brookdale alone and 800 jobs across Brooklyn. The jobs will be in the area of administrative assistants, doctors, nurses, and all the various positions involved in health care.

This plan is projected to come to fruition in the next five years. She urges the community to prepare for these positions. Additionally, there will be one advisory board governing all the hospitals and each hospital will also have a community advisory board. She warned that other communities already have established advisory boards who are already in communication with decision makers. She is pleading that the Brownsville community come together and form an active advisory board to ensure that the resources that were fought so hard for remain in our community.

She hosts her Community Advisory Meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She has invited representatives from the Department of Health and Northwell to discuss their plans and how we can best prepare for the changes to come.

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee had a successful “Walk Against Breast Cancer” at Betsy Head Park on October 28, 2016. Approximately 100 seniors from Rosetta Gaston Senior Center, Tilden Senior Center, Van Dyke Senior Center, Mt. Ararat Senior Center, members of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, community residents, Sen. Roxanne Persaud, and Assemblymember Latrice Walker participated in the event. The Committee intends to make this an annual event and will soon begin planning for their 2017 walk.

They thank Healthfirst, Assemblymember Latrice Walker, and Wayside Outreach Development Corporation for their donations of food and giveaways.

At their meeting on November 16th, Mrs. Sarah Hall, retired Director of Patient Services and Supervisor of the Endoscopy Unit at Brookdale Hospital, spoke to us about the prevention and treatment of colon cancer.

Because of time constraints at tonight’s meeting, Mrs. Sarah Hall will present on the prevention and treatment of colon cancer at our December 20th Community Board meeting.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 14, 2016 with representatives from the LinkNYC project which is designed to bring free Wi-Fi service to our community. Initially, two kiosks are being installed in Community District #16. One at Saratoga Avenue and Fulton Street and another at Rockaway Avenue and Fulton Street. Once operational, you will be able to link to high speed internet, make calls to anywhere in the United States, and charge your cellphone, all at no cost to you.

The Committee also received a request from the Public Safety Committee to review the resolution aforementioned by Ms. Pierre. She will attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting to get a better understanding of the issues and report back on the Transportation and Franchises Committee’s standing on the resolution.

The Transportation and Franchises Committee is also discussing developing a survey to be sent to the Transit Authority regarding accessibility to the subway system within the District. The Board has, on several occasions, placed requests to have elevators and or escalators at the subway stations along Livonia Avenue and the response from the Authority has been that the ridership does not support the capital outlay. The Committee’s position is that the riders who need the elevators cannot access the trains and therefore cannot be part of the ridership numbers. The intent of the survey is to show the Transit Authority that there is indeed a sufficient population in the community who require accessibility features to make cost worthwhile.

Mr. John McCadney stated that because of its height, the Junius Street Station on the IRT #3 Line is the station which has the greatest need for accessibility improvements.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the

Committee met on Friday November 18, 2016, to discuss a meeting with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Education Department to ascertain what service provisions DHS offers to the students residing in the shelters in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. A teleconference has been scheduled with DHS for December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. There are 29 schools in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, and each one has students living in transitional housing. A list of questions has been prepared to determine how DHS is addressing the educational needs of students and their families.

The Committee also met with Ms. Katie Maze, an educator who is proposing an additional charter school in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. Although there was some opposition to another charter school in Brownsville, which is inundated with 10 charter schools most of which are collocated in the 18 schools, Ms. Mazer stated that we should ensure that all children receive a good education no matter who is providing the service.

On October 20th, he and Ms. Greene-Walker attended a meet and greet at P.S. 156/I.S. 392 with the District Superintendent, principals, and elected officials to address some of the concerns related to the schools and the students under their care. Several of the politicians have committed to allocating funds to schools that are in dire need. I also asked the Superintendent and principals in attendance to submit to Ms. Greene-Walker their requests for funding as the Community Board was working on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

On November 7th, he attended a meeting at Teacher's Preparatory School and Frederick Douglas Academy VII to discuss school safety. The Police Department, Brooklyn District Attorney's representative, and a host of other community-based organizations were present. They met to ensure that the students were made aware of the support systems in place for their protection.

On November 18th, he met with the Community Education Council's Board which consisted of the Superintendent, President of the CEC, school teachers, principals, and parent coordinators at the District Leadership Team meeting. A presentation was made concerning school foods and it was noted that the principals can request low sodium and low sugar products for their schools. Also, if the student has food allergies, he or she can obtain special food specifically for them.

Teacher's Preparatory School will be truncated beginning in 2017, removing the middle school and turning the school into a high school. The removal of 6-8th grades will be completed by School Year 2019.

During the conference, he recommended that vacant classrooms be turned into early childhood development space for children 0-4 years old. The same way that P.S. 41 has done, instead of giving it to the charter schools. The Superintendent stated that she would present this to the Chancellor for review.

The Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation has announced open enrollment of the SONIC BIZ Entrepreneurial Programs for student attending Middle Schools and for their GED Program for ages 17 and up. Both programs are located at 444 Thomas Boyland on the 3rd Floor – Telephone number (718) 498-4513

To enroll in the Campus Afterschool Tech & Arts Program for Middle School Students at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street, call (718) 090-5224.

He thanks the Committee for their hard work and invites everyone to attend the next Youth Services Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked if the charter schools are existing in the same buildings as the public school, why are the resources not the same?

Mr. Alexander stated that this is the argument that they are making with the Chancellor.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. H. Leroy Hutchinson, representing the Office of Assemblyman Nick Perry.

Mr. Hutchinson reminded the audience to beware of scams that are prevalent during the holiday season such as callers stating that are seeking donations for the Police Foundation. The Police Foundation does not solicit funds by telephone. Other scammers may say that they calling from the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) which also does not ask for payment via telephone. These

scammers tend to target seniors, so seniors should be especially vigilant to these scams. If you receive a call from such persons simply hang up.

Ms. Marie Boone, representing the Office Senator Roxanne Persaud, offered the Senator's well wishes for the Thanksgiving holiday and traveling mercies to those who will be traveling during this time.

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