

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – APRIL 27, 2010

Attendance

David Alexander	Sadie McNamara
Orlando Aupont (A)	Ted McQueen
Octavius Bamberg (A)	Genese Morgan
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Davond Motes (A)
Patricia Boone (E)	Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Margaret Brewer	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Lynn Brown (A)	Marie Pierre
Essie Duggan	Rev. Devon Ponds
Helen Giles	Mattie Pusey
Shirley Gonsalves	Melaine Rochford (A)
Sarah Hall	Wendy Rutheford (A)
Jessie Hilliard (E)	Linda Sanders
Kofi Hormeku	Tyrone Thomas (A)
Michael Howard (A)	Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Allene Ingram (E)	Ernestine Turner
Prince Issachar	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Daisy Jackson (E)	Alice Vines (E)
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)	Annie Walkes
Pamela Junior	Herman Winston
Rev. Eddie Karim	Hazel Younger
Eula Key	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Charles Ladson	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Shawn Lewis (A)	Kristia Beaubrun for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Deborah Mack	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
James Mack	Cheryl Wray for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Yolanda Matthews (E)	Xamayla Rose-Persadi for Hon. Marty Markowitz

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m., followed with an invocation by Ms. Hazel Clarke.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Annie Walkes and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

District Manager Greene-Walker highlighted some of the time-sensitive articles found on pages one and two of her report regarding the availability of applications for 82 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 211-227 Lott Avenue, 536-568 Watkins Street, and 547 Osborn Street and the Summer Youth Employment Program. Applications for both are available at the Board's office.

The audience was encouraged to read her report as soon as possible, as it contains other articles which are also time sensitive.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Ms. Mattie Pusey to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Larisa Ortis Pu-Folkes of the Pitkin Avenue BID Survey.

Ms. Pu-Folkes stated that she is here this evening as a representative of the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District (BID). She has been working with Kat Taylor-Rutkin, Executive Director of the BID, to determine what type of activities should be undertaken by the BID to improve Pitkin Avenue. She has worked with several communities in New York State as well as around the country in similar situations.

One of the things that they are doing which requires the help and support of the Community Board is a survey which was disseminated earlier. She asked the audience about their use of businesses along Pitkin Avenue and their general perception of the businesses.

The survey will allow the community to relate to the merchants their view on the products and services offered on Pitkin Avenue and their perspective on how they would like to be treated as customers. As part of the process they interviewed over two dozen of the Pitkin Avenue merchants. She is at times surprised by the attitudes of the merchants; they make statements such as: “shoppers simply want cheap goods”, “there is no benefit to marketing”, or “they do not need to be involved with community affairs”. The good thing is that not all merchants feel this way. The ones that are successful are the same ones who offer good customer service.

The community needs to communicate to the store owners that they need to provide customers with a better quality of goods, cleaner and better organized stores, and better return policies. These are all things that the BID has heard from consumers repeatedly. The only way to communicate this to the merchants, without being blown-off, is to present them with the results of the survey in writing.

She encouraged the audience to complete either the paper version of the survey, which was distributed earlier, or the online version found at www.pitkinsurvey.com.

There was discussion about the concerns that consumers have with the shops along Pitkin Avenue such as the lack of return policies, the absence of a bookstore, and the merchandising of irregular goods.

Ms. Pu-Folkes stated that they have heard many of these concerns and ask that the audience complete the survey so that they can show the results to the merchants.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Eric Bobilin of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Mr. Bobilin stated that he is the Library Information Supervisor for the Brownsville Branch which is located at Glenmore Avenue and Watkins Street.

This is a decisive year for public libraries in the City of New York, especially here in Brooklyn. The overall budget, which should be adopted by June 30th, will be reduced by 25% which amounts to approximately twenty-three point six million dollars. This cut comes after three successive years of cuts, including last year when at the eleventh-hour a portion of the proposed cuts were restored. They thank the Board for advocating on their behalf which aided in the restoration.

The currently proposed cuts will mean that there will be a temporary closure of sixteen libraries, a reduction of two-thirds of their staff, and reduction of the services provided to the public. This includes a reduction of resources such as job search counseling, resume help, afterschool care, homework help, and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes. This is disadvantageous to this community, especially with its relatively high unemployment rate. The cuts also come at a time when library usage is at an all-time high for both circulation and attendance.

Access to computers at no charge is also of vital importance to our community. A reduction of hours will reduce the amount of time available to use the computers for research, seeking employment opportunities, etcetera.

The operation of the Stone Avenue Branch, the nation’s first children’s library, is also in jeopardy.

Fliers with information about various programs that are currently offered by the Brooklyn Public Library were distributed.

Mr. Erick Fischer stated that awhile ago the Brownsville Branch hosted a job fair that drew many area residents. The Library should continue to host this type of event.

Mr. Bobilin stated that the event was a huge success due in-part to the assistance of WorkForce 1 and having a full work staff who were able to provide assistance with resume touch ups. Resume help is a service which the Library provides on an ongoing basis on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Barbara Williams from the Jacquelyn Hernandez Adult Day Health Center.

Ms. Williams stated that the Center, located at 822 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, is a medical

model program that cares for the elderly and disabled during the day, allowing family members to take care of their day-to-day affairs. They have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved one is safe, secure, engaged and under the supervision of a registered nurse and a professional team of caregivers. They specialize in caring for Alzheimer's disease patients. She invites anyone with a loved one who may benefit from their services to visit their facility.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Secretary of the Economic Development Committee, reported that on Thursday, April 15, 2010, the Committee met to continue the review of the New York State Liquor License application of REMA LLC DBA Rema Restaurant located at 371 East 98th Street.

One of the owners of Rema Restaurant, Ms. Eileen Headley, returned the Community Board #16 Liquor License Application & Questionnaire for review. The Committee reviewed said application and is satisfied with the responses provided, both written and verbal.

The physical review of the establishment has not been conducted and it is recommended that the application process not move forward until the Committee has had the opportunity to conduct the physical review of the business according to the application process.

The Committee does not have the perfect answer to offer all of the time, however, they do strive to offer helpful information whenever possible.

Additionally, the Committee continues to work to develop a better and more reliable demographic report of our area to assist in the proper needs assessment of the businesses in our area, as well as extend invitations to other existing businesses to open additional locations and work on appealing to new businesses to come to our Community.

A motion was made by Ms. Deborah Mack, seconded by Rev. Eddie Karim and carried to approve the Economic Development Committee report.

Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Resources Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 21, 2010 with a representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) who shared information regarding a new initiative by DHMH to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks such as sodas and juices. Drinking one can of soda per day, 365 days a year, can add five pounds to your weight.

A presentation will be made to the Community Board at the May 25th meeting.

The Committee also met with Ms. Ngozi Moses, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Perinatal Network (BPN).

BPN is the lead agency in the Brownsville Action Community for Health Equality (BACHE) project which aims to eliminate disparities in infant mortality affecting mothers in our community. The goal of the project is to outreach and enroll pregnant, parenting, and childbearing women in a full range of services. They will accomplish this by developing an electronic network of social services for referral by medical services to improve the birth outcome of babies born to mothers in Brownsville.

Ms. Moses is requesting that the Community Board support and endorse the BACHE project. In addition, they would like membership on the Health and Human Resources Committee and will lend staff support in developing a newsletter.

A motion was made by Mr. Prince Issachar, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to approve the Health and Human Resources Committee report.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock- Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 13, 2010 with representatives from NYC Habitat for Humanity regarding their proposal to construct 12 condo units in three buildings on what is now vacant land at the northeast corner of Saratoga and East New York Avenues bounded by St. John's Place (Block 1474, Lots 37 and 41). The project will consist of four 2-bedrooms and eight 3-bedrooms.

Purchasers of the apartments must:

- Earn between 50% and 80% of the City's area median income for household sizes of 2 to 6 people (Current income range is \$38,697 to

\$53,460).

- Work at least 300 hours per adult (to a maximum of 600 hours) to help build their homes.
- Homebuyers pay no more than 30% of their gross household income on monthly mortgage and common charges.
- Be first time homebuyers
- Qualify for the State of New York Mortgage Authority (SONYMA) Habitat for Humanity New York State Mortgage Program.

A 2-bedroom unit will cost approximately \$145,000 and a 3-bedroom unit will cost approximately \$172,000. Applicants will be required to make a 1% down payment. The mortgage rate will be 2% for 30 years.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board vote in favor of this proposal which will enable the construction of 12 units of affordable housing on what is now vacant land.

She asked that representatives from NYC Habitat for Humanity come forward to make a presentation.

Mr. Josh Lockwood stated that he is the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity-New York City. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian faith-based, not-for-profit organization which provides affordable homeownership opportunities. They prioritize families who are living in overcrowded, dangerous, or unaffordable conditions.

The way they develop properties is by utilizing volunteer labor along with building professionals. They recently completed construction of a 41-unit LEEDS Gold Certified building at Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway which was built using ten thousand volunteer man-hours. Some of the partners/homeowners are present here tonight. Over ten thousand applications were received for the 41 units. They prioritized people who live and/or work in this community to enable them to fulfill a desire for first-time homeownership.

Habitat for Humanity-New York City has found that families who have participated in their partner/homebuyer program are physically healthier and their children do better in school. Almost all the families state that helping to build their own home is amongst the highest achievements of their lives and virtually all of the families report that they have become more active in community activities as a result of becoming homeowners.

Lastly, Habitat brings in thousands of dollars to a community to develop a particular property. During the construction phase of the project, the volunteers and professionals who worked on the Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway site spent approximately two million dollars in the community.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that on Friday, May 14th, at 2:00 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the RiverRock Apartments located on Rockaway Avenue at Riverdale Avenue.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee report and its recommendation to support Habitat for Humanity's proposal to construct 12 condominium units in three buildings on what is now vacant land at the northeast corner of Saratoga and East New York Avenues bounded by St. John's Place.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that he has not received any recent complaints concerning the condition of the parks and playgrounds in the District. He takes this to be a good sign that all is well at the locations. He anticipates that as the weather becomes warmer, the facilities will become heavily used and he requests that the audience takes upon themselves a certain amount of responsibility to report any issues to the Board's Office. A report is produced each month detailing the condition of Parks and Recreation facilities within Community District #16. The report is in every Board member's folder and also on tonight's distribution table.

Mr. Maceau Medozille, Parks Department Manager for the District, stated that he can be reached by calling (718) 965-6550. It is his preference that issues concerning parks in the District are called in to him (or the Board's Office), as opposed to calling it in to 3-1-1. This will streamline the process of resolving the issue.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Rev. Eddie Karim and carried to approve the Park's Committee report.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that on April 14, 2010, members of the Committee met to evaluate the responses from members and the community about the new law on New York City's Noise Code and the environmental impact.

Members reviewed some outstanding issues and focused on their immediate concern of protecting the Department of Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Act currently being debated in the United States House of Representatives.

She presented some of the highlights:

- The EPA, supported by a three year old Supreme Court ruling, has set the wheels in motion to protect the public's health and safety by enforcing limits on carbon dioxide pollution under the Clean Air Act. Led by corporate coal interests, efforts are underway to dramatically weaken the Clean Air Act and eliminate the EPA's ability to regulate this type of pollution. Emissions from some of the nation's oldest and dirtiest coal plants badly need to be regulated, not given special protection.
- Communities of color and low income communities often end up feeling the impact the most when protections like the Clean Air Act are weakened. Scientific studies have shown that communities of color are disproportionately exposed to harmful air pollution, including from coal-fired power plants.

The Clean Air Act is effective and needs to be protected. A combination of regulation and incentives for clean energy sources is the right solution.

Current "Cap and Trade" bills bargain away the Clean Air Act and undercut the creation of green jobs. The United States House of Representatives has passed a Cap and Trade bill that is suppose to limit emissions that contribute to climate change, but because of the coal industry's influence, current proposals trade away the ability to enforce the Clean Air Act. The trade-offs allow coal plants to continue operating as is and have so many loopholes that it does not encourage the creation of green jobs. We need to encourage the investment in alternative technologies at home, bringing green jobs to struggling communities, rather than allowing these jobs to end up overseas.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board support strong climate legislation, including carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act, that will protect our air and climate and encourage green technology using the tools that we have at hand.

A motion was made by Rev. Eddie Karim, seconded by Ms Annie Walkes and carried to accept the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee report and its recommendations.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 17, 2010 and reviewed the revised New York City Transit Service Reduction Plan.

Overnight service on the B-7 bus will be discontinued due to low ridership. B-12 service east of Alabama Avenue will be discontinued. Riders who wish to continue beyond this point will use the Q-24 bus.

It is anticipated that these changes will go into effect in June.

Complaints regarding potholes, street lights, traffic lights, requests for bus shelters, street signs, etcetera should be reported to the District Manager's Office at (718) 385-0323.

The next Transportation and Franchise Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5th, at 6:30 p.m..

Rev. Karim asked what hours will the discontinuation of the B-7 affect?

Ms. Mack stated that the B-7 will not operate between 1:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. daily. The Transit Authority states that only thirty to forty-five riders will be affected by this change.

Mr. Alexander asked if there is an alternative route that the affected riders can use?

Ms. Mack stated that there is no alternate route.

Someone asked if the survey of the route was done during the winter? Ridership tends to increase during the warmer months. Was that factored into their decision?

Ms. Mack stated that time did not allow the Committee to get the details of the survey.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu, seconded by Rev. Eddie Karim and carried to accept the Transportation and Franchise Committee report.

Chairperson Younger stated that in accordance with the By-laws of Community Board #16, at this month's meeting, she is to appoint members to a Nominating Committee which will meet and come back to the May 25th Board meeting with suggested names of members to serve as Executive Officers of the Board for 2010-2011.

She has asked the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee: Michael Howard, Eula Key, and Alice Vines.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Matt Robertson, representing the United States Military Academies.

Mr. Robertson stated that he is the District Coordinator of the New York City Field Force for Assisting West Point Admissions. The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado, United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut, and United States Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, New York are federal institutions owned by the citizens of the United States. They are operated within a context of democracy and Congressional Nomination is required for admission (The Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination.).

He is not a member of the armed services; his involvement with the academies began with the enrollment of his son who is now in his third year at West Point. Another son will begin attending West Point this summer. The United States Military Academy was not in the forefront of his thoughts; it came crashing into his family's lives unexpectedly. It is not that he felt one way or another about the academy. Although, as a parent he has deep concerns about his children pursuing a military career, however, this was their choice, their dreams and aspirations. He sees that it has been a formative experience in their lives. Being admitted to West Point is difficult – a prospective cadet must begin to organize their life around the ninth or tenth grade to meet the tough admission criteria of the service academies.

Attending any of the academies is completely free of cost - at least financially to the parent. From the cadet's point of view it is not free at all; rather, it is a tough four years of challenging work. After which, they will serve, at minimum, five years of active military service (Merchant Marines serve as Reservist in the Navy or Marine Corps). Beginning in their third year cadets and midshipmen (the Naval and Merchant Marine Academies' equivalent of a cadet) receive \$845 per month (from which they are required to purchase their books, uniforms, and supplies).

It is important to note that this is a profession of arms. These professionals will be in harm's way and what this means in this day and age is understood. However, this choice is made by the prospective cadet.

He is here tonight to bring awareness to the community about the opportunities that are available to young adults who may be interested in pursuing a military career. There is no obligation made to attend a service academy by choosing to prepare oneself to be eligible to attend. A young man or woman who prepares themselves properly to attend one of the academies will find themselves prepared to attend virtually any college or university in the nation, including the Ivy League Schools.

In order for any young person to enroll at one of the academies, they must receive a Congressional Nomination. This is done in order to insure a democratically diverse enrollment. When the schools were established, the founders did not want to limit admission to an elite set of individuals. They wanted to include individuals from the breadth and width of the country.

The value of the education provided to a cadet is approximately \$250,000, not to mention that they have a career and a resume upon completion of their studies. New York City has one of the lowest application rates in the nation. This may be due to a lack of awareness of the opportunity of enrolling in one of the academies and what that entails. Career Counselors may not be informing young people about this opportunity when they discuss career goals. The academies do not actively recruit cadets; there is no need to. The available slots are hotly contested. For example, West Point receives approximately fourteen thousand applications for an available fourteen-hundred seats each year. This is after the applications are filtered for ineligibility factors such as medical disqualifications.

Admission is not easy, but it is attainable. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke has committed to support young people in her district who are interested in enrolling in a service academy. On June 7th, she and Congressman Edolphus Towns will host an open forum where there will be Officers and Officer Candidates from each of the academies present to speak about the opportunities available at each academy.

He can be reached by calling (347) 225-6575.

Ms. Mattie Pusey asked where will the forum be held?

Ms. Kristia Beaubrun of Congresswoman Clarke's office stated that it is tentatively scheduled to be at New York City College of Technology. They will advise the community as the plans are finalized.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Cheryl Wray from Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office.

Ms. Wray stated that Councilmember Mealy hosts a Community Advisory Meeting on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on May 8th at 1757 Union Street between Utica and Rochester Avenues. She is also sponsoring an event entitled: "An Evening to Empower Women in Challenging Times" on Sunday, May 2nd, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. This will be an evening of pampering for the ladies who attend the event.

Councilmember Mealy is requesting parents with children attending public schools located within the 41st Council District to assist her with reminding the Principals to submit their wish list to her office.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner from Assemblywoman Inez Barron's office.

Mr. Faulkner stated that this past Thursday, a hearing was held at 250 Broadway on the issue of charter schools. Research has shown statements made by Chancellor Joel Klein early in his tenure indicating that he would not object to the privatization of all New York City Schools. He is not anti-charter school, but he is concerned when a school like Thomas Jefferson with an enrollment of 2000 students is closed and its replacements only house 1600 students. What happens to the remaining 400 students? They were diverted to Maxwell High School which is now scheduled to close. We have to demand that the Department of Education provide comparable and competent education for all our children. Success rates of schools should be gauged on equal platforms.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Kristia Beaubrun from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office.

Ms. Beaubrun stated that she is Congresswoman Clarke's Education Liaison and Academy Nomination Coordinator. If someone has a particular concern about an education issue, they ask that you contact Congresswoman Clarke's office to discuss the issue. In this way, any legislation that is drafted or supported by Congresswoman Clarke will reflect the needs of her District.

They have some scholarship opportunities available that are not being taken advantage of by the community. The scholarships are available for any undergraduate coursework, particularly to those seeking degrees in health sciences. The deadlines are this week. There is a small possibility that the deadlines can be extended if the applications are received by the end of the

week. Loans are not the only way to finance higher education. There are billions of dollars worth of scholarships and grants available if you know when and how to apply for them.

Congress is also sponsoring an art competition with a deadline of April 30th. Participating entries will be displayed at the Brooklyn Children's Museum and may be selected to be displayed in the Capitol Building in Washington. She asks that we encourage any young artist we know to apply.

On May 8th, there will be a gun buyback program taking place throughout the borough. Locally, it will be held at the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, located at 357 Chester Street. Please spread the word about this event in order to help remove some of the illegal guns in our communities and protect the lives of our residents.

Rev. Eddie Karim asked if the scholarship applications are downloadable?

Ms. Beaubrun stated that they can be downloaded by visiting cbcfinc.org. There are additional links on the website which may be of interest.

Mr. Charles Ladson asked if the Congresswoman is providing summer youth employment opportunities?

Ms. Beaubrun stated that they are notified of employment opportunities that may be available, however, the Congresswoman is not currently hiring.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Xamayla Rose-Persadi from Borough President Marty Markowitz' office.

Ms. Rose-Persadi thanked those who submitted applications for renewal or initial membership to the Community Board. The review process is nearly complete and the appointments will be made shortly.

She congratulates the Brownsville community for its improvement on the rate of returns of the 2010 Census as compared to previous censuses. However, there are a significant number of households who have not returned their forms. She encourages them to do so or provide the information to Enumerators who will come to the doors of households who did not submit the forms.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan from Senator Velmanette Montgomery's office.

Ms. Duggan stated that as she reported last month, Senator Montgomery is working on legislation to change the manner in which juvenile justice is dispensed. She is issuing a call to action to the community. Each year, between \$350,000,000 and \$400,000,000 of your tax dollars are sent to upstate correction facilities for the incarceration of youthful offenders. These are monies that can be redirected toward alternative methodologies that will allow certain youth offenders the opportunity to serve their time while living in their home communities. Our community-based organizations are better suited to rehabilitate these youth as they have first-hand knowledge of their environment and the adversities they face. Fliers with numbers to call to request support of this legislation are available on tonight's distribution table.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Alecia Reid from the News 12 television network.

Ms. Reid stated that they are making a concerted effort to attend the meetings of the local community boards. They have a desire to hear the concerns of the residents and are of the opinion that these meetings are a good place to obtain that information. She will be available after the meeting to speak to anyone who has a concern that they would like to share with her.

Chairperson Younger recognized Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu who stated that the New York Daily News, in collaboration with CUNY Citizenship Now!, has begun a call-in initiative to offer free information on immigration and citizenship. Assistance is available in English and Spanish from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. through April 30th.

Volunteers will answer questions on topics, including citizenship and naturalization, petitioning for relatives and where to get free or low-cost legal assistance. Contact the Daily News or CUNY Citizenship Now! for more information.

Chairperson Younger requested that Board member, Blanche Peltonbusch, who is currently hospitalized, be kept in our prayers and well wishes. Having been in a similar state, she knows

how much it does to lift one's spirit in troubled times.

Chairperson Younger recognized Detective Dean Elmore of the 73rd Precinct's Community Affairs unit.

Detective Elmore stated that fliers containing additional information about the gun buyback program, which were mentioned earlier, are available on tonight's distribution table. He encouraged the audience to spread the information in the community. The gun violence that is currently plaguing the area is being perpetrated by young people between 12 and 21 years old. About three weeks ago, two 12 year old boys were arrested and brought to the Precinct and were in possession of a .357 Magnum. The gun appeared to be new and the most likely way that the boys obtained it was by an adult having it in their home.

Deputy Inspector Wright wants everyone to know that shootings are up in the Precinct. They are requesting that the community be even more vigilant than they have been. It is important that calls to 9-1-1 with accurate descriptions be made when guns and shootings are spotted. An accurate description helps them to remove the guns from the streets. As of now, the victims of the shootings have not been, for the most part, innocent bystanders. Eventually, there will be many innocent victims of gunshots. We need to help each other to get the guns off the streets.

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