

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – April 23, 2019

Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Melanie Mendonca (E)
Margaret Brewer	Shemene Minter (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (E)	Genese Morgan
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (A)	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Busayo Olupano (A)
Christopher Durosinmi (A)	Anita Pierce
Norman Frazier (A)	Marie Pierre
Danny Goodine (A)	Linda Rivera
Sarah Hall	Johnnymae Robinson (A)
Balinda Harris	Keturah Suggs
Zalika Headey	Richard Swinson (A)
Kevin Henderson	Rev. Eric Thompson (A)
Mawuli Hormeku (A)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene (E)
Michael Howard (E)	Ernestine Turner (E)
Lannetta Jeffers (A)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Carl Joseph (A)	Deborah Williams
Maurice Joyner (A)	Pat Winston
Eula Key (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Dr. Betty Kollock-Wallace (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Charles Ladson, Sr. (E)	Hon. Zellnor Myrie
Digna Layne	Hon. Latrice Walker
Carolyn Lee (E)	Cynthia Moices for Hon. Alicka Ampy-Samuel
Kelly Lee-McVay (A)	S. Zinerman for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Albion Liburd (E)	Matthew D'Onofrio for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Deborah Mack	Lorenzo Brea for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Yolanda Matthews	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
John McCadney, Jr.	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric Adams
Ronella Medica (A)	

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and an invocation was said by Ms. Sarah Hall.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Captain Craig Edelman, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Captain Edelman introduced Captain Hugo Dominguez who joins Captain Abraham Sanabria as his two Executive Officers.

The 73rd Precinct's overall crimes are down about 15% year-to-date. They have seen a decrease in shootings of about 20%. They went through a thirty-day period wherein there were no shootings reported within the confines of the 73rd Precinct. Unfortunately, they took a shooting incident, this past weekend, wherein two individuals were shot without any fatalities.

He is continuing to encourage the community to make use of the Safe Zones to complete online swap transactions.

On June 6th, Brooklyn-Queens Day, in collaboration with Mr. Jerry Childs of the Brownsville Recreation Center and others in the community, they will be participating in events such as a spelling bee and basketball.

Ms. Lucille Moultrie inquired about officers employing certain tactics, which she called Stand and Watch, to surveil certain individuals.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the term is unfamiliar to most of the audience and suggested that Ms. Moultrie reach out to the Community Affairs Unit of the 73rd Precinct in order that they may get clarity on her concerns and report back to the community about those concerns.

Someone stated that a vehicle has been parked illegally along Thomas S. Boyland Street for an extended period. What can be done to have it removed?

Captain Edelman stated that if it does not belong there they can make arrangements to have it removed. He requested that she reach out to a Community Affairs Officer and Captain Dominguez stated that she can also reach out to her Neighborhood Coordination Officer.

Someone asked for information concerning two incidents that took place in the 73rd Precinct. One involving a senior citizen near Mount Ararat Senior Center on Thomas S. Boyland Street and another activity taking place around Hilltop Playground.

Captain Edelman stated that there has been gang activity in the area of Hilltop Playground with a Shots Fired reported on the Dean Street side of the playground. He had a sector car stationed there as a deterrent to further crime and to provide a sense of security to parkgoers.

Additionally, a senior was attacked and had the keys to his vehicle stolen. Although the senior was unable to make an identification, there was an arrest made of a 16-year old juvenile and the car was retrieved.

Captain Edelman introduced Ms. Inga Oren, Architect who is working on a design for community space in the Precinct.

Ms. Oren presented a slideshow which oriented the proposed project in what is currently a briefing room along the western wall and the entryway of the precinct. Her plans call for some seating and an open-concept desk that will allow for community members to interact with on-duty officers. There will also be an ATM as well as a bottle filling station for community use.

She continued to describe the proposed space and displayed before and after elevation drawings from the perspective of Thomas S. Boyland Street and East New York Avenue.

Someone asked what is the primary use for the space?

Ms. Oren stated that the primary use is to have a welcoming space for the community members to interact with police officers. One can probably do similar activities at the front entry door, but this creates a separational space between processing offenders and those who are there to do things such as pick up a police report or file a complaint.

Ms. Digna Layne stated that when the concept was originally presented, it called for the creation of space where members of the community could have workshops. Has this changed?

Ms. Oren stated that amount of space allotted would not be enough for workshops to be held.

Ms. Layne stated that one of the things that was asked for during previous presentations were computers from which a family member could get information on their loved one who was arrested. Has this also changed?

Ms. Oren stated that she cannot answer that question but imagines that the duty officer would be able to answer the question for the family member.

Ms. Layne expressed her displeasure in the radical change to what was originally presented as compared to the current proposal. She stated that this was part of a pilot program to be implemented in five precincts.

Ms. Oren stated that she will bring back the concerns to the Police Department which provided her with the scope of the project.

Someone stated that the Police Department is present this evening. Can they not respond to the questions now?

Ms. Oren stated that it is the Building Maintenance Section that is responsible for this action.

Ms. Cynthia Moices, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, stated that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel allocated \$1,250,000 in funding for this project and it is her understanding that it was to include community space.

Ms. Oren stated that as per the plan, there is ample space for people to come in and relax or fill bottles.

Chairperson Morgan asked what will be the cost of the proposed modification?

Ms. Oren stated that it has not been sent out to bid yet. It is still in the schematic design phase. Once the construction documents have been completed, it will be sent out for bidding and a better understanding of cost will be available. She can inquire of the Building Maintenance Section what the budget is.

Chairperson Morgan asked if it is a multi-phased project?

Ms. Layne stated that she has been involved with the concept from its beginning and expressed her belief that it is not a multi-phase project.

Chairperson Morgan asked what is the size of the proposed space and if space is available to accommodate a multi-function room?

Ms. Oren stated that the space is 217 square feet. The space behind the planned community space is currently being used as police precinct services and she does not have the authority to say that it could be used for this project. She will, however, bring the concern to the Building Maintenance Section.

Someone asked what is Ms. Oren's relationship to the proposed project?

Ms. Oren stated that she is an architect who was hired to create construction documents for the schematic. The schematic was not created by her.

The questioner asked if she can go back to the Building Maintenance Section and request changes to accommodate the community's wants?

Ms. Oren stated that as liaison to the project she will inform the Building Maintenance Section.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if there are any other precincts in the city that implemented the concept and may be visited to give one a sense of how it works?

Ms. Oren stated that she is not aware of any.

Ms. Layne stated that the 71st Precinct on Empire Boulevard and the 81st Precinct. Seed money to start the process was provided by Commissioner Edna Handy. Councilmember Ampy-Samuel and Borough President Eric Adams have allocated funds for the makeover of not only the 73rd Precinct, but for two others in her district.

The plan was for a redesign of the front area of the precinct and to help build community relationships. The plan was to have a kiosk where people get the status of an arrestee without the need for assistance by a police officer. It was to include community space and space segregated from the precinct where small meetings and workshops could be held.

She will locate the schematic drawings that she has with the original plans and share them with the Community Board.

There being no further questions or comments on the issue, Chairperson Morgan thanked Ms. Oren for her presentation.

A roll call of the membership failed to yield a quorum.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Jahi Rose, Outreach Coordinator for the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB).

He stated that function of New York City police officers is to maintain order in our communities, enforce the laws of the city, provide us with a sense of security, keep us safe, and provide aid to the community. They are guided by rules and regulations which may be found in the New York City Police Officer Patrol Guide. When police officers are not in compliance with the Patrol Guide, CCRB can take action.

CCRB is a City agency that is independent of the New York City Police Department (NYPD). It is their duty to investigate, mediate, and sometimes prosecute NYPD officers who are alleged to have misconduct. The misconduct covers any incident within the Agency's jurisdiction that falls into one or more of four categories of misconduct specified by the New York City Charter: Force, Abuse of Authority, Discourtesy, and Offensive Language, collectively known as "FADO": 1) Force – typically the use of unnecessary or excessive force, i.e.: the unnecessary use of an impact weapon or a Taser, punching, kicking, or slapping someone, or drawing their weapon unnecessarily can be investigated, 2) Abuse of Authority – includes unauthorized searches and seizures, inappropriate entry onto property, refusal to provide name and shield number, etc., 3) Discourtesy – using foul language, acting in a rude and unprofessional manner, flashing rude and offensive gestures, etc., and 4) Offensive Language – includes slurs based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender, and/or perceived disability.

To file a complaint, you may call 3-1-1 or (800) 341-2272, visit their office at 100 Church Street in Manhattan, or file online by completing a form at nyc.gov/site/ccrb/complaints/file-online.page. Upon filing a complaint to the agency, the first person who you will be placed in contact with will be an intake specialist who will determine if the complaint meets at least one of the FADO criteria. Should it not qualify, they do not simply discard it; the complaint would be forwarded to an agency with jurisdiction.

Mr. Rose elaborated on the Right to Know Act, in effect as of October 19, 2018. The Right to Know Act has two components. The first outlines New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers' obligation to identify themselves, including by providing their name, rank, command, and shield number to civilians at the beginning of certain interactions. The law also requires officers to have business cards that contain this information. These business cards direct civilians to where they can comment or complain about an encounter with an officer and where they may request any body-worn camera footage of their interaction. Under the Right to Know Act, civilians may always ask an officer for this business card but officers are only required to offer the card in certain circumstances, such as during a frisk, searches of your person, property, vehicle, or home, or at sobriety checkpoints.

The second component of the law addresses situations in which officers seek to perform a search and do not have legal justification to do so without a person's consent. In these circumstances, the Right to Know Act requires that officers explain that searches will not be conducted if a person refuses to provide consent to the search. In addition, the law requires officers to document these requests. As is required in all encounters, including when seeking consent for a search, officers are instructed to use language interpretation services pursuant to the NYPD's language access plan prior to the search.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Senator Zellnor Myrie.

Senator Myrie stated that he is a new senator who has been serving since January. Normally, he would not be able to attend this meeting as he is in Albany from Sunday to Thursday when the State Senate is in session. However, they are on a two-week break, so he is taking the opportunity to attend this meeting.

He reported that they have just concluded the budget process in which the Senate and Assembly negotiate with the Governor on how to allocate the \$175 billion it takes to operate New York State.

There were three main things that they were able to do: 1) criminal justice reform, 2) some reforms to the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and 3) housing.

As our laws now stand, the justice system penalizes people for being poor. Our cash bail system is not dependent on one's guilt, but rather on whether one can afford to pay their way out of jail. With many kudos to Assemblywoman Latrice Walker who was very instrumental in getting this passed, they negotiated legislation which says that no longer will you have to sit in jail because you are poor.

Cash bail was eliminated for over 90% of cases. The purpose of bail is to assure the court appearance of the person charged with a crime. They also decided that one's Constitutional right to a speedy trial must be upheld. We need not have cases such as that of Khalil Browder who spent over two years on Riker's Island, not because he was guilty but because he could not afford bail. New legislation was passed that requires courts to determine at each court appearance,

where possible, whether the speedy trial clock will continue to run during the time between court appearances.

They looked at evidence as well. Oftentimes, individuals are arrested and have no idea what evidence the state has against them. Another law says that, starting in January 2020, prosecutors will have to turn over their evidence to the defense 15 days after an indictment rather than waiting until the last minute before trial.

He represents several Brooklyn neighborhoods: Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Gowanus, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, South Slope, and Sunset Park. There are issues that are particular to our communities. Regarding the MTA, we know that there are no elevators in Brownsville. So, when the MTA came to the Senate and said that they would like the Senate to consider congestion pricing, he said that he is okay with getting funds for the MTA, provided the MTA prioritizes our communities. There are individuals in our communities who cannot travel about the city because there are no accessible subway stations.

He told the MTA that we need accessible stations in our community. We also need the buses which serve our community to be upgraded from asthma triggering diesel buses. This occurs in other communities and should also happen here. He has been informed by MTA that all high pollution diesel fueled buses will be phased out by mid-May. We must continue to pressure the MTA on this issue to ensure that it is not just lip service.

On the housing issue, they are coming at us from two fronts. They are attacking our homeowners and they are coming for our rent regulated tenants. Since the financial crisis, there has been an uptick in foreclosures nationwide, particularly here in Brownsville. The City has snatched properties from homeowners without the owners' knowledge and without recourse. The Governor proposed cutting \$20 million from foreclosure prevention programs. They stood up and said that this is unacceptable. Communities of color are being robbed of their wealth and they restored the \$20 million to the foreclosure prevention programs

He grew up in and still lives in a rent-stabilized apartment. There are sixty-thousand rent-stabilized apartments in New York City which will have the rules governing them expire in fifty-four days (June 15, 2019). As a body, the Senate has put forth nine bills designed to protect affordable housing in this community. They seek to disincentivize property-owners from performing bad acts and expand protections for rent-stabilize tenants. His office is also sponsoring a number of housing forums as the dates and venues solidified, Mr. Bayalama will distribute fliers to the Community Board. He considers this to be an existential crisis. If we do not act, we will lose a generation of New Yorkers.

He implores the audience to understand what is expiring, understand the policies that are being fought for, and spread the word on this issue to everyone you know. Then only we will be able to keep our community is if we do it together.

He again thanked Assemblywoman Walker for her leadership on these issues.

Chairperson Morgan stated that Census 2020 is currently underfunded. How is New York State addressing this shortfall?

Senator Myrie stated that both the Assembly and Senate budgets included provisions for \$40 million; however, only \$20 million ended up being enacted in the final budget. They are advocating for additional funding on the federal level. Since the Governor exercises much of the power in that process, he is unsure of how much more the state will be able to provide.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. stated that since the inception of the Community Board it has been asking for accessibility for our subway stations and year after year only get excuses. What can be done to get the MTA to act on making stations in this community accessible?

Senator Myrie stated that he has made it a priority issue in his office and while ultimately it is the MTA that will make the decision, he believes that if we advocate for the changes at all levels of government from community boards to the federal government, we can get it done.

Someone stated some communities have sued the MTA in order to get accessible stations. Is this something that can be done here?

Senator Myrie stated that it is not off the table, however, the MTA has a fleet of lawyers and it would likely be a long process. He is more in favor of having the process of selecting stations change to accommodate needs. The MTA is well out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. He is happy to support those who want to litigate to gain accessibility, but he believes that his role as a State Senator is to focus on the policy and change the process.

Someone asked has Senator Myrie's office done any research regarding the Opportunity Zones in this community?

Senator Myrie stated that the Opportunity Zones are a federal program and are the purview of our federal representatives. He would welcome a conversation with the questioner to discuss her ideas for the zones.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Assemblywoman Latrice Walker.

Assemblywoman Walker stated that she is happy to have the collaboration of Senator Myrie in Albany, as the battle to bring resources to our community.

When she took office in 2015, the budget process for funding the MTA for the next four year had begun. This year, that process has begun again. Amongst the things that the MTA has stated they will do is look at installing elevators at either the Saratoga Avenue stat or the Rockaway Avenue station at Livonia Avenue, the Junius Street station, and the Broadway Junction station. Note that these are only studies now. We will need to continue to keep pressure on the agency until the elevators are installed.

The 2020 census will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. It will also help determine how district lines are drawn. School funding depends on census counts as well. In this community, children under the age of 5 are the least counted individuals. She urges everyone to include all individuals in their households, when completing the census.

The Assembly sought to allocate \$40 million for Census outreach, however, the elected sought to allocate \$20 million, with the thought that New York City would provide \$20 million in their budget.

Meanwhile, there are Complete Count Committees being formed by churches, block association, community boards, and in her office. These volunteers will promote and encourage response to the 2020 Census in the local community. If you have or know of a group who are interested in being a Complete Count Committee, please contact her office.

She heard Opportunity Zones mentioned earlier. Opportunity Zones are basically tax incentives that are given to very wealthy people who invest in certain communities. Our community is included as area such investments can be made. The incentives will allow gains on investment that stay in place for ten years to be tax free. She is particularly worried that this will be used to disadvantage our community when it comes to real estate, especially, Nehemiah Homes real estate. She is looking forward to having conversations with the community on this topic.

Senator Myrie also spoke on the topic of bail reform. They have eliminated bail for all misdemeanors and some non-violent felonies (particularly, 1st and 2nd degree robbery); exceptions include domestic violence and sexual crimes. Where bail is still applicable, it will take in to consideration the affordability of such bail to the accused. Terms and conditions will also be a part of issuing bail.

Amongst the terms, is the possibility of monitoring the accused with electronic ankle bracelets. She wants the community to be vigilant regarding the electronic monitoring, as it may become a way to go from mass incarceration to mass monitoring.

Ms. Lucille Moultrie asked why is Assemblywoman Walker concerned about the Nehemiah Homes?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that as the moratoriums on selling the homes sunset, those who purchase may end up knocking them down and replacing them with hi-rise units of any height as there are no zoning restrictions in place. This can alter the legacy and sense of community of the area.

Chairperson Morgan stated that in some states the cost of wearing an electronic monitor is placed on the accused. Is this the case in New York?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that it is not.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman asked if the bills to protect rent-stabilized housing be implemented in time to beat the June 15th expiration of the current rules?

Assemblywoman Walker stated that when they return to Albany next Monday, it will be the first and only topic of discussion, until they work something out. If you have a stake in this issue, she highly suggests that you show up in Albany.

She announced that on Saturday, April 27, 2019 there will be an East Brooklyn Call to Action for Health and Economic Justice to discuss health, housing, and education. She invites everyone to join her and Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel at the fair which will take place at P.S. 156, located at 104 Sutter Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A conversation will be taking place to discuss how the \$1.4 billion allocated to Vital Brooklyn will be spent.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Camille Adolphe of the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College.

Ms. Adolphe stated that she is working with the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College's Census Justice project. She is here, tonight, to speak about the role of the census for African-American communities across Brooklyn.

The census is essentially a survey that is taken across America every ten years. It seeks to find out who live where, how many people live there, and what their means are. The data that is collected influences how government disperses funding across the nation. This funding is to finance everything from schools to hospitals to subways. It also determines representation in Congress and where political district lines are drawn. After the 2010 Census, New York lost two seats in Congress and we are in jeopardy of losing another in the 2020 Census.

Most Brooklyn communities are undercounted; making us essentially invisible on the census. On the 2010 Census, it is estimated that about 50,000 persons were not counted. That made Brooklyn the most undercounted borough of the city. That meant a loss of \$2,067 per person not counted, loss of jobs, and healthcare resources. We have few schools and more crowded classrooms, fewer senior services, eliminated bus lines, and decreased political power. All of these things are needed to have a successful community. She displayed a map which indicated that the communities of Brownsville, East New York, Ocean Hill, and Bedford-Stuyvesant were all undercounted at the last census.

The Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College wants to prepare our communities for the 2020 Census. There are a few key changes to the census that will occur in 2020. The first is that it will be available digitally. Early in 2020, households will receive a code which will allow them to take the survey online or, if they wish, by mail or telephone. They are encouraging everyone in our communities to take the survey either by telephone or mail. The digital is new and has not fully tested. As such, they do not want to risk our communities being undercounted.

The Trump Administration has proposed placing a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. Multiple judges across the nation have blocked this question and it is now in the Supreme Court. The question already exists in the American Community Surveys which are surveys that are conducted periodically between full censuses. The Center for Law and Social Justice thinks that the citizenship question is being used to weaponize the census as opposed to encouraging and empowering communities to participate. There is also question regarding race and ethnicity/nationality in which they are asking everyone to be sure to answer to question about race to be sure our communities get their fair share of census-based resources.

The Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College will host several events in the coming months and encourage the audience participation. The next event will be a Census 2020 Job Fair on May 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Medgar Evers College Library, located at 1650 Bedford Avenue.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson, Legislative Committee on April 16, 2019, the Legislative Committee met with Phyllis Ellington, a member of the Kings County Democratic Committee,

who shared her concern about the lack of participation by residents of the 55th Assembly District. There are 322 seats available and only 67 are filled.

She petitioned to run for the seat she holds and encourages fellow residents to do the same. One of the responsibilities of a County Committee member is to fill vacancies in special elections.

The Committee also reviewed the Resolution presented on behalf the Cold War Veterans and supports it.

The Legislative Committee continues to seek volunteers for Community District #16's Complete Count Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to get the word out about the importance of filling out the 2020 census form which will come to each household in April 2020.

The Legislative Committee offers the following resolution to adopt on census outreach:

RESOLUTION FOR BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 16 TO ADOPT ON CENSUS OUTREACH

Whereas the U.S. Constitution requires that a census be conducted to count all persons living in the United States;

Whereas the decennial Census is the primary tool to gather demographic information key to the distribution of nearly 800 billion dollars annually in federal money nationwide to states and localities for basic human needs like healthcare, housing, education, and infrastructure for the next ten years;

Whereas the decennial Census is also the primary tool for redistricting federal, state, and local political districts and the allocation of political power;

Whereas the decennial Census is the only source for apportioning electors to the electoral college and congressional seats;

Whereas communities of African descent are among the most difficult to count in the decennial Census and communities of African descent in New York City are among the most undercounted communities in the entire nation;

Whereas the undercount of African descendant communities in New York City have a detrimental impact on city and state funding, resources and political power;

Whereas 74.2% of residents living in the area covered by Community District 16 are members of African descendant communities and an undercount in our community would have a devastating impact all the entire community, Immigrant and non-immigrant alike, not only in the denial of critical services, but also to the number of representative seats in Congress and a fair redistricting of all legislative districts;

Whereas a fully funded Census that ensures full participation and provides effective safeguards for protecting the confidentiality of information provided on the Census is critical to an accurate Census count;

Whereas Community Board 16 relies upon Census data when drafting the annual District Needs Statement;

Whereas the funding allocated to the U.S. Census Bureau for Census 2020 is substantially less than Census 2010 resulting in a reduction of field offices and community partnerships, enumerators, and testing;

Whereas the State of New York has passed legislation requiring the establishment of a State 2020 Census Commission to study the 2010 undercount and recommend outreach strategies and state funding of the Census;

Whereas New York City Black Leadership Advisory Coalition for Census 2020 (NYCBLAC for Census 2020), a NYC wide, nonpartisan coalition has been formed of key stakeholders to ensure a full and fair count In New York State;

Whereas local census complete count committees play a vital role in educating and motivating residents to participate in the 2020 Census and are key to raising census awareness in local communities across the country;

Therefore, be it **Resolved that Brooklyn Community Board 16:**

Resolves to urge Congress, New York State and New York City to fully fund the 2020 Census enumeration to ensure a full and accurate count; and

Resolves to join the Borough Complete Count Committee and actively participate in its activities; and

Resolves to work in partnership with NYC BLAC for Census 2020 to educate residents of the Community District on the importance of the Census to increase the response rate and ensure a full and accurate count in New York State; and

Resolves to form a Census 2020 District Task Force to plan actions to ensure a full count.

The next the Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting will be on May 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 with developers of Van Dyke III, which will be located on Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street and consist of 180 units of housing that will be affordable to persons with incomes at 60% of AMI or below. The development will also include a health clinic, wellness space, early learning center, community rooms, fitness center, computer room, and laundry rooms on every floor.

The Work Group also met with Inga Oren, architect for the 73rd Precinct project which you heard earlier.

The Work Group recommends that the Community Board approve the design for the entrance to the 73rd Precinct.

She called on the owner of Soul Foods, LLC., located at 2258 Atlantic Avenue to explain why she is applying to the New York State Liquor Authority for a Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider license.

The owner stated that this is the second business that she has operated. They are applying for the liquor license to bring in additional revenue to the business, create jobs, and provide a place local dining in the community.

Ms. Anita Pierce asked the owner what she intended to do for security?

The owner stated security is a concern for her as well. She will be employing security personnel and cameras are already installed.

Ms. Margaret Brewer asked what is the seating capacity?

The owner stated that it currently seats 8. She plans to decrease the serving space to accommodate additional seating.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked what type of security personnel will she employ?

The owner stated that she is acquainted with a number of police officers who will act as her undercover armed security.

Ms. Keturah Suggs asked how is she associated with this community?

The owner stated that she grew up in, went to school, and is a member of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church on Thomas S. Boyland Street at Decatur Street.

Ms. Digna Layne asked if it is her intent to provide a dining experience akin to what is offered at the likes of Red Lobster?

The owner stated that this is correct.

Ms. Layne stated that those establishments do not have security personnel. Why does she require security?

The owner stated that there is a café at the corner of Somers Street and Rockaway Avenue, a few blocks from her establishment, that serves beer and seem fine without security. However, in an abundance of caution, she wants to have security. Unfortunately, sometimes our own people want to cause problems for us.

Ms. Coleman asked if they plan to make use of the outdoor space behind the building?

The Owner stated that the person she rents from is a bit of a hoarder and store things there. She would like to use the space, but it is unlikely.

Chairperson Morgan asked how does she intend on implementing the modifications she is thinking of?

The owner stated that she has installed a new bathroom which was the most challenging part. The other modifications will depend on if and when she is able the liquor license.

Chairperson Morgan asked if the modifications are dependent the income the liquor license will help generate?

The owner stated that it is.

Ms. Coleman asked for a description of the anticipated modifications.

The owner stated that she intends to cutdown the space the previous tenant used for serving and end up with seating for about 20 people with a small waiting area with benches along the windows.

The Chairperson Morgan thanked the owner for coming before the Board and answer their questions. Because there is no quorum present, the item will be tabled until the Board's next meeting.

Ms. Zalika Headley, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on April 11, 2019 with Raul Rothblatt who appeared in behalf of the Family of the late Congressman Major Owens who is seeking to co-name Eastern Parkway in his memory. The matter was tabled for additional information to be present at our next meeting on May 9, 2019.

Because of a scheduling conflict on May 9th, Mr. Chris Owens has requested time to address the Board tonight.

Mr. Chris Owens stated that he will be attending his son's graduation on May 9th but felt it courteous that someone from the family come before Community Board #16 to ask for their support on the request to co-name Eastern Parkway in the memory of the late Major Owens.

Mr. Owens stated that his father, Major Owens, loved Brownsville. He remembers going up and down stairs of the housing complexes in this community with him as he worked for the community.

He loved the District #23 schools and when he was elected to congress he changed the way that funds were distribute so that they got the Title I funding that they deserved. He was one of three key players in getting the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) passed.

In Queens, a legislator of great ilk, Guy Brewer, had a street named in his honor. In Manhattan, Adam Clayton-Powell has a street named for him. Major Owens who was nearly as prolific in passing legislation is also deserving of the honor. He served all of Eastern Parkway, lived on Eastern Parkway, and held many a town hall on Eastern Parkway.

The family would be honored, if the Board would consider their request.

Ms. Headley continued to report that on April 3rd, District Manager Viola Greene-Walker and staff from the Department of Transportation (DOT) did a walking tour of Livonia Avenue between Powell Street and East 98th Street. DOT is proposing a number of safety improvements along Livonia Avenue:

- At Livonia Avenue and Powell Street place an enhanced crosswalk, install a high intensity light to brighten the intersection, remove two parking spaces (1 at northeast corner and 1 at southeast corner) to improve visibility of pedestrians and motorist, and install pedestrian ramps.
- Place enhanced crosswalks at Sackman Street and Christopher Avenue and install pedestrian ramps.
- On the block between Watkins Street and Rockaway Avenue in front of the shopping mall, a crosswalk along Livonia Avenue will be installed. The street in front of the shopping mall will be resurfaced to correct a flood condition.
- At Livonia Avenue and Rockaway Avenue, new high intensity lights will be installed underneath the train station.
- At Chester Street, a high intensity light will be installed.
- At Strauss Street, one parking space will be eliminated to increase visibility for pedestrians and motorists.
- Brighter lights will be installed in Livonia Park at Powell Street.

On April 4th, she, Margaret Brewer, and Viola Greene-Walker attended a roundtable discussion with Senator Zellnor Myrie, representatives from Community Boards 7, 8, and 9 where we discussed major transportation issues in our districts. We discussed the issue of ADA non-compliance at stations along the IRT-3 and diesel engine buses at the East New York Depot.

The next meeting of the City Services Planning Work Group will be on May 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at 4444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that on April 3rd, 2019, the Committee met with representatives from Brownsville In Violence Out and the Brownsville Community Justice Center. Both organizations presented verbal overviews of their programs that will be further discussed and assessed.

The Safe in the City Grant has been awarded to us for the Safe Travels events. We are scheduled for May 11th at the Brownsville Recreation Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on May 25th at Betsy Head Park.

She needs a total of twelve volunteers to cover the activities during the event (handing out/discussing literature, directing the crowd, and collecting signatures of those served). Anyone who is interested, please attend the Public Safety Committee meeting on May 1st for details and instructions.

They have formed a sub-committee, the Block Association Committee, within the Public Safety Committee. She is happy to announce that the block associations are really coming together, sharing the workload and winning. This is a step in the right direction. Together Forward as we continue.

The Quality of Life complaint handling changes have been adopted and will begin to take effect on May 1, 2019. Note these changes are local to our District only.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held here in room 103 on May 1st, at 6:00 p.m.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker read the following report from the Community Resident Planning Work Group:

The Community Resident Planning Work Group met on April 10, 2019.

The Youth Services Planning Committee discussed plans for the 3rd Annual Youth and Family Empowerment Conference which will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kappa V, located at 985 Hegeman Avenue.

The Veterans Affairs Committee will be honoring veterans who reside at the Volunteers of America SRO on Monday, May 20, 2019.

The Veterans Affairs Committees of Community Boards 3 and 16 are planning a Veterans Day Parade on November 9, 2019.

At next month's meeting, the Veterans Affairs Committee of Community Board # 16 will report on a resolution in support of Cold War Veterans who are seeking a Real Property Tax Exemption.

The Senior Citizens Affairs Committee met on Wednesday, April 7, 2019 and discussed plans for our Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on October 17, 2019. Due to construction at Betsy Head Park, the event will take place at Hilltop Park, located at Thomas S. Boyland Street between Dean and Pacific Streets.

The next meeting of the Community Resident Planning Work Group will be on Wednesday, May 8th, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following from her report:

- The Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a Scope Meeting for Ocean Hill Playground on Thursday, May 2, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss the community's ideas for the future skate park, basketball courts, and multi-purpose play area.

Prior to the meeting, there will be basketball clinics and skate demos with live DJ, tabling, and more, beginning at 4:00 p.m.. Come join the fun and information event.

- New York City Parks Foundation is proud to announce the 2019 season of the Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage with nearly 100 free and benefit performances in 18 parks across NYC - including three shows in Betsy Head Park before that section closes for construction.

The SummerStage schedule for Betsy Head Park is as follows:

- ❖ Boot Camp BBQ: Black Moon and Smif-N-Wessun, Thursday, June 27 @ 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Artist To Be Announced, Friday, June 28 @ 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Young M.A. / Funk Flex, Saturday, June 29 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Brooklyn Community Services is offering free tutoring services at its new Prospect Plaza Community Center location, 1835 Sterling Place. Assistance is available to students in grades 3 to 7 in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) on Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson Morgan next announced that in preparation of the upcoming election of Executive Board members, the following Board members have been asked to serve on the Nominating Committee: David Alexander, Patricia Winston, Dr. Cleopatra Brown, John McCadney, and Marie Pierre.

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back to the Board's May 22, 2018 meeting a slate of names to fill the positions of Executive Officers for the period of June 2018 to June 2019.

Ms. Cynthia Moices, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, announced that the deadline for applying to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is April 26th.

Having heard that the Board is planning a Veterans Day parade, she asks that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel be kept in the loop, as she now sits on the Council's Veterans Affairs Committee.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel co-sponsored Intro 1199 which eliminates fees associated with credit card bail payments. She also sponsored Intro 1138 which will require the Department of Mental Health and Mental Hygiene to review documentation of annual inspections of water tanks.

Lastly, she reported that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel is disappointed that the Mayor is backing out of his promise to invest \$500 million and now offering only \$100 million in investment to new senior housing.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel's office is located at 400 Rockaway Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 953-3097. Their monthly Advisory Board meetings are held on the third Saturday of every month.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, announced that applications are being accepted for affordable housing units at 475-510 Vandalia Avenue in East New York.

There will be a meeting on April 29, 2019, 10:00 a.m. at the New Lots Branch Library for elected officials or the representatives to help strategize ways to keep constituents' names off the city's lien list. They will meet again in June to finalize the strategies.

Ms. Stefani Zinerman, representing the office of Senator Velmanette Montgomery, thank all those who came out and testified during the deed theft hearings. Important legislation protecting home-owners was passed. Six people have had their property returned to them. However, property-owners need to remain vigilant. If you suspect misdoing about property, are receiving harassing calls about your property, or having offers placed on your property, please call her office at (718) 643-6140 and provide that information.

There will be an Education Forum held at NYU Tandon Pfizer Auditorium, 5 Metrotech Center on Friday, May 10th. Senator Montgomery will be in attendance and she has invited Senator John Liu and others to attend. She encourages youth and parents to participate.

She encouraged anyone seeking employment to visit USAJobs.gov for available census jobs. It is important that people from our community get to count our community.

Mr. Matthew D'Onofrio, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud, announced that in collaboration with the Lower East Side Ecology Center, they will host an e-waste recycling event at their office on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free legal services are available at their office every other Thursday (see flier on distribution table for more information.) A college resource fair will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Educational Campus at 400 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Borough President Eric Adams, announced that they are conducting drive to collect prom clothing for needy youth, their Men's Health and Wellness Fair will be held on Friday, June 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Lorenzo Brea, representing the Office of Councilmember, Rafael Espinal, Jr., announced that they will host a OATH popup shop at Councilmember Espinal's district office, located at 1945 Broadway, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24th. You will be able to pay bill or otherwise resolve building violations.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Sharon Pope of Bike New York.

Ms. Pope stated that Bike New York is mostly known for the five-borough bike tour which takes place each year. Last year, they taught 28,000 people how to bike safely.

They offer free classes. The nearest location to 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street is Linden Park, located at Linden Boulevard and Van Sinderen Avenue. They provide the equipment as well as certified instructors. They have two part-time positions available and will train the right person. She can be reached by emailing spope@bike.nyc or calling (212) 870-2074.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Louis Rodriguez of Brooklyn Legal Service.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Brooklyn Legal Service opened an office at 1709 St. Mark's Avenue, last year. The focus of that office is to provide free legal service to tenants in landlord/tenant matters. They primarily work with tenants who are seeking to organize against their landlords. They represent the residents at Atlantic Towers against their landlord who is attempting to install facial recognition as a key entry system in their building.

They also work with homeowners who are being threatened with foreclosure and consumers who are being preyed upon by your bank, workers who have wages stolen by their employer, or a parent with a child with school discipline issues.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Lucille Moultrie who invited men and women to 250 4th Avenue on Fridays to learn how to keep themselves from dying from HIV.

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