

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, November 17, 2010  
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center  
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)  
Brooklyn, New York 11221  
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

New York State Department of Education's Request for Proposal to establish a Literacy Zone in Bushwick – Ms. Marjorie Parker presenting from Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)

Ms. Parker – Executive Director of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow requests the Community Boards support in establishing a Literacy Zone in Bushwick.

The Literacy Zone purpose is to close the achievement gap in communities of concentrated poverty and high concentrations of families and adult with limited literacy skills or English language proficiency.

Literacy Zones are intended to provide a systemic focus on meeting the literacy needs of communities from birth through adulthood. Through this proposal funds are available to provide instructional programs in adult literacy below the post-secondary level and support services such as educational counseling and guidance.

Every Literacy Zone must have a guiding coalition of stakeholders that includes: government, education and community leaders with clear commitment to developing the zone over the next two years.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, November 17, 2010 Community Board meeting at 6:50pm.

The Chairperson asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted call the first roll.

**Roll Call:** 28 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Rev. Grace Aytes and seconded by Ms. Barbara Smith. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month's was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and seconded by Ms. Saundria Simmons. All members present were in favor.

**Chairperson's Report:**

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the November 17, 2010 Community Board #4 meeting. As the holiday season approaches the Chairperson thanked the community leaders, elected officials and agency representatives for their tireless contributions toward the betterment of the community.

Ms. Julie Dent recognized the honorable Councilmember Erik Dilan representing the 37<sup>th</sup> Council District and invited him to say a few words.

**Councilmember Erik Dilan:**

The Councilman gave an update on some of the Environmental Friendly Legislation issues that he has been working on at City Hall as he is Chairperson of the City Council's Housing & Buildings Committee. The committee's recent work involves environmentally friendly pieces of legislation called: The NYC Green Codes - which have an impact on the entire city:

- A recent hearing was held that would ease restrictions allowing people to put solar panels on the roof, if they choose to use this as an alternative source of energy to clean their homes.
- New bills recently passed concerning water efficiency - for new construction and homes undergoing substantial renovation (alterations). You must now convert to a new "Greener" way of doing things. The new changes do not affect older homes and will not be burdensome, if you are not replacing any systems in the home. New construction and homes undergoing major renovations will be affected by this bill. The new bill provides new rules and guidelines affecting: waterless urinals and low-flow toilets.

- The Councilman opposed the recent proposal by the mayor to reduce gun permit fees
- As a result of the recent tornadoes two of the district's parks were seriously damaged: Irving Square Park (Councilman Erik Dilan's District) and the Maria Hernandez Park (Councilwoman Diana Reyna's District). Due to the Federal Disaster Relief Fund he was asked to hold back from adding \$300,000 for the renovation and repairs for the Irving Square Park in hopes that there will be some Federal Disaster Relief Fund forthcoming.
- Councilman has funded monies towards the PS 384 school yard playground, which has always been opened to the public.

The Councilman would like to purchase a privately owned vacate lot that is located across the street from the PS 384 school yard. Councilman Erik Dilan has committed about 1 million dollars in capital to DCAS in an attempt to acquire the site. Due to numerous requests from the children of Bushwick the Councilman would like to build them a World Class Skate Park at this site. CB#4 will have a role in this process under ULURP; this may come up down the road. Safety being a most important component - therefore we want the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. to be involved and we want some type of security cameras installed.

Ms. Dent thanked Councilman Erik Dilan for all of his hard work in allocating so much money for the renovation of the parks in the community. She stated that not only do the children have a place to play and enjoy themselves but the adults benefit also.

The Chairperson then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and to give out their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz' Office, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 2) Michael Caver – Assemblyman William Boyland, 476 Thomas Boyland Street, 718-498-8681
- 3) Laurie Wheelock - Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 718-963-7029
- 4) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 5) Alejandro Echeverri – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 6) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands Avenue Office, 718-272-1175 cell # 718-309-9755
- 7) Rafael L. Espinal - Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664

Ms. Dent recognized P.O. Damarys Franco from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. and thanked her for attending the meeting and for her good work.

Each board member was mailed in their monthly packet the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital and Expense Priorities. The city will only consider the first 10 prioritized items. The packet must be forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget immediately. The prioritizing was done in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Chairperson. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Davis, Ms. Hansley, Ms. Smith and Ms. McClellan for their time and special attention regarding this matter.

Last month, The Arts and Cultural Committee was approved and have now been added to the list of standing committees.

The School Construction Authority advised the community of a construction project beginning at IS 383 located at 1300 Greene Avenue. The project involves Boiler Conversion. The work will begin shortly and the expected completion date is April 2012.

According to SCA School Construction Authority the work may require asbestos abatement. Their letter dated November 4, 2010 states in part:

The work may require asbestos abatement. This material does not easily create airborne fibers or pose potential fiber exposure to surrounding occupants. The workers who are in actual contact with the material will be wearing protective suits and respirators and there will be containment of these materials.

The removal work is being performed by a licensed abatement contractor and managed by an environmental consulting firm. Representatives of the environmental consulting firm will be on site for the duration of the abatement process to ensure the contractor adheres to all proper regulations. The consultant also monitors the air in the immediate area to ensure that the removal is taking place properly. Test results are made available at the school to all interested parties.

Under a Department of Transportation permit, a temporary Boiler will be located on Greene Ave. This will cause diversion of pedestrian traffic away from the sidewalk.

In order not to interrupt the learning environment, work will take place after school hours and on weekends and school holidays.

(See chairperson's report for the full letter)

New York City Department of Education and the partners of the PlayNYC Schoolyards to Playgrounds initiative are proud to announce that Public School 384's schoolyard has opened to the public. The community designed playground helps achieve the city's open space goal of bringing all New Yorkers within a 10 minute walk of a park. Thanks to Council Member Erik Dilan for his help in making this possible!!!

The schoolyard is open to the public from the end of the school day until dusk on weekdays and from 8am to until dusk during the weekends, holidays and summer. The PS 384 custodial staff will be in charge of maintaining the new space.

The Department of Education has released the first directory of High School Diploma and GED programs. The directory details paths to graduation for students aged 15-21 years old who have fallen behind.

The directory covers schools and programs in all five boroughs, including transfer schools, young adult borough learning and full and part time GED programs to help over-age and under-credited students get back on track and graduate. The directory also includes individual profiles of every school and program in the City which includes Progress Reports on schools.

For more information the directory is now available on line at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/AlternativesHS>

The board's office is in receipt of literature regarding a *SPEAK UP* which is a valuable resource available to young people in NYC to utilize 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to anonymously report threats of violence in their schools and communities by calling 1-866-SPEAK-UP.

In the near future the program will be expanding to include a new text-message reporting option with new awareness materials about this new way of reporting.

Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Inc. Office of Youth and Education Services – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center: The after school program is primary geared towards the community's middle school population; students in grades 5-8. They are currently looking for innovative people to fill part time positions as Tutor, Counselor and Group leader.

If interested please drop off your resume at the Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center or fax it to 718-381-9680 attn: Helena Manafova.

### **District Managers Report:**

Meetings Attended:

Thursday, October 21, 2010

NYS Senator Martin Malave Dilan hosted a community forum for residents. Representatives from NYC Board of Election, the NYS Insurance Department, NYPD, NYC Department of Sanitation and Community Board #4 District Manger spoke of their area of jurisdiction and addressed questions from the public.

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

The Executive Committee reviewed correspondence received over the past month and determined the following:

- BEDC are requesting support to operate a homeless shelter at 949 Willoughby Ave. They will be invited to the next Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 6pm.

- The developers of 960 Willoughby Avenue are requesting support from the Community Board for a Sunday construction permit. They are scheduled to build 86 apartments at this location. They will be invited to the next Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 6pm.

#### Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Brooklyn Borough Service Cabinet Meeting – Agenda Items included:

1. NYC DOT – Pop-Up Café Program – the NYC Department of Transportation seeks applications from restaurants for its Pop-Up Café Program. Pop-up Cafés provide outdoors public seating in the curb lane during the warm months and promote local businesses. DOT will only accept applications for Pop-up Cafés from restaurants in locations where sidewalk cafés, licensed by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, are not permitted.

A Pop-up Café shall be supported by the local Community Board.

For questions concerning the Pop-up Café Program please contact: [www.popupcafe@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:www.popupcafe@dot.nyc.gov)

2. Good Jobs NY and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office presented Profiles of Companies that receive Public Funding. It is called "Brooklyn Subsidy" a map highlighting all projects supported by the city's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) in the community as of fiscal year 2009. Each year the IDA subsidizes development projects throughout New York City – which can amount to packages worth millions of dollars.

The website [www.goodjobsny.org](http://www.goodjobsny.org) contains a database of the city's large corporate 'retention' deals and releases numerous reports examining the city's use of incentives to create and retain jobs, including the city's efforts around post 9/11 rebuilding and the new Yankee Stadium.

Once a month the IDA holds a public hearing on its proposals, if you would like to be added to their monthly subsidy alert list that provides information on upcoming IDA public hearings, contact Good Jobs New York at: [giny@GoodJobsFirst.org](mailto:giny@GoodJobsFirst.org) or 212-721-4865.

This organization will be invited to an Economic Development Committee Meeting in the near future.

3. The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation Design Team invited the District Manager to a meeting regarding the rehabilitation of RUDD Playground on Aberdeen Street. Borough President Markowitz placed money in the budget for a renovation of this park. On Bushwick Avenue between Aberdeen and DeSales Streets a private developer is required to plant 100 trees due to his construction of a retaining wall which will infringe upon the park's property; as a result of this he will eliminate some old trees in the park.

Council Member Erik Dilan stated that the zoning in the area could not be changed so there is going to be a storage company located there.

#### **Other Issues**

NYC Department of Environmental Protection has launched: RUN YOUR TAP PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGN.

The Campaign is in response to elevated lead levels found in tap water of some older homes that are known to have lead in their households plumbing. The City monitors lead levels in these residences and provides notifications to homeowners when elevated levels are found.

The community is advised to run their tap water before using it.

Con Edison launched: Refrigerator Recycling –Coned Edison customers can receive \$30.00 cash by recycling their old, energy wasting "second" refrigerator, have it removed for free. Con Edison residential customers in 1-4 family homes are eligible for the incentives. The company will remove regular-sized or extra refrigerators, which are often kept in garages and basements, at no charge. At the time of your refrigerator pick up, the company will also collect and recycle old inefficient window or wall air conditions. Customers will receive \$35 for window air conditions and \$100 for wall air conditioners. The program covers the removal of up to two appliances per type per household. Appliances must be in good working condition in order to be picked up and recycled.

To schedule a pick up or inquire about eligibility visit:

[http://www.coned.com/energyefficiency/residential\\_bounty\\_program.asp](http://www.coned.com/energyefficiency/residential_bounty_program.asp) or call 1-800-430-9505.

## **Committee Reports**

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLC), Mrs. Martha Brown - Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 6:00PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

### Speakers/Presenters:

- 1) Mr. David Parrish – Department of City Planning, Planning Advisor assigned to Bushwick
- 2) Mr. Luis Caridad – NEDAP (Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project), Mortgage Foreclosures and Assistance

### Items Discussed:

- 1) N100090 ZRY City Planning Commission – Non ULURP Item Key Terms Clarification Items Text Amendments for Zoning

The Department of City Planning Zoning Division is proposing a citywide text amendment of the zoning regulation to clarify the meaning and usage of the key terms “Development” and “Building”. In addition the Department proposes other text modifications that are necessary to clarify the intent of the Zoning Resolution, to resolve conflicting regulations, or bring a regulation into accordance with the current Department of Buildings practice.

The text amendment will ensure that zoning regulation produce the intended results. The clarification will provide predictability for property owners and the public and will provide greater efficiency at Department of Buildings where building plans are compared with zoning regulations in order to determine compliance. These clarifications in the Zoning Resolution further City’s commitment to streamlining and simplifying government processes and should improve customer service.

At the time of the adoption of the 1961 Zoning Regulations, the term “**development**” was intended to refer to a **new building** constructed under the then – new regulations. However, since then two things have occurred:

- The continuing applicability of the regulations to “developments” (New Buildings) which are now **existing buildings** (no longer “NEW”), has been questioned; and
- Zoning Text Amendments using the term “development” have applied it inconsistently, thereby in some cases, the terms have been intended to mean only the new construction on the zoning lot, and in some other cases, the term has been used to mean new construction as well as existing building on the zoning lot (a zoning lot is one or more tax lots being treated as one lot for zoning purposes).

This proposal will clarify these issues by replacing the term “development” where necessary, with the terms “building” or “zoning lot”.

A power point presentation was enclosed in the Chairperson’s report. A Department of Buildings representative will be invited to speak before the board in January or February 2011.

## 2) NEPAP Presentation on Changes in Foreclosure Process

1. Bushwick has one of the highest rates of home foreclosures in the 5 boroughs (Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island)
2. If the landlord goes into foreclosure, their tenants need to be notified
3. If a landlord is going into foreclosure, the tenant must be notified, however, the tenant still is required to pay their rent, whether it is to be to the landlord or the Bank. This will be determined by a letter in writing stating whom the rent should be paid to. As long as the owner is still the owner, the tenant is obligated to pay the rent.
4. If the tenant has a lease, he may be allowed to stay until the terms of the lease ends.
5. If the lease expires in 2 months, the tenant has 2 months to stay. If the lease is until a certain time, the tenant is obligated to pay the rent during this time.
6. Charging a fee to help with mortgage modifications is now illegal.
7. If a home goes into foreclosure, a Settlement Conference is required before a Special Referee appointed by the court. A loan modification may be worked out or an extension of payment may be worked out between the lender and the homeowner.
8. Do not pay for these services. There are agencies that will help the Homeowner for no charge. If you can not find an agency call 311 and ask for assistance with this situation. You can get a referral to a legitimate foreclosure prevention program.

9. A recently unemployed homeowner may be able to get a mortgage payment deferral for up to three (3) months. The homeowner may be able to get a mortgage modification. Please try all existing avenues to prevent the loss of your home.
10. Information on Resurgence of Mortgage Fraud; falsified credit and looping in accomplices including real estate agents, bankers, appraisers and others. Keep a pulse on your credit report and ensure that your identity remains confidential and is not used to obtain fraudulently a mortgage, refinance or open any other kind of account. Shred your mail and opt out of prescreened loan guarantees, pre-screened insurance applications, etc.

Demolition: 1204 Halsey Street, application to remove old wood was at this location

Emergency Condition: 49 Wyckoff Avenue – Immediate repair declared by the Department of Buildings

Remedy: Install sidewalk shed around perimeter of building.

Senior Citizen Committee (SSC), Ms. Saundria Simmons – Chairperson: Meeting Held Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 6PM, 143 Himrod Street

Items Discussed:

What can the committee do to address the needs of Senior Citizen and others within the Community Board's District?

1. Create a Senior Citizen Resource Directory (Booklet) listing comprehensive services in large print. This book would list information such as: Churches, hospitals, medical centers, barber shops, hair salons, general stores, deli/grocery stores, libraries, post offices, pharmacies, delivery services, funeral homes, hospice, local flea markets, cleaners, supermarkets, check cashing facilities, etc...
2. Flu Shots services for seniors
3. 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. – Foot patrol needed for Himrod Street (Between Wilson & Central Avenues)
4. Information on Protective Services for Adults in lieu of Elder Abuse
5. 311 Services for Seniors

Mary McClellan – November 14 – 20 is Flu Week. Anyone 18 years and older can receive a free flu shot at 138 Bleecker Street on Friday, November 19, 2010.

PO Damarys Franco: The NYPD has discontinued foot patrol 9 years ago. When you see Police Officers on foot, it is because the Commanding Office has requested more presence in that District. The Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector Steven Capasso has requested more Police Presence in the Bushwick Community in certain areas for the Thanksgiving Holiday season. There will also be 12 extra patrol cars in the area during this time.

PO Franco would also like their Domestic Violence Unit to be a part of the board's Protective Services Committee. (Senior Citizens Committee)

Recommendations:

1) Fiscal Year 2012 Adopted Budget Register – Capital Budget Priorities & Expense Budget Priorities

The acceptance for the Budget Priorities as presented was moved by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Martha Brown and Ms. Barbara Smith. All members present were in favor.

The Capital & Expense Budget Priorities Recommendations will be forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget.

2) Opportunity for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) presented by Ms. M. Parker – NYS Department of Education's Request for Proposal to establish Literacy Zone in Bushwick

Ms. Parker is requesting that the Community Board:

- Endorse her Application
- Community Board join the Committee that will Design the Program for Bushwick

Ms. Dent: Ms. Saundria Simmons, the Chairperson for the Senior Citizen Committee and Ms. Nadine Whitted, District Manager of Community Board #4 will join the Committee for OBT.

Ms. Dent thanked Ms. Whitted for joining the committee even with the busy schedule that she has. Ms. Dent thanked her for her leadership, class, grace and professionalism in servicing the Bushwick Community.

Ms. Sharline Moore motioned that the board endorse the program for OBT and it was second by Ms. Lola Robinson. All members present were in favor, with one abstention by Ms. Iluminda (Lucy) Belardo.

**Old Business:**

Laura Braslow - The formation of an Arts and Culture Committee (ACC)

The Arts and Culture Committee will soon hold its first meeting. Any board member interested in joining the Committee was asked to notify the District Manager within in week.

Board Members who are interested in joining the ACC: Ms. Barbara Smith, Ms. Elvena Davis, Ms. Brenda Lee Tramble and Ms. JoAnne Grant.

Members of the audience were also invited to join the Arts and Cultural Committee. They will be able to participate, but they will not be able to vote on matters.

PO Damarys Franco: PS 384 informed the Chairperson that they will be in responsible for making sure that their school's park is clean. PO Franco would like to be informed if they will also be responsible for closing the park at night. If not, the park will need to be closed by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. as they recommend.

PO Franco was concern with IS 383 boiler repair project that was mentioned in the Chairperson's report. She wants to make sure that the construction firm adheres to the proper regulations since the Bushwick Community has a high asthma rate.

The District Manager stated that they will be invited to the District Service Cabinet Meeting that will be held on December 8, 2010, so that they can provide the Community Board with updates.

**New Business:**

New York State Department of Education's letter of support, the Board will require that they come back often to give them an update on their progress.

Mr. A. Martinez requested that a letter be sent to Brooklyn Community Board #1 regarding a building located on Ingraham Street and Flushing Avenue eliminating dirt and chemicals which is affecting the quality of life in the area.

**Announcements:**

Barbara Smith, 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Council President: Thanksgiving Baskets and donations are now being accepted.

Bushwick Dance at the Jalreign Institute, 269 Stanhope Street (Corner of Irving Avenue), "Turning the World Upside Down"; Professional dance lesson for kids & teens, Monday and Wednesday at 5pm to 6:30pm. For more information call 347-327-6720 or [www.bushwickdance.com](http://www.bushwickdance.com)

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Long Island College Hospital of Brooklyn are please to offer Free Flu Shots. Friday, November 5, 2010 from 11am to 2pm. (First come first serve) For more information: Call 718-802-3717 or email [iguerrero@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:iguerrero@brooklynbp.nyc.gov)

Brooklyn Borough Hall – Rotunda, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Please note: This vaccine is a combination of the seasonal influenza virus and the H1N1 virus. It is one shot. All persons must be 18 years or older.

Attend your local Precinct Community Council Meeting – meetings are held at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Precinct located at 480 Knickerbocker Avenue every third Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at 7:30pm.

83<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Community Council Christmas Fundraiser, Friday, December 3, 2010 at Latinos Americanos Center, 218 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, New York from 7pm – 12pm. 21 years and over, valid ID are required, donations accepted!!!

**Holiday Safety Tips:**

The Police Department wants this to be a SAFE holiday season for all, so here are a few reminders that you can follow this holiday season.

1. Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often confront people who are distracted.

2. Whether driving, walking or taking public transportation, plan the trip in advance. Know how to get to your destination by the most direct and safest route.
3. Travel on populated, well lit street. If possible travel with a friend.
4. When driving, keep your doors locked and the windows closed. Make sure the gas tank is full and maintain your car in good working order to avoid breakdowns.
5. If you are taking the subway, look for the red or green lights outside the entrance. A red light means that you cannot enter the subway system at the location. Look for an entrance with a green light before going down the stairs.
6. If possible stay in the view of the token booth while awaiting your train. Never walk near the edge of the platform.
7. Plan your purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash necessary to make the purchase. If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, pockets and wallet.
8. Record the numbers for each of the credit cards you own. This will facilitate reporting the theft of loss of the card.

Assembly Member William F. Boyland Jr. invites all to the Monthly Advisory Board Meeting on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12 noon. The office is located at 467 Thomas Boyland Street between Pitkin Avenue & East New York Avenue. For information call 718-498-8681

News reporters attending the meeting:

- Vincent Trivett – NY City News Service
- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier

**2<sup>nd</sup> Roll Call:** Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm