

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

Prelude by District Manager Ms. Nadine Whitted,

The District Manager, Nadine Whitted was asked to present a prelude to the presentation by the Department of Health. Ms. Whitted recounted a recent incident she and Chairperson Julie Dent experienced while attending the funeral of a young man who was quite well known in the community. After paying last respects – she was troubled when she saw how over weight the deceased had become. She shared her concerns with the Chair and the funeral director. Thereafter when while engaged in conversation it was quite apparent that too many of our community's young people are in serious trouble due to obesity. She stated that our community's health is in crisis and that we all must take charge of the health situation. Ms. Whitted then invited Mr. Oscar Health from the Department of Health & Ms. Sharon Wong from the NYC Food and Fitness Partnership to make their presentations.

1) Sharon Wong - NYC Food and Fitness Partnership Initiative, Funded by Kellogg Foundation

The NYC Food and Fitness Partnership is an alliance whose mission is to engage communities in creating equitable access to healthy, quality, affordable foods and opportunities for active living, starting in neighborhoods of highest need.

During the next two years NYC Food and Fitness Partnership will focus their attention in the Central Brooklyn area. They have already reached out to Bed Sty, East New York, now Bushwick and hopefully in the near future the Brownville area.

Ms. Wong is in support of the Adopt a Bodega program.

2) Mr. Oscar Heath - New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene – “Adoptable Bodega”

The New York City Health Departments goal is to boost the availability of and demand for healthy foods in New York City neighborhoods with the highest rates of poverty and chronic disease.

The Healthy Bodegas Initiative works with bodegas (small corner stores) in the city's underserved communities to stock and promote more healthy foods. They also work with community organizations and area residents to raise nutritional awareness and promote the purchase of healthier foods.

For example: Low sodium products – many residents go to other areas to purchase low sodium foods. The Health Department is asking bodegas to stock low sodium products in their stores. However, in order for a bodega to stock low sodium food products there would have to be a demand for these food products; that is where the community comes in.

Bodegas that enroll in the program will receive advertising and promotional materials, such as shelf signs, posters, flyers and giveaways like reusable tote bags for customers who buy fresh produce.

Mr. Heath stated that the Community Board could perhaps adopt a bodega in the area.

Questions were entertained:

Once a bodega has been chosen Mr. Heath will go to the bodega to let the store owner learn how the store can participate in the program.

The Health Department will work with the community for one year and after the year all questions or help can be directed to the Health Department.

The store owners will receive training and technical support for their participation - they will learn how to store and place fresh produce.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, January 19, 2011 Community Board meeting.

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

Roll Call: 30 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Mary McClellan and seconded by Mr. William Harris. 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 minutes was accepted by Ms. Iluminda Belardo and seconded by Rev. Grace Aytes. All members present were in favor.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the first Community Board Meeting for the New 2011 Year. The Board is looking forward to a very productive and fruitful year as it plans for the future of the community.

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) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 2) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands Avenue Office, 718-272-1175 cell # 718-309-9755
- 3) Alejandro Echeverri – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 34th Council District, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 4) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 17th Senatorial District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 5) Evelyn Cruz – Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 268 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 718-599-4359
- 6) Manuel Burgos – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627

Representatives from City Agencies

- 1) Evelyn Ortiz – NYC Department of Health, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5636

Ms. Dent recognized two NYC Police Officers from the 83rd Pct. and thanked them for attending the meeting.

The following information is shared based on information received by the board:

- 1) NYC Department of Education proposed to co-locate a new school in school building K480 located at 400 Irving Avenue. If approved the new school will be co-located at the Bushwick High School Campus with three existing High Schools:
 - The Academy for Environmental Leadership
 - The Bushwick School for Social Justice
 - The Academy of Urban Planning

The building houses a Living for the Young Family through Education “LYFE” program. A co-location means that two or more schools are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

Education Impact Statement (EIS) - to access the full proposal - Department of Education's website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/bushwick>. It is encouraged that the site be visited regularly as it is updated regularly. Concerns and questions can be submitted to Ben Taylor, located at 52 Chambers Street, 212—374-0208 email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

A public hearing for community feedback is scheduled for February 16, 2011 at 6pm, Bushwick Campus, 400 Irving Avenue.

NYC Comptroller John C. Liu and a host of elected officials including Borough President Markowitz, Council Member Reyna are sponsoring “THE POWER OF AN AUDIT: A TOWN HALL MEETING” on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 from 6 to 8pm at the Brooklyn Public Library – Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture. The purpose of this session is to learn the who, what, when and why of audits.

Thursday, February 3, 2011 – Borough President Marty Markowitz will hold the annual State of the Address at 6pm. Location: Sunset Park High School, 153 35th Street (between 3rd and 4th Avenues) RSVP: 718-802-3530

HOPE (Homeless Outreach Populations Estimate – The Department of Homeless Services annually conduct a survey which allows the City to evaluate the effectiveness of current outreach strategies and allocate resources to where they are most needed. On Monday, January 31, 2011, the NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate. Volunteers are needed to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to count the number of people living unsheltered in the city. Just one night of your time will help collect vital information that is used by outreach teams to help homeless people leave the streets for a better life.

3,000 or more New Yorkers needed...volunteers who are 18 years old or older. Training will be provided in order for you to conduct the survey on the night of HOPE plus a quick, convenient online orientation when you register to give you the basics.

To sign up for the effort visit: www.nyc.gov/dhs and click on the HOPE logo.

District Managers Report:

The Department of Sanitation – The Blizzard of 2010 Holiday Season has been the worst. Streets were not plowed, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and FDNY, NYPD vehicles were stuck on streets for days due to streets not being passable.

Even though the District still has not fully recovered from the Blizzard, garbage trucks have been coming through the local streets, however residents still do not know what is being picked up, causing many residents to miss collection. She encouraged that any complaints with collection be called into the community board office (718)628-8400

Meetings Attended:

NYC Council member Reyna along with the Department of Parks hosted a ceremony at Maria Hernandez Park that highlighted the replacement of trees that was lost during the September 2010 tornadoes.

NYPD Brooklyn North hosted a “Night Life” meeting in the District. The goal of the meeting was to assist nightlife owners in maintaining safe bars, lounges, clubs that are free from illegal activity including drug sales, underage drinking, over consumption of alcohol, violence, prostitution and sex offenses. Establishments that have New York State Liquor licenses were invited to meet with the NYPD to understand the importance of operating the said establishment the right way. Operators of these establishments had the opportunity to ask questions regarding issues like security, capacity, fines, etc.

Borough Service Cabinet Meeting:

Mayor’s Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management – The office which processes the Street Activity Permits for block parties, street fairs, health fairs, etc., instituted the e-application for applying for events via the internet. The purpose was to eliminate the mounds of paper collected by this office as they process permits city wide.

Since the inception of this new procedure the borough of Brooklyn only had a 23% compliance rate. Therefore, it is a possibility that the day of applying through the community board's office for a permit may be gone. It is suggested that one must apply online or pick up an application at their office located at 100 Gold Street, New York, New York.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Green Cart Program Coordinator announced that the Bushwick Community among others in Brooklyn has been legislated for the operation of Green Carts by vendors. Ms. Tammy Lee is willing to attend a meeting where the process and further information can be given. In order to be eligible to become a Green Cart operator one must have a permit.

The Health, Hospitals and Human Services Committee – Ms. Sharon Wong & Mr. Oscar Health discussed the Food and Fitness Partnership funded through The Kellogg Foundation. Their goals are: Community Food, School Food and Active Living

Mr. Heath presented on the NYC Department of Health Healthy Bodegas Program –He is recruiting individual and organizations to adopt a local bodegas.

Community Board #4 Arts & Culture Committee hosted its first meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 where a vision for the committee was discussed. After the meeting the board received a proposal for a project which will be handed to the committee.

Friday, January 14, 2011 – Achievement First hosted an open house for members of Community Board #4. The event was held at the I.S. 383 site. Members of the Achievement First team will be in attendance at the next Youth and Education Committee Meeting.

Bethel Evangelical Church located at 215 Cooper Street will offer an after school program from 3-5:30pm. Tutoring in the following subjects will be available: English, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, Computers, etc. for grades 3-12. Contact Mr. Claude Louis at 516-713-8910, email: clouis10@aol.com for more information. Spanish speaking person can contact: Rafael Vargas at 347-359-7530

Benton's Defensive Driving Academy – USA Driver Safety Course, save on auto insurance cost and reduce up to 4 traffic violation points from your driving record. Next Class Saturday, January 29, 2011. Location: Bethel Evangelical Church, 215 Cooper Street, Brooklyn, NY, 9am – 3pm, for more information call 718-455-0226

Committee Reports

Arts and Culture (ACC), Ms. Laura Braslow - Chairperson: Meeting Held Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 6:00PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Goal: To be a place where people can come when looking for artist, creative, cultural people who can conduct programs in schools, daycares, afterschool programs, churches, etc.; organizations in the community who want to bring in more art and cultural programming and people who want to provided that programming. This will be a way to provide information and exchanged information through the board.

The Committee would also like to work with the Civic and Religious Committee to bring more Arts and Culture in the upcoming parade in June.

Health Hospital & Human Services (HHH), Ms. Mary McClellan – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, January 12, 2011 at 4PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Thanked Mr. Oscar Heath & Ms. Sharon Wong for coming to the meeting and discussing how we can have healthy foods in the community so that the health issues that the community faces can be remedied.

Announcements:

Alejandro Echeverri, Council Member Diana Reyna – Invites you to the South Bushwick Residents Association Monthly Meeting. “Let’s Talk about **JOBS**”, Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 6-7:30PM Location: Dekalb Public Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221

Please Join: Department of Labor, St. Nick’s Alliance Workforce, and Non Traditional Employment for Women.

- Learn what programs are available to help you get a job
- Learn about exciting new job opportunities in your city
- Learn how to make yourself more marketable in today’s competitive job market
- And more

Saturday, January 29, 2011 – Health Fair 12-3PM for more information contact Alejandro Echeverri at 718-963-3141

Speaker Christine C. Quinn and the Borough President Marty Markowitz with Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez invite you to attend an Adult Education Fair – Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011, 4-8PM Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Early Registration for GED classes will be available, Pre-GED test screening will be offered at 4:30PM and 6:30PM! For more information call 212-788-9221 or email: events@council.nyc.gov

Ms. D. Humphrey, Achievement First – Now Accepting Applications for Kindergarten, 1st or 5th Grade

Locations: 125 Covert Street & 1300 Greene Avenue

Information Sessions: Wednesday, January 12 @ 6pm

Wednesday, February 10 @ 6pm

Saturday, March 12 @ 10 @ 10am

For more information: www.achievementfirst.org/enroll

Barbara Smith, 83rd Precinct Council President: Thanked everyone for their support in making her fund raiser a success.

Manuel Burgos – First Annual Northeast Brooklyn Women’s Leadership Breakfast, Assembly Member Darryl C. Towns Invites you Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 8:30am Location: 11-13 Crescent Street, corner of Jamaica Avenue in Brooklyn. Topics include: Improving the participation of women in all areas of government, Supporting issues that affect and benefit women in New York State, the State Budget and services for women, Legislation that affects women, Women’s Health, Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MWBE)

United Methodist Church - The First Annual Bushwick/Bed Stuy Family Health & Fitness Fair – Saturday, February 12th, 11am-2pm Location: 1139 Bushwick Avenue between Madison & Putnam Streets
Special membership offers from the local fitness centers, boxing gyms, dance studios, karate schools, etc. and free giveaways. Sponsored by Assemblyman Darryl C. Towns, Bushwick Parish United Methodist Church, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Health Plus, Health First

Jason Andrew, Storefront – “Mary Judge” Pop-Oculus, Opening Reception Friday, January 28, 2011, 6-9pm, 16 Wilson Avenue, www.storefrontbk.com

Carlos Magnani & David Stern, First Investors: First Investors goal is to help person achieve their financial goals. Goals such as funding a child’s education, building a retirement nest egg, saving money on taxes, and helping to ensure a family’s financial security.

Looking for a job? First Investors are hiring!!! For more information contact Carlos Magnani at 212-563-2600 ext 335 or David Stern at 212-563-2600 ext. 211

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition: The coalition’s monthly meeting is cancelled for Thursday, January, 20, 2011 due to a number of members being ill. The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street) at 7pm.

Ms. McClellan also mentioned that there have to be a way to get the pool that is not being used opened at the Bushwick Campus High School.

Sharriff Geter, S & S Security Training & Services – Be eligible for immediate hiring of security officers! , 1198 Myrtle Avenue, for more information 718-919-2642

Sharline Moore, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Brooklyn Section – On Saturday, April 30, 2011, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. will honor ten young achievers who exemplify the legacy of the founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, through their dedication and commitment to their church, community and school. They will also honor one young person who has continued to persevere or who has turned his or her life around despite adversity. This particular honoree will receive the Odessa L. Skeene award. The award ceremony will take place at the Annual Harambee Achievement Awards Celebration.

The nominee should meet the following requirements:

1. Must be between the ages of 13 and 18
2. Must be attending school/college, enrolled in a continuing education job training program or be employed and has demonstrated a desire to achieve
3. Must be active in his or her church
4. Must demonstrate community involvement by contributing to the betterment of the immediate community and its residents

The deadline for receipt of all application is Friday, February 11, 2011. For more information or questions please contact Ms. Jennifer LeGrand at 718-284-6028

Evelyn Cruz, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez - In March 2010, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law historic health care reform legislation, the Affordable Act. Millions of Americans are already benefiting from this law; insurers are no longer allowed to discriminate against children and others who are sick. Small businesses are receiving billions of dollars in tax credits to provide health care coverage for their employees and seniors are saving money on prescription drugs and receiving free preventive care through Medicare.

House Republicans will soon vote to repeal these important new benefits, increasing health care costs for millions of Americans, causing many families to lose coverage and increasing the national debt by over \$1 trillion.

Such a repeal of the health reform law would have significant consequences in the district by:

- Allowing insurance companies to deny coverage to 114,000 to 307,000 individuals, including 8,000 to 36,000 children, with pre-existing conditions.
- Rescinding consumer protections for 324,000 individuals who have health insurance through their employer or the market for private insurance.
- Eliminating health care tax credit for up to 16,400 small business and 176,000 families
- Increasing prescription drug costs for 4,300 seniors who hit the Part D drug “donut hole” and denying new preventive care benefits to 74,000 seniors.
- Elimination new health care coverage option for 3,300 uninsured young adults.
- Increasing the number of people without health insurance by 80,000 individuals.
- Increasing the costs to hospitals of providing uncompensated care by \$65 million annually

The repeal would eliminate the ban on discrimination on the basis of pre-existing conditions.

Repeal would eliminate the ban on annual and lifetime limits

Repeal would eliminate the ban on rescissions

Repeal would eliminate other consumer protections

Repeal would eliminate the requirement that insurance companies provide free preventive care

Repeal would eliminate health insurance options for young adults

Repeal would increase drug costs for seniors

Repeal would increase retire health care costs for employers

William Villamar- It is important that we educated people about what eating healthy foods involves.

News reporters attending the meeting:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:10PM