

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

Presentation – NYC TLC (Taxi and Limousine Commission) Improving Taxi Service for the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island- Outer Boroughs

District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted: The Mayor and the TLC have a proposal to make Livery cab Service similar to the yellow taxi service, they are calling it the “Outer Borough Taxi Plan”.

It was brought to the Boards attention that it is illegal to hail a livery cab from off the street; it is only legal to call a cab from a taxi base service.

Mr. David Yassky, Chair of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission – The Mayor has proposed to establish a new category of livery cars that can make on-street pickups outside of Manhattan just like yellow cabs do. It will give many New Yorkers another safe, reliable and convenient option for getting around. The program aims to improve taxi availability while bringing yellow-taxi-like amenities (e.g., metered fares, credit/debit card payment, easier-to-spot cabs) to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

This plan will allow appropriately licensed and equipped livery cars (“borough taxis”) to accept street hails outside Manhattan.

The plan: Borough taxis would be equipped like yellow taxis – they would be painted a distinct color (not yellow), they would have a roof light to signal availability, and they would be equipped with a meter and credit reader –and they would be permitted to pick up street hails outside Manhattan, just as yellow taxis now serve Manhattan.

Yellow taxis would still have the right to pick up street hails anywhere in the five boroughs and the airports, even though very few yellow cabs leave the Manhattan area today. The statistics show that 97% of yellow taxi trips originate in Manhattan and the airports, even though 80% of the City’s residents live in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. The plan will make perfect economic sense.

Most cars used today often lack adequate insurance, and many drivers lack the proper license. The cars also lack meters, and passengers are required to negotiate the fare on the spot. People unfamiliar with the “going rate” in a particular neighborhood often get ripped off, and when experienced passengers generally find haggling unpleasant, so much so that many people simply refuse to hail gypsy cabs in order to avoid it.

Some dial a car companies have also expressed concern that they will lose business if non-Manhattanites gain access to legitimate taxi service. Mr. Yassky agrees that car service companies generally provide excellent service, and they want to minimize disruption to that sector of the industry, however ultimately, the customer must come first. Smart business people should be able to turn the new rules into an opportunity, by expanding their business to provide both dial-ahead and street hail service. And the new rules will ensure that traditional car service companies can continue to do business just as they do today if that is their preference it will be up to them whether to offer street hail service or not.

Mr. Guy Palumbo, Executive Director of the Livery Round Table – Livery Round Table (LRT) is a “coordinating council” consisting of 7 Livery industry associations and represent over 18,000 livery drivers, over 350 base operators and over 8,000 dispatchers and telephone operators.

The Livery Round Table has announced their support of Mayor Bloomberg’s goal of expanding taxi service to the outer boroughs. However, the LRT strongly opposes the creation of a dual purpose vehicle that provides prearranged as well as taxi street hail services.

There are four main reasons why you should be concerned about how the TLC plans to implement this Street Hail Plan.

1. Unfortunately, the creation of a dual use vehicle will create exactly the opposite of the Mayor's goal. By creating dual use vehicles a base that sends a vehicle out on a prearranged assignment will not be assured that the driver will show up as the driver while in route may well take on a street hail ride. Also a street hailer may be refused service if they are not going to a desirable location.
2. Next is the matter of how your local base operator will be forced out of business
3. There are concerns that currently, outer borough residents are entering illegally operated street hail vehicles. This is a problem that the Mayor is right to seek a remedy to.
4. A dual purpose community car seriously complicates enforcement. Even the best funded and most sophisticated enforcement scheme would find it impossible to distinguish between legal and illegal behavior of vehicles that are allowed to engage in both prearranged as well as street hail pickups.

This enforcement nightmare defeats the Mayor's stated goal of ensuring consistent pricing as drivers will be in position to simply turn off the meter and illegally "negotiate" a price with the customer.

The Livery Round Table's solution is to have a separate system and no "dual use":

- By creating separate systems, the TLC will be allowing both the prearranged and the street hail segments to focus on their specific areas of expertise.
- For the riding public, there will be a reliable prearranged service while gaining a legitimate street hail option in the outer boroughs. For the base owners, they will be assured that the customer receives uninterrupted service.
- Lastly the regulatory framework on Livery vehicles will remain intact. This includes the Livery Driver Benefit Fund which offers workers compensation to affiliated drivers.

Keeping the two systems separate in the outer boroughs, coupled with increased enforcement of the rules and a crack down on unlicensed and illegal cars that prowl the City's streets, will increase passenger safety and ensure that the riding public is not overcharged.

Borough Taxis: Let the City Know What You Think! Take their passenger survey: www.nyc.gov/taxi

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

Roll Call: 25 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 Ms. Gladys Puglla-Jimenez. 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. Martha Brown and seconded by Ms. Lola Robinson. All members present were in favor.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the March 16, 2011 meeting of Community Board #4. The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

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) Laurie Wheelock – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 2) Roy Sawyer & Manuel Burgos – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
The Assemblyman's start date as Commissioner has been postpone the expected date is April 4, 2011 to coincide with the budget
- 3) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands Avenue Office, 718-272-1175 cell # 718-309-9755
- 4) Evelyn Cruz – Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, 266 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY, 718-599-3658
- 5) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 17th Senatorial District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue,

718-573-1726

6) Bennett Baruch - Councilmember Diana Reyna, 34th Council District, 217 Havemeyer Street, 2nd Floor
718-963-3141

7) Samuel Pierre – Office of the Mayor (CAU), 253 Broadway, New York, NY, 212-788-7446

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

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

2) Ellen Giwa & Jose Polanco - Board of Elections City of New York

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

1) Eleni Bourinaris – CAMBA, 885 Flatbush Avenue, 2nd Fl., 718-287-0010 ext. 4024

2) Wanice James – Flushing Family Residents, 1126 Flushing Avenue, 718-326-5150

In accordance to the Community Board 4's By-law: Article V–Section B, an Ad-hoc Nomination Committee must be established. Members of the Committee will elect their own Committee Chairperson. The Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee will be charged with compiling a slate of members who are eligible to run for executive office position for the term 2011-2012.

At the April 2011 Community Board Meeting the Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee will present to the Board a complete slate of nominees who are eligible and willing to run for Executive Office.

The five (5) Community Board #4 members that volunteered for the Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee are:
Barbara Smith, Elvena Davis, Mary McClellan, Raul Rubio and Victoria Fernandez

Ms. Dent announced that the Honorable NYS Assembly Member Darryl C. Towns has been appointed as the new Commissioner/CEO of the State of New York – Homes and Community Renewal. This State agency combines eight entities including DHCR (Division of Housing and Community Renewal), SONYMA (State of NY Mortgage Agency), and six other agencies. The NYS HCR has a significant investment in Community District #4; all non-profit developers benefit greatly from HRC programs. The Board is looking forward in learning more about this agency and how we as a community can reap future benefits.

Congratulation went to Mr. Jason Andrew one of the Community Board's own board member who hosted an Art Opening in his home/gallery which was featured on Channel 12 news.

Early Childhood Service Cuts by the Mayor's Proposed Budget is the greatest since the 1970's; more that 16,000 children will lose child care. Mayor Bloomberg's plan to cut subsidies in the coming year is a devastating blow to children and working families. It is a dramatic reversal of the Mayor's promise to expand early learning opportunities for the city children and a retreat from his public statements in support of the city's working families.

On March 1st the Chairperson attended the Brooklyn Borough Meeting hosted by Borough President Markowitz. This Borough wide meeting assembles Board Chairpersons and NYC Council Members to discuss and vote on items that impact and will have an affect upon the borough of Brooklyn.

On March 4th Borough President Markowitz and the Council of Senior Centers and Services, NYS Senators and Assembly Members, Senior Center Directors and Senior Center Advisory Boards hosted an emergency meeting to discuss Governor Cuomo's proposed cuts to Title 20 programs.

Local programs listed for cuts include: Diana Jones Senior Center and our very own Hope Gardens Senior Center who have been very nice for many years to host the Community Board meetings. According to very reliable sources these cuts may not happen. These senior citizen centers are very important to the seniors in the community. The seniors need places to go so that they can socialize with others, have hot meals and just enjoy themselves.

The Restoration and Relocation of the Abraham Lincoln Monument located in Grand Army Plaza, at Flatbush Avenue and Eastern parkway was discussed. The project involves uninstalling 1, restoration and the relocation of the Lincoln Memorial. The Lincoln Memorial was original located in Grand Army Plaza and was relocated to the

concert grove which was not satisfactory as it was breaking the views that the original architects had intended. The cost of this project is approximately \$300,000.

New York Lawyers for Public Interest (NYLPI) addressed the board and noted that their community lawyers has been advocating on behalf of New Yorkers for over 30 years focusing on school location decisions and the environmental impacts on children. They have pro bono clearinghouses where community organizations and non-profits are connected to private firms and lawyers to get free legal services. It was also noted that NYLPI has staff that advocates on behalf of individuals with disabilities. NYLPI is available to make presentations to Community Boards.

NYLPI Health Justice Program – which focuses on a variety of issues such as Medicaid cuts and the impact on communities of color (especially in Brooklyn), will be releasing a health rights manual and will provide training to community groups and patients with a particular emphasis on language barriers in health care settings specifically, barriers in pharmacies. NYLPI is partnering with Make the Road NY to advocate for changes in the law governing the way prescription directions are written.

For more information call Nadine Whitted the District Manager of Community Board #4 at 718-628-8400.

Summer Youth Employment – Again this year the program is being threatened, the Board must begin a letter writing campaign to the elected state officials asking them to make sure that the summer jobs for the youth are saved and state the importance of the program to our community.

These summer programs help the children to learn skills that are need for their future and they also help them to do better in life.

District Managers Report:

The District Manager attended several meetings throughout the month. The community is invited to attend any of the meetings. For more information on meeting schedules please look at the Community Board's website at www.nyc.gov/brooklyn4 or call the Community Board's office at 718-628-8400.

February 28, 2011 – Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

As a result of this meeting the committee was told that a Youth Soccer League called Real Guadalupe Corp. is requesting a permit for playing time at the park ball field on Putnam Avenue.

March 2, 2011 – Executive Board Meeting

March 3, 2011 – Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee Meeting

Taxi & Limousine Commission, "Take our Passenger Survey": The City wants to hear from residents about their experiences with taxis and car services, and they have developed a brief online survey where your voice can be heard. Follow the link to let them know what you think. www.nyc.gov/taxi

March 8, 2011 – Brooklyn Borough Service Cabinet Meeting – Hosted by Borough President Markowitz

City Agencies and others assembled to discussed and enlighten District Managers in Brooklyn about new changes in programs and services which will affect the public.

HPD reported on their "Proactive Preservation Initiative" program. This is a program where owners of multiple units are targeted for repairs and enforcement.

New Proactive Enforcement Bureau will identify distressed multifamily buildings before conditions worsen instead of waiting for tenants to complain.

The new Proactive Preservation Initiative represents a major shift in the way the City identifies distressed buildings. In the past the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has primarily learned of and reacted to problematic conditions in apartments through individual tenant complaints. Based on information received from the tenant HPD would then determine the appropriate course of action, which might include working with the building owner and providing rehabilitation plan. Currently they are stepping up code enforcement actions against irresponsible or absentee owners.

Although there may exist many property owners who have not maintained their properties thus tenants and the general neighborhood suffers there are serious concerns about this new program as it relates to senior citizens

and owners on fixed income. This program seems reminiscent of other HPD programs where property owners were targeted through selective enforcement. In the 70's this sort of action caused many property owners to lose their property.

The District Manager would like to get a list of buildings that are being targeted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Proactive Preservation Initiative Program. The District Manager will do her best in working along with HPD to make sure that the home owners are notified.

Borough Commissioner Kevin Jefferies from the Department of Parks and Recreation announced a new initiative called "Clean and Green Brooklyn Anti Litter Campaign" for parks. This initiative involves community groups assisting with the anti littering effort. Organizations and friend groups will be identified and must volunteer by giving out bags to people in the parks to place their litter in. Volunteers are asked to donate their time throughout the spring and summer months.

The District Manger chose Irving Square Park to volunteer at and she asked for the names of those who would like to volunteer along with her:

- Raul Rubio
- Austen Martinez
- Gladys Puglla-Jimenez

A couple of days out of the month Ms. Whitted and those who volunteered with her will go to Irving Square Park and give out bags to those in the park so that they can throw their garbage in the bags instead of littering in the park.

For those who would also like to volunteer please call the Community Board office at 718-628-8400.

A special meeting was called involving the Community Board, the Department of Parks & Recreation and Mr. Miguel Medina who operates the Andres Gomez Soccer League. Mr. Medina stated that he has been operating this league from the Bushwick Ball Field for the past 10 years. Mr. Medina has both an adult league and a youth league. The youth league play from 9am to 2pm and the adult league play from 2pm to 8pm.

Mr. Medina was invited to the meeting because of the ongoing behavior problems that the community has had with his league. The behavior problems consist of public urinating, lewd behavior, public drinking and frequent 911 calls.

Mr. Medina's league was given the permit by the Parks and Recreation Dept. however he was told that if any additional complaints occur due to inappropriate behavior his permit will be revoked. Mr. Medina was told that he will be held responsible for what occurs at the park and the park must be left clean after he leaves.

Community Board #4, 83rd New York City Police Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation will be working extremely close to make sure that the everyone has a safe and enjoyable spring and summer season.

- DPR is being asked to limit the number of permits issued in the parks on any given day, perhaps one in the morning and one in the afternoon
- NYPD and Community Board #4 are to review permits prior to Department of Parks and Recreation issuance
- Community Board #4 should be the applicant on the Baseball Parade permits for the next year
- The new Dept. of Parks and Recreation Manager Emilio Llopiz

March 10, 2011 – Attended the Civic and Religious Committee

The Community Board Parade and barbeque festivities will be hosted at the Iglesia Metodista Unida Nueva Jersualen (The New Jerusalem United Methodist Church) located at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue

March 14, 2011 – Attended the Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting

March 15, 2011 – Attended the 83rd Precinct Community Council Meeting
Honorable Charles J. Hynes, and other elected officials including the Honorable Julie Dent, Chairperson of Community Board #4 presented citations and plaques to five (5) NYPD Officers from the 83rd Precinct who responded to the fire at 269 Bleecker Street and was on the scene prior to the FDNY. Heroically, these men/police officers went into firefighter/EMT roles and saved lives.

They are:

- Sgt. John Flynn
- PO Thomas Regnier
- PO Scot Pedrick
- PO McCharles Bouzy
- PO Kenneth Dwyer

The families of those affected and the community will be forever ingratiated to them.

Other Issues

The SCO Family Services: The proposed cuts will impact families living in the shelter system by eliminating the Advantage Program which provides a subsidy for rent payments for residents moving out of the shelter. SCO states that without the program the city will experience a huge increase in the shelter population thus forced to build and operate new shelters. Ending the Advantage program will cost taxpayers \$80 million more in shelter and related programs. To fund this new cost, cuts will have to be made to other programs that now serve low income New Yorkers. Currently, 15,000 Advantage recipients live in buildings that are currently in the 1st & 2nd year of receiving the subsidy. Cutting this program places these families at risk of eviction. Our state officials need to hear from all, not just shelter advocates, but from the entire community.

The Department of Environmental Protection has launched a new program to save Homeowner's money with proactive water leak notification, the program that detects unknown leaks by monitoring spikes in usage: this program due to the installation of wireless digital water meters citywide. During the initial trail of the program which began in December, approximately 1,300 alerts were made thus saving New Yorkers an estimation of several hundred thousand dollars. Eligible customers are owners of one, two or three family homes. Homeowners interested in receiving notification of potential leaks can sign up for email alerts at www.nyc.gov. Homeowners who do not sign up for email alerts are contacted directly by phone or by mail.

CECM, The Street Activity Permit Office has placed further restrictions on Block Party Request:

1. Block Parties can only have a time frame of nine (9) hours ending no later than 8:00PM. For example: If your block party ends at 8:00PM it can start no earlier than 11:00AM
2. If your block is having a vendor(s) selling anything such as food, the event will now be considered to be a "One Day Street Festival" and the time frame for such is 8:00AM to 4:00PM

NYC Department of Education CEC District 32 will host a special meeting with special guest speaker the new Chancellor, Ms. Cathleen Black on Thursday, April 7, 2011. (See announcements for more information)

NYC Board of Election has positions available for Poll Workers: Become an Election Day Inspector or Interpreter For more information and apply visit the Board of Elections website at www.vote.nyc.ny.us to download an application, or call 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692)

Gardens for the City A program of New York Restoration Project – Create a garden, plant trees, grow vegetables, build raised beds, nurture young gardeners and transform an underused space.

The Program: New York Restoration project (NYRP) can provide resources to new greening projects in New York City. Are you looking to revitalize a space in your neighborhood? NYRP will provide building materials and experts in the field of construction, horticulture, forestry, environmental education, and community organizing to transform or enhance an open area into a garden or green space.

Applications are due by March 31, 2011.

Ms. Julie Dent acknowledge Linda Tigani from the Municipal Art Society and her student assistant Daniel Bowen for volunteering their services to the Community Board meeting.

Committee Reports

Arts and Culture Committee (ACC), Ms. Laura Braslow – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, March 14, 2011 at 6PM, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Attending Meeting: Laura Braslow, Committee Member Barbara Smith, District Manager Nadine Whitted, 83rd Precinct PO Damarys Franco, Erin Decoteaux and Martin Diegelman

Items Discussed:

- 1) The 83rd Pct. asked to be invited to the meeting to specifically to discuss rules and regulations which apply to Nightlife Establishment which must be adhered to by rental halls, art galleries and other venues.

Owners/Manager of Rental halls, Art Galleries or any kind of Nightlife Establishments

1. In regards, to all special events organizer should notify 83rd Pct. Community Affairs Officers
2. Any event that will have beer or wine, organizer must apply for a one day SLA permit. A copy of the permit should be forwarded to the Community Affairs Office
Note: No hard liquor may be at the premise
3. Any use of the rear yard or outside space should be used until 10:00PM
4. Any news worthy event, 72 hours notice should be given when possible
5. Any event that has 75 people or more must include an organizer, and a licensed security guard should be at the premise.

Any questions or concerns regarding this matter should be directed to the 83rd Precinct Community Affairs Office at 718-574-1697 or email damarys.franco@nypd.org or dennis.diaz@nypd.org

- 2) Martin Diegelman – Local Photographer presented to committee a visual arts project based on Luminaries from the 16th Century where lanterns are used to illuminate an area. Instead of the real lanterns, paper lanterns made from white lunch bags with LED type candles will be used for illumination. His proposal utilizes Jefferson Street from Wyckoff Avenue to Irving Avenue from the hours of 6pm to 10pm. The intention of showcasing the art of the people of Bushwick and possibly elsewhere using luminaries as an inspiration. The plan is to encourage artist to create pieces with a special emphasis on illumination while bring the people of community and outer boroughs to a block in Bushwick that showcases these creations

The committee suggests the following:

Due to new regulations concerning the Street Activity Permits –

- An new event such as this would not get a permit due to the moratorium on new special events
- This event will not be able to receive a permit to close the street until 10:00PM. Therefore, the possibility of hosting in at a park was suggested
- It was also suggested to Mr. Diegelman to apply for an NYC Department of Parks and Recreation Special Permit
- The event planner was asked to consider the adjust and to present a new proposal

The ACC Committee will also look into putting a proposal together for a call to artist for a 911 memorial statue for the 10 year anniversary of 911.

Civic and Religious Committee (CRC), Ms. Elvena Davis – Chairperson: Meeting Held Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 6:00PM

Members Present: Elvena Davis, Avellar Hansely, Cyril Joseph and Miriam Lamboy

Items Discussed:

- 1) 2011 Brooklyn-Queens Day Parade
- 2) Brooklyn-Queens Day will be celebrated on Thursday, June 9, 2011
- 3) Recommended Themes for parade
- 4) Route:
 - Beginning at I.S. 383 located at Greene and Knickerbocker Avenues
 - Greene Avenue to Irving
 - Irving Avenue to Putnam Avenue
 - Putnam Avenue to Bushwick Avenue
 - Bushwick Avenue to Menahan Street
 - Menahan Street to Knickerbocker Avenue
- 5) Grand Marshall
- 6) Next meeting will be held at the church on March 31, 2011 at 6:00PM

The CRC would like the board to recommend the theme for the parade. (See recommendations)

Environmental/Protection/Transportation Committee (EPT), Mr. Eliseo Ruiz – Chairperson: Meeting Held Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 12:00Noon
Member Present: Eliseo Ruiz

Items Discussed:

NYC – TLC's Five Borough Taxi Plan

Mr. Ruiz asked that everyone take the Passenger Survey by logging on to the Taxi & Limousine Commission website at www.nyc.gov/taxi and give them your opinion about their experiences with taxis and car services.

Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC), Mr. Austen Martinez – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, February 28, 2011

Members Present: Iluminda Belardo, Robert Camacho, Carlos Feliciano, and Eliseo Ruiz

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Willie Morales, Edwin Vargas, Robert Colon, Eva Dejesus and Jaime Vargas

Mr. Edwin Vargas, the Director of Public Services Brooklyn – City of NY Parks & Recreation: Purpose of the meeting was to state the rules and regulations for this year.

The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2011 at 6:05pm

Public Safety Committee (PSC), Ms. Barbara Smith – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at the 83rd Pct. Located at 480 Knickerbocker Avenue at 4:30PM

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Mary McClellan, Linda McKinley, Lola Robinson, Elvena Davis, Avellar Hansley, Victoria Fernandez and Rev. Grace Aytes

Others Attending: Nadine Whitted, D.I. Capasso, PO Franco, E. Vargas, Miguel Medina, I. Rodriquez, J. Almonte, A. Batisa, W. Olds, D. barrios, J. Mohamed and S. Palauguachi

The Public Safety Committee hosted two meetings regarding:

1) Soccer League operating at the Bushwick Ball Field located in Putnam Avenue

Meeting was held to discuss the complaints and problems associated with the organized Soccer league (Andres Gomez Soccer League). The Chief of Special Events at the Department of Parks and Recreation was not aware of the complaints thereby causing him to issue a permit to the league for this season. The permit will be valid from Sunday, march 13, 2011 through Sunday, August 28, 2011.

It was indicated at the meeting that if one additional complaint is received the permit will be revoked.

PO Franco stated that complaints from last year were regarding urinating, drinking, noise, etc.

The league will also have to purchase a port-a-potty and once in place on the NYC Dept. of Parks property anyone can request to use it. Also after the games are played it will be the responsibility of the league to clean-up and leave the park in an orderly fashion.

Stephen Capasso - Commanding Officer 83rd Pct. asked the Dept. of Parks and Recreation to limit the number of permits issued for events in local parks and also to notify the local precinct and Community Board #4 when groups apply. He noted that if needed a letter could be sent to document this request. Mr. Vargas stated that he will take the information back to the Borough Commissioner.

2) NYS Liquor License Requests

There were several Liquor Authority request approvals and some denials

Recommendations:

- 1) CRC- The board selected "Bushwick Celebrating our Neighborhood's Diversity" as the theme for this years parade
- 2) PSC – 6 local establishments were approved for a liquor license. Motion to approval was moved by Ms. E. Davis and second by Ms. M. Brown, all board members present were in agreement.

Announcements:

Johnny Joyner, Representing Senator Martin Malave Dilan Office – Join Community Education Council District 32 for a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday April 7, 2011 at 6:00pm. Location: P.S. 274's Auditorium, 800 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 (Between Dekalb Avenue & Kosciusko Street)

Special Guest Speaker: Chancellor Cathleen Black

- Student Achievement
- School Finances
- Questions from the public

- Interpretation Services will be available

As the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)'s April 18th tax filing deadline nears...

Senator Martin Malave Dilan in conjunction with Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation is offering - Free Tax Assistance by appointment only to any single filer who earned less than \$25,000 in 2010 and any family who earned less than \$50,000 in 2010 on March 25 and April 6 from 12pm to 4pm. A Bilingual staff will be available for those needing assistance. Please call 718-573-1726 to schedule an appointment

Location: 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207 (Between Knickerbocker Avenue and Halsey Street)

Bennett Baruch, Council Member Diana Reyna: Alejandro Echeverri no longer works for the Councilwoman and has moved back to Mexico. If anyone wants to get a message to him please let Mr. Baruch know and it will be forwarded to him.

“Save Our Centers Campaign” Tell Governor Cuomo and your State Legislators Not to Close our Senior Centers. The Governor wants to remove \$25.2 million in federal title XX (20) funds from NYC’s Department for the Aging (DFTA). This would result in as many as 105 senior centers closing citywide. For more information contact: Natasha Kerry at 518-462-5461 or email: nkerry@council.nyc.gov and Walter Algarin at 212-788-7279 or email: walgarin@council.nyc.gov

For more information on whom your state representatives are, visit the following links to state government:

- <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators>
- <https://assembly.state.ny.us> or call 518-474-8390 (Governor), 518-455-2800 (Senate), 518-455-4100 (Assembly)

Council Member Diana Reyna & Churches United for Fair Housing, Inc. invites you to the South Bushwick Residents Association Monthly Meeting. A meeting for those seeking to learn about the services the City provides. The topic for this month is...Youth Engagement for the Summer

When: Sunday, March 27, 2011

Time: 2:30PM – 4:30PM

Location: John Paul Academy at St. Barbara’s Auditorium, 139 Menahan Street, Brooklyn, New York 11221

Please Join: Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, Field of Dreams, Quebradillas, YMCA Day camp, El Puente, Summer Youth Employment Program, 83rd Precinct and Churches United for Fair Housing

- Learn what programs are available to help your child get a job over the summer
- Learn about exciting activities for your child during the summer
- Learn about valuable volunteer opportunities for youth in the summer

For more information contact: Rudsena Hernandez or Carmen Gonzalez at 718-963-3141

Evelyn Cruz, Representing Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez:

1. Velázquez on Fiscal Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2011 – The Congresswoman raised her opposition to the amendment in Washington DC on February 18, 2011. Briefly she stated: “For a long term economic recovery, American workers need training and education that enables them to compete. However, this spending bill cuts education drastically. In my district, it would deprive 22,000 families of almost \$1,000 in Pell Grant assistance. Many New Yorkers would pay more tuition; others would be prevented from obtaining their degree, altogether.”

“That is just one way education suffers. New York City Head Start would lose almost \$30 million in funding under this bill. As we build a workforce for the future, cutting services that prepare children to learn is not just immoral, it is unwise.”

“HUD’s public housing capital fund would be reduced by 40%. That money ensures elevators work, broken windows get repaired and hallways stay lit. New York City would also lose \$129 million in Community Development Funds, resulting in 1,200 layoffs from the City’s Department of Housing, Preservation and Development.”

2. Velázquez, Schumer Call for National Transportation Safety Board review of Discount Bus Safety Regulations – Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez and United States Senator Charles E. Schumer called on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to broadly investigate safety regulations that govern

the discount tour bus industry in light of the recent Saturday morning's (March 12, 2011) deadly bus crash. They asked for the NTSB to utilize its oversight authority to examine the overall effectiveness of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) safety regime for the low-cost tour bus industry.

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition: The coalition's monthly meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2011. The next meeting will be held at 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street) at 7pm.

Sharline Moore - National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Brooklyn Section – 26th Annual Harambee Awards Celebration, "Harnessing Intergenerational Power, Moving Towards Greater Heights"
Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Fleur De Lis located at 870 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY
Donation: \$30.00 For tickets and or more information: 718-493-5323 or 718-284-6028

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

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

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 9:10PM