

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent welcome all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, November 19, 2014 monthly board meeting at 6:17PM.

-Public Hearing Items-

- 1) Judge Genine D. Edwards – The Acting Justice of the Supreme Court: Information about the Civil Court
Ms. Edwards is a Civil Court Judge as well as an Acting Supreme Court Justice in Brooklyn. Judge Edwards has been on the bench for 9 years. She a Graduate of Midwood High School, Long Island University, and St. John's University School of Law.
Prior to becoming a Judge she represented the City of New York, the State of New York and various other cases including police brutality, employment discrimination and personal injury.
The Civil Court is located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. The civil court has a jurisdiction of \$25,000. That means that they handle cases that have a value of up to \$25,000, anything more than that will go to the Supreme Court. The Civil Court is called the people's court. Many of the people who go to civil court are not represented by council, they usually represent themselves. They go to the 4th floor and get guidance on what to do so that they can represent themselves.
Cases can involve property damage, personal injury and they can also involve National Grid, Con Edison or credit card debt. Some cases have attorneys and some don't. A part of the civil court is the housing court. Housing court judges render disputes on landlord/tenants issues, whether it is evictions, failure to pay rent, tenant has an issue with not getting the services they need or the landlords failure to make repairs.
Another part of the court is the small claims court. The jurisdiction for small claims court is \$5,000. Some cases can be as small as \$1.00. Small claims court sometimes has cases as small as \$10.00. Those cases can involve a cleaners if they have ruin your cloths, or you are suing your mechanic for failure to fix your car properly. Those cases are handled Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday during the day and Thursday during the evenings. Most of the cases are tried by the person and they do not have attorneys.
Two things to remember if you have a small claims court case: You must be able to prove to the court that the one you are suing is actually responsible for the damage or whatever you are saying that they did to you. You also have to prove that you sustained money damages. You must bring the checks or receipts proving that you have paid or you must bring in an estimate.
Most cases do not go to trial they are settled by stipulation. You must therefore understand each sentence in the stipulation, because the stipulation is deemed a contract and it cannot be changed. Do not sign it unless you understand it. If you do not understand the stipulation make sure that the judge read it to you and explain it because you will be held by it.
If you are being sued by any court, for example, Family Court, Criminal Court, Supreme Court, or Civil Court make sure you answer, you usually have 20 to 30 days to do so. If you do not answer you lose your rights.
If you get a ticket in criminal court and you do not show up you will get a bench warrant, losing your rights. If you are sued for money for any reason you lose your rights when you do not answer. The other side will win that judgment and they freeze your bank account. If there is a claim regarding National Grid or Con Edison and you fail to respond they seize your meter. At the Supreme Court if you get a foreclosure action and you fail to answer the bank will take your home.
If you need assistance there are volunteer attorneys. If there are documents that need to be filled out you can do so online.

The Brooklyn Borough Association has a lot of referrals so that you can make sure that you have an attorney. Go to www.nycourts.gov/courthelp for help and court papers.

Question: Who is responsible if you get hurt on a sidewalk?

Answer: According to the law if you own a home that is a three family or more the owner is responsible. If the house is two family or less the city is responsible. Most people will sue both you and the city but if the home is less than two family your insurance will defend you in this matter.

However, if you did something to the sidewalk like you had a contractor come in you might be held responsible for the sidewalk.

You are responsible for cleaning the snow and if there are any water problems the home owner must take care of. You have a certain amount of hours to shovel the snow after it stops snowing. While it is still snowing you are not responsible. You must also salt and/or sand the sidewalk after it stops snowing.

2) Ms. Jeneen Johnson – NYC Office of Child Support Enforcement, HRA Child Support:

Monies owed to the Department of Social Services not to the custodial parent.

This means that the family was on public assistance, cash assistance and that is the money that is owed to HRA child support. (Noncustodial parent is a parent that is not living with their child.)

Seven week program from November 12, 2014 to December 31, 2014: HRA is matching money that the Non-custodial parent brings in. If he owes \$10,000 to HRA and if he comes up with \$5,000, HRA will match that \$5,000. He will then have a balance of zero owed.

To pay, go to the HRA/OCSE Customer Service Walk-In Center and make your payment by certified check or money order, or credit card.

151 West Broadway, 4th Floor (between Worth and Thomas streets), New York, NY 10013

Monday – Friday, 8am to 7pm, Saturday, 9am to 5pm. The office will be closed Nov. 27 and 29 and Dec. 25 and 27. Call 212-274-6000 for more information on this program.

Arrears Cap: Arrears Cap can put a limit on accumulated child support that you owe the government (DSS/Department of Social Services).

To qualify:

Must owe arrears to the government; not required to have a current or active child support order

And arrears must have built up while the noncustodial parent's income was below the Federal Poverty Level which is \$11,490 as of 2013

Benefit to you:

Arrears that you owe to DSS may be reduced down to \$500; you do not have to return to court.

They also offer DNA testing for \$40.00. You will not find this testing for anything less than \$40.00 per-person. They use the same labs that test for family court. If you go outside of this lab, family court will not accept it. If use outside testing agencies you will be wasting your \$400 to \$500 because family court will make you have the testing done again.

Roll Call: 6:59PM 18 members present does not constituting a quorum

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all to the November 19, 2014 Brooklyn Community Board #4 Meeting.

Chairperson's Report, Ms. Julie Dent: 7:04PM

Ms. Dent asked that the Elected Officials and /or their representatives to introduce themselves and state their respective address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Senator Martin Malave Dilan Representing the 18th Senatorial District, 718 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

- 2) Councilman Rafael Espinal Representing the 37th Council District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
- 3) Michael Olmeda Representing State Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 718 Knickerbocker Avenue, 917-975-4222, 718-573-1726
- 4) Kevin Worthington Representing NYC 34th Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206, 718-963-3141
- 5) Celeste Leon Representing NYC 37th Council Member Rafael L. Espinal, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
- 6) Darryl White Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3700
- 7) Paula Melendez Representing Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, 718-443-1205

Representative from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Deputy Inspector Max Tolentino, 83rd Pct. Commanding Officer, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 2) Det. D. Franco, 83rd Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-574-1697
- 3) Captain R. Zedalis, 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY
- 4) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch, 718-628-8378

October 22, 2014 – Attended a meeting along with the District Manager hosted by Borough President Eric Adams in response to the EBOLA crisis. The Borough President panel included the NYC Department of Health, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation and the NYC Human Rights Commission.

October 27, 2014 – The Bushwick Rezoning Initiative 2nd Town Hall meeting was held at 1349 Gates Avenue. Community residents were offered the opportunity to hear from the Department of City Planning about zoning and how it impacts the shape and landscape of the district. This meeting was held in two sessions on the same day which offered residents a choice to attend in the day or the evening hours.

The next Bushwick Rezoning Initiative Town Hall meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at the Audrey Johnson Learning Center located at 272 Moffat Street at 6pm.

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson hosted a press conference on October 28th in reference to the man who fired shots at gay men after taunting them with homophobic slurs on Bushwick Avenue. The man was indicted for attempted murder as a hate crime. He was charged with a 13 count indictment last month in which he and two others taunted three men with anti-gay slurs before the defendant allegedly fired six shots at the trio, striking one of the men in the buttocks.

The press conference was held at the Maria Hernandez Park on Knickerbocker Avenue and Starr Street. The incident occurred on Bushwick Avenue near Woodbine Street and the Putnam Avenue vicinity.

Immigration Town Hall meeting held at the Audrey Johnson Learning Center sponsored by NYC Councilmember Espinal.

The panelist included NYPD Immigration Outreach Unit, Catholic Charities, CUNY Citizenship Now Program, and the Kings County District Attorney's Immigration Fraud Unit.

NYPD – 83rd Precinct – Congratulations are in order for the recently promoted Deputy Inspector Maximo Tolentino, the Commanding Officer of the 83rd Precinct. The Deputy Inspector was promoted from Captain to the rank of Deputy Inspector on Monday, November 3rd at a wonderful ceremony held at One Police Plaza.

Deputy Inspector Tolentino has a very informative newsletter that he authors monthly. This month's edition has monthly crime statistics and it also highlights outstanding police work.

FDNY – The Fire Department in conjunction with Community Board #4 hosted a Fire Prevention Safety Workshop on Monday, November 17th. Thank you to the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 592 Knickerbocker Avenue for hosting the event. Batteries for smoke detectors were distributed to those in attendance along with valuable information.

(Extra batteries and information was also distributed at tonight's meeting)

NYC Parks and Recreation – Under the Community Parks Initiative, 35 community parks, playgrounds and ball field will be upgraded. The Thomas Boyland Playground located at Broadway between Furman Avenue and Aberdeen Street has been chosen to be a part of this initiative through re-imagining and renovation. On Monday, November 24, 2014 at 6:30PM join Community Board #4, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the community in sharing ideas on improvements. The meeting will take place at the Audrey Johnson's Learning Center located at 272 Moffat Street.

District Manager's Report – Ms. Nadine Whitted, 7:16PM

Meetings Attended

October 16, 2014 - Weill Cornell Medical College – Community Engagement and Research – Clinical Translational Science Center Training:

Community engaged research describes research that incorporates community input in any phase of the research process. The extent of this input can range from simply helping researchers define and clarify their research questions, to much more involved collaboration in defining the research question, implementing the research project, analyzing the results and sharing the findings.

Community-engaged researcher that is more intensive often takes place at community partner sites. Community partners might include any type of community based institution, including Community Based Organizations, religious institutions, schools or school districts or public health departments. Community partners might also be individuals community members associated with an advocacy or grass roots community group.

October 17, 2014 – Woman Empowerment Seminar: Hosted by Chrisjul – There were professional woman from many walks of life and careers who spoke to younger women from the community

October 20, 2014 – NYC DOHMH: The Center for Health Equity

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recognized Community Board #4 for its leadership in creating policies and practices that reduce the consumption for sugary drinks and limits youth exposure to unhealthy food marketing.

October 27, 2014 – Bushwick Rezoning Workshops

The second of the rezoning workshop was held in two sessions. The next rezoning workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at the Audrey Johnson Learning Center. Please encourage your neighbors to attend.

October 28, 2014 – Kings County District Attorney – Ken Thompson Press Conference

It is suggested by the District Manager to communicate with the community when planning such conferences, as the board has insightful information on where such press conferences should take place.

October 29, 2014 – NEWS 12 BROOKLYN

Hosted a listening session to hear from Community Boards, Elected Officials and the Community on how best they could serve the community. The District Manager asked them to become better acquainted with community district lines so that when reporting they would know which community the incident occurred in.

Bushwick has done a lot of positive things that need to report. The District Manger ask that you contact the media when you know of good things that happens in Bushwick.

November 3, 2014 – NYPD Promotion of Commanding Officer Tolentino to the Ranks of Deputy Inspector. The 83rd Precinct has an excellent team working with the board and the community and Ms. Whitted expressed her appreciation for all the work that they do.

November 13, 2014 – The Chairperson Ms. Dent, the District Manager along with many members of the community including NYPD personnel from the 83rd Precinct and Brooklyn North attended the funeral services for Jeida Torres who was the little girl who was brutally murdered by her stepdad while under his care. The support of the community and the warmth of the community there was overwhelming.

November 17, 2014 – Fire Safety Workshop

Due to the weather many people were not in attendance at the workshop to receive batteries which were distributed at the event.

Batteries were given out at the Community Board Meeting so that those who need can replace the battery in their smoke detector. It is the landlord's responsibility to provide the smoke detector, however it is the tenant's responsibility to change the battery.

November 18, 2014 – NYPD 83rd Precinct – Community Council Meeting

The meeting was dedicated to forming a Local Bushwick Bicycle Network. The next steps is to form a steering committee comprised of various members (entity) of the community. Some may have concerns about bike lanes however we as a community want to be a part of the solution as opposed to complaining of the problem. Those who are interested are asked to join this steering committee. You will be working with the Department of Transportation to see which streets should be designated. The Board is asking that those on the committee represent children, bike riders, senior citizens, etc. Street (s) that are chosen will come before the full board before they are approved so that all can understand why they were chosen.

Those who are interested should call the Community Board office at 718-628-8400 or email the office at BK04@CB.NYC.GOV.

November 21, 2014 - Knickerbocker Commons Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 803 Knickerbocker Avenue on the corner of Eldert Street, at 11am.

Chairperson Ms. Dent: Thanked Detective Franco and her team for doing such a wonderful job at the Jeida Torres funeral.

Ms. Dent thanked all those who made a generous donation to the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. The walk to place on October 19, 2014. Ms. Dent's team raised \$1500.00.

New Business 7:32PM

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent invited Captain Tolentino, 83rd Pct. Commanding Officer to say a few words.

Deputy Inspector Tolentino: He will spend long hours working on the issues that affect the community. He stated that this is his community too.

Crime is down 153 this year vs. 173 last year which is an 11.6% decrease.

Robberies are down from 23 this year vs. 35 last year

Assaults are down from 18 this year vs. 25 last year

Burglaries are down from 50 this year vs. 53 last year

Grand Larcenies are down from 44 this year vs. 46 last year

The numbers overall are down for the year 1,572 crime vs. 1,652 which is a decrease of 4.8%

The 83rd Pct. will continue to work on the burglaries which is one of their biggest issues. Residence are still leaving their windows and their doors unlocked.

Residence will need to call a crime prevention officer to come down and look at their place. Residence can take precautions by putting a double lock on your door or / and put a stick between your window frame.

Deputy Inspector Tolentino publicly thanked Detective Franco for what she did for Jeida Torres's Family. "Unfortunately we could not do something for Jeida, she was 3 years old. I did not realize how small she was until I saw her in the casket," stated D.I. Tolentino.

D.I. Tolentino also thanked certain people who extended themselves in helping out regarding the funeral:

- 1) Crime Victim Compensation Board
- 2) Katherine's Flower Shop located on 154 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237
- 3) Cypress Hill Cemetery
- 4) Grace Funeral Home
- 5) Wyckoff Heights Hospital

Detective Franco went above and beyond by speaking to these agencies and businesses in order to make sure that the financial burden was not too demanding on the family.

During the 28 day period the 83rd Precinct has targeted graffiti and the electric bicycles. They have confiscated 21 electric bicycles. Electric bicycles are a hazard and are not allowed on the streets.

Regarding the crime we have 3 patterns on Evergreen Avenue and Eldert Street, 1611 Broadway and 3 Covert Street in which two to three male black approach people and demand money. D.I Tolentino has met with Councilman Reynoso and District Manager Nadine Whitted regarding approving the lighting there. He is working on getting the entire Broadway strip to have more lighting and also when he receives more resources he will have more police officers on Broadway.

Crimes are up during the holiday season. The Deputy Inspector ask that everyone take steps in order to reduce robberies.

If you go shopping and you put packages in the truck of the car drive around and park your car somewhere else because criminals are watching you.

If you do not have a Twitter Account to monitor what goes on at the 83rd Pct. now is the time to set one up. There instructions on how to set up an account and if you do not know how, come into the 83rd Pct. and they will help you. The 83rd will use Twitter to communicate an emergency or any important matter that happens in Bushwick. Twitter is a good way to let people know what is going on. You can also use Twitter to let news organizations know what is going on in Bushwick.

Announcements: 8:07PM

Barbara Smith, 83rd Pct. Council: The 83rd Pct. Council Committee is now collecting monies, can goods and turkeys for the Thanksgiving Holiday Season. Asking for donations. Ms. Smith has received 10-15 names of families that need help this holiday season. The cutoff date is 11/20/2014. The turkeys will be delivered to the families on Monday 11/24/2014.

The 83rd Pct. Council will be honoring two members from Community Board #4 this year they are: Ms. Lucy Belardo & Felix Ceballos

Celeste Leon, Representing NYC 37th Council Member Rafael L. Espinal:
Free Immigration Services Monday, December 15, 2014 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, New York City Council Member Rafael L. Espinal Jr.'s District Office, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664. Please call to make an appointment

New York City Council Members Antonio Reynoso and Rafael Espinal in collaboration with Brooklyn Community Board #4 and the Department of City Planning invite you to BUSHWICK Rezoning Town Hall Meeting Tuesday, November 25th at 6:30PM at the Audrey Johnson Learning Center, 272 Moffat Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207

To RSVP please email Mr. Worthington at kworthington@council.nyc.gov (718-963-3141), Ms. Leon at cleon@council.nyc.gov (718-642-8664) or Nadine Whitted at BK04@cb.nyc.gov

Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 9th at 6pm at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207

Ellen Mehling, Brooklyn Public Library: Resume & Career One-On-One Help during the month of December 2014

Are you struggling in your job search or looking to improve your current employment situation? Free assistance is available at the library. Work on your resume, get education and career advice, and learn interview skills, practice LinkedIn, and more with help from a job Information Resource Librarian. Patrons will be seen on a first come, first served basis. Dekalb Library, Thursdays 11am to 1pm in December (except 12/11 & 12/25) 790 Bushwick Avenue at Dekalb 718-455-3898

Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library: Library is now open on Saturdays from 10am to 5pm.

Bushwick Film Festival: "David & Me", David serving a prison sentence for 29 years was released. The Bushwick Film Festival will host a screening on his story in January 2015. More information is forthcoming.

Silent Barn: Science Fair, Sunday November 23rd from 1-6pm for Mid to High School Students

Churches United for Fair Housing, Inc. (CUFFH): Affordable Housing Help! Affordable Housing Applications, Housing Interview Preparation, Appeals Scalabrini Center, 1080 Willoughby between Wilson & Central Avenues, Monday-Friday 10am to 3pm for more information call 718-628-1490 or email bdaniel@cuffh.org

Kevin Worthington, Representing NYC 34th Councilmember Antonio Reynoso: Black Leadership-Celebrating Our Unsung Heroes, Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 6pm to 8pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Join Council Member Reynoso in honoring some of our community's outstanding leaders. Music, live entertainment, lite food and refreshments. Performances by: The P.S. 257 Marching Band, Soloist Monika Judkins, Spoken words by Kaswaina Powell and a Step Performance by the Big City Alphas
RSVP at 718-963-3141, Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th District, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211

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2015 Neighborhood Grants – Receive up to \$3,000 for community improvement projects. Through our Neighborhood Grants, Citizens Committee awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvements projects throughout the city.
Applications are due January 26, 2015. For more information call 1-212-822-9568 or 212-989-0909, info@citizensnyc.org, www.citizensnyc.org

CAMBA, James Harris: Legal Services: Providing free legal services to low-income and working poor residents of Brooklyn and Staten Island

Consumer law, domestic violence, foreclosure prevention, housing and immigration

CAMBA is a non-profit agency that provides services that connect people with opportunities to enhance their Quality of life. CAMBA started in 1977, and serves more than 45,000 individuals and families, including 9,000 Youth, each year. Learn more at www.CAMBA.org

For housing and foreclosure prevention call 718-287-0010
For consumer law, domestic violence and immigration law call 718-940-6311

Rewards up to \$2,000!! You don't have to reveal your identity to help solve a violent crime. Crime Stoppers, call 1-800-577-TIPS

When you phone in tip they will not ask your name. But if it leads to the arrest and indictment of a felon, you will received a cash reward of up to \$2,000. And because you pick it up by a code system, you will not even have to give your name to claim it.

Darry White, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams: Brooklyn Borough Hall Building, 209 Joralemon Street, Community Room, Brooklyn, NY 11201. RSVP: 718-802-3717

Free Flu Shots at no cost to you, bring any insurance cards, Friday, November 21, 2014 from 11am to 2pm

"Let's Talk East Brooklyn" East Brooklyn Conference & Resource Fair, Friday, November 21, 2014 at 6pm to 9pm. A forum to discuss upcoming initiatives in East Brooklyn, Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, To RSVP, call 718-802-4488

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams presents the 27th Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27, 2014 at 11:30am to 2:30pm. Traditional Thanksgiving Feast featuring music and raffles at the Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY between Utica Avenue & Schenectady Avenue. For more information please call 718-802-2347

Borough President present a concert Sunday November 30, 2014 at Walt Whitman / Brooklyn College at 4pm FREE!!!

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent thanked the Hope Gardens Multi Service Center for allowing the Community Board #4 and their guest host their meetings at their facility.

Ms. Dent thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:23PM