

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street, Corner of Wilson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Brooklyn Community Board #4 Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent opened the Public Agenda portion of the meeting at 6:21PM.

- Public Hearing Item -

Land-Use Subcommittee Presentation:

- Anne Guiney – Land Use Subcommittee and Executive Committee of BCP:
Background of the Bushwick Community Plan process and an overview of the agenda and goals for the 2/11 Housing and Land Use/Zoning Summit.
To give a background on where they are and how well this committee is moving forward and how they are working with the Community Board and the community at large.

For the last two years Ms. Guiney have been involved in the Community Process. Rezoning was needed in Bushwick because of the many developments that is taken place. It is necessary that everyone who live and work in Bushwick to have a voice. IN 2013-2014 the Housing and Land Use Committee sent a letter to City Hall stating that rezoning in Bushwick was needed. After both Councilmembers Reynoso and Espinal were elected they jumped in and got things moving. They were able to help city agencies and others to come to the table.

In 2014-2015 town Hall meetings were conducted and the Bushwick Community Plan was formed.

The goal with these town hall meetings is to get people who live here, work here, as well as community based organizations, etc. to participate by sharing their concerns, desires and fears.

Town hall meetings hope to accomplish these four main goals:

- 1) Take a more basic approach to where development should happen
- 2) Create and preserve affordable housing
- 3) Increase opportunities for small business in Bushwick
- 4) Work Closely with City agencies to direct the resources that the city can give us for the community for open space, transportation, infrastructure and other neighborhood needs.

There are resources that are out there and we need to space were they are put, whether it is parks, schools, etc.

There is a Steering Committee that is comprised of community stakeholders and members interested in taking an active role in the planning process. There are members from CB4, Make the Road, Brooklyn Legal Services, North Brooklyn Coalition, Churches United for Fair Housing, and more. They met separately from the Executive Committee (Ms. Julie Dent, Edwin Delgado herself and others are on the committee) are the main facilitators, organizers and planners of various outreach and engagement efforts for this process. The Steering Committee meet on a monthly basis.

The steering committee does not really have any power they just try to move the process along. Anyone can attend the subcommittees meetings and get involved.

- Isella Ramirez – Project Manager, Hester Street Collaborative
HSC uses design as a tool for social change. Ms. Ramirez attends all of the sub-committees and meetings. HSC is there to help speed up the process and guide the committees.
Sub-committees meet at least once a month, sometimes more and the Steering Committee also meets once a month.
There will be a summit on February 11th and other engagement meetings in March, April and May 2017.
- Celeste Leon Representing Councilmember Espinal:
This is a true committee process where we are all working together. There are committees such as Economic Development, Open Space, Housing and Land Use, etc. There will be a summit on Saturday, February 11, 2017 starting at 11:00AM. Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center, 1474 Gates Avenue, between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues.
- Boris Santos Representing Councilmember Reynoso:
Your voice is very important. This process started here with Community Board 4 asking for a community based rezoning.

Chairperson Dent thanked the presenters for coming before the community board. She stated that it is important to know what is going on in our community. The meetings are held in our community and community residents must attend these meetings in order to have a voice and to know what is happening in our community.

This group of presenters will be back to give the board and the residents an update as they become available.

The chairperson goal is to bring everybody together. She want this to be a smooth transition.

Robert Camacho thanked Anne Guiney for the wonderful job that she is doing for the community. He stated that he would like for the people that have always lived here in Bushwick to be able to continue to live here. We welcome those who want to come here to live but we also want to be able to stay here to live, he stated.

Chairperson Dent asked all to get involved and attend the meetings so that your voices can be heard.

Chairperson Ms. Julie closed the public hearing item. She asked Board Member Ms. Virgie Jones to call the first roll call.

First Roll Call: 6:55PM – 32 members present constituting a quorum

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. Mr. Edwin Delgado motioned to accept the agenda as written. It was second by Ms. Maria Gomez. Motion moved.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month's minutes was accepted by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Barbara Jackson. All members present were in favor. Motion moved

Chairperson's Report: 6:59PM

Ms. Dent welcomed all to the Community Board #4 Wednesday, January 18, 2017 monthly meeting. She asked for a moment of silence on behalf of Mrs. Elisa Clemente Fowler the late wife of Community Board member Mr. Freddie Fowler. She thanked all the board members who attended her funeral.

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

- 1) Boris Santos and Lacey Tauber Representing Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, 718-963-3141 & 212-788-7095: He represents the section West of Hart Street and South of Central Avenue up to Cornelia Street.
- 2) Celeste Leon Representing Councilman Rafael Espinal, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
- 3) Eric Gonzalez, Representing Mayor Bill De Blasio, 253 Broadway, NY 10007, 212-788-1369
- 4) Jackie Reyes Representing Assembly Member Eric Martin Dilan, 366 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn, New York 11237, 718-386-4576
- 5) Jonathan Pomboza Representing Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, 718-250-2817
- 6) Anthony Drummond Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-2682
- 7) Evelyn Cruz Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 266 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11211, 718-599-4359
- 8) Darryl White, Outreach Coordinator Representing Public Advocate Letitia James, 1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, 212-669-4662
- 9) Paula Melendez Representing Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-443-1205
- 10) Anayeli Gomez Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, 1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, 212-669-3568

Ms. Dent asked those from Federal, State or City Agencies to introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and phone numbers.

- 1) Inspector Max Tolentino, 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 718-574-1697
- 2) Emilio Llopiz, Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Manager, NYC Parks Department, 95 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 917-681-7004

Ms. Dent asked the Inspector to say a few words about what is happening in Bushwick.

Inspector Tolentino:

Robberies are up: 3.37 this year from 3.31 last year

Assaults are up: 3.11 this year from 2.79 last year

In January burglaries were up. Last year it was very cold and this year it was not as cold, so that might explain why the increase.

Six police officers was added to the precinct.

Burglaries: Residents are still leaving their windows open.

Approximately 20 people were dealing drugs from their apartment, 19 of them were served with legal action.

A shooting that occurred on November 4, 2016 the person turned himself in. He asked that people attend the 83rd Community Council Meeting every third Tuesday of the month.

Ms. Dent thanked the Inspector for coming to the Community Board #4 meetings every month especial since he also had a long meeting the night before as he attends the 83rd Pct. Community Council meeting which takes place every third Tuesday of the month.

Assembly Woman Maritza Davila 7:15PM:

Even though we are living in uncertain times she wishes everyone a safe and prosperous new year.

She stated that she just came back from Albany and there are many new things coming in the future.

She started a committee in Albany involving African American, Asian, Hispanic women and others. It is called "Women of Color".

This sub-committee was started because a lot of women are coming to Albany. There are also women from Israeli coming, women from all over the New York State. This year we are taking on the Campaign for Fiscal Women, she stated.

Though out the US there are millions and millions of dollars that have not been paid back to our educational system. For example: District 32 and District 14 is owed \$48 million dollars. We get back crumbs every year and this does not allow us to fully educate our children. We have the money. We cannot attract good teachers in our community if we cannot pay them. We cannot get guidance counselors, we do not have art programs, etc. Children need these things in their lives in order to grow. Some of us come from one parent homes. It is hard having to pay \$2,000 for rent and then come home and try to educate your children. We need the resources to educate our children. We are living in uncertain times. We do not know what to expect in the future. This is not the time to fight each other. She stated that as your leader, as your assembly person "we need to stay together". "No matter what race you come from, no matter what back ground you come from, no matter religion, we must come together. We must protect our community and work together".

She thanked everyone for coming to the community board meetings and for respecting each other.

Ms. Dent thanked Assemblywoman Davila for coming to the meeting and sharing words with the board and the community.

Chairperson's Report Continue:

New York City Transit Spring 2017 Subway Service Changes for the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 trains. The change will start in June 2017. For question and to see the changes go to the MTA's website.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and LIFT presents free parenting workshops. Those interested MUST commit to 10 out of the 12 weeks to graduate, sessions have begun January 10 - March 28, 2017. The class will be held on Tuesday from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Monday classes will start on February 13, 2017.

Contact: Legal Information for Families (LIFT), Noemi Baez, LMSW at 646-613-9633 ext. 226, NBaez@LIFTonline.org. For more information look on the website at www.LIFTonline.org

American Diabetes Association (ADA) Community Health Strategies, would like to invite you to attend their Influential Women's Brunch hosted by the Greater New York American Diabetes Association. MetroPlus Health Plan will be the presenting sponsor for this event. The brunch is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Sofrito Restaurant located at 679 Riverside Drive (Inside Riverbank Park) New York City. For more information call 212-725-4925 ext. 3438. Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams in partnership with Sino America New York Brooklyn Archway Association invites you to celebrate the year of the Rooster, Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 6-9PM at the Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. RSVP to: 718-802-3531 or Brooklyn-USA.ORG/Chinesenewyear2017

Black History Month Celebration an enriched historical timeline of African-American art, dance and music. Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 6:00pm to 9:00pm at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. RSVP 718-802-3717.

January 9, 2017 – Attended the EXE Committee Meeting along with staff members, Sharon Fludd and Willie Morales. In attendance was Celeste Leon from Council Member Espinal's office, and Boris Santos from Council Member Reynoso's office. Isella Ramirez from Hester Street Collaborative. The meeting was to give further update on the role of the Hester Street Collaborative working with the Bushwick Community Planning Committee and the Bushwick Community at large.

January 16, 2017: Attended BAM's Martin Luther King, Jr. 31st Annual Brooklyn Tribute, sponsored by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and NYC Medgar Evers College. It was a beautiful event and it was well attended. Many elected officials were present including our very own Mayor Bill de Blasio and first lady Mrs. De Blasio.

As per the office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams application for Discretionary Capital Funding for Fiscal Year 2018, due to the large demand in scheduling we were unable to get a representative to present before CB4 full board. However, if anyone had any concerns or questions please call 718-802-3890 or email bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov before the application deadline which is Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 5:00PM.

District Office Report, 7:28PM: Mrs. Sharon Fludd

Wednesday, January 4, 2017 – The Executive meeting was held at the CB Office.

Monday, January 9 – The Executive Committee met with Ms. Isella Ramirez, the Project Manager from Hester Street Collaborative along with Celeste Leon representing Councilmember Espinal and Boris Santos representing Councilmember Reynoso.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 I attended the Borough Service Cabinet meeting at the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

A presentation was made by Link NYC to discuss the free Wi-Fi Kiosk project.

(Ruth Fasoldt (External Affairs of Link) for Link NYC

Link NYC is the first of its kind communication network that will replace over 7,500 pay phones across the five boroughs with new structures called Links. Each Link is superfast, providing free public Wi-Fi, free phone calls, allows free device charging, and has a tablet for access to various city services, map, weather, and walking directions. LinkNYC is brought to you by the City of NY and City Bridge.

These Kiosk will be placed everywhere, where there was a telephone booth. They will adjust to the light. DOITT will reach soon out to Community Board 4 to get an idea where they can be placed in Bushwick.

- The project is a 5-8 year plan. The City have a 12 year contract but can extend it for another 3 years if needed = 15 years.
- The plan is to put these Kiosk in all five boroughs
- CB 2, 3, 9 & 16 already have them. You can see a lot of them down Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue.
- They will be located on the sidewalk not by the wall of buildings
- Small business can advertise for a small fee of \$250 for one week. Advertisements are not available for large businesses
- LinkNYC is brought to you by the City of NY and City Bridge, a NYC- based consortium of leading experts in technology, media, connectivity and user experience that includes
For more information go to www.LinkNYC

District Office Report: Mr. Willie Morales:

- 1) Attended the Brooklyn Borough Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 4th at 6:00 P.M. at Brooklyn Borough Hall.
 - Items discussed as to the agenda:
 - 1. **Presentation by Citizens Committee for New York City** on neighborhood improvement grant opportunities and community organizing workshops.
 - Citizens Committee awards grants of up to \$3,000 dollars to grassroots groups working on community-building projects across NYC.
 - Examples of grassroots groups:
 - Community gardening,
 - Tenant organizing,
 - School recycling drives
 - Art projects
 - 2. No experience writing a grant proposal? No problem their application is simple.
 - 3. To learn more and get started visited www.citizensnyc.org or grants@citizensnyc.org or call their phone number at (212) 822-9563.
 - 4. Applications due January 23, 2017.
- 2) Presentation by Ridgewood Savings Bank on application to the New York State Department Financial Services for inclusion in the New York State Banking Development District for a new branch located at 1035 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY.
 - With many check cashing businesses and a few commercial banks on or near Fulton Street, the Ridgewood Saving Bank want to offer the residents living near or on Fulton Street a lower cost on financial instruments such as checking's, savings or loans for using their own money.
 - A voting was conducted and a unanimous approval was the result.
- 3) Discussion and vote on resolution in support of Intro. 1218, a bill to increase minimum civil penalties for immediately hazardous illegal conversions.

- **Whereas**, profiteering property owners in New York City are taking advantage of vulnerable people by creating unlivable cubicles illegally inside homes that are cramped and dangerous; and
- **Whereas**, often these buildings lack adequate wiring and plumbing, proper ingress and egress, smoke detectors and contain walls that are frequently made of temporary and flimsy plywood partitions causing an increased risk of fire that is hazardous to the building residents, neighbors and first responders alike; and
- **Whereas**, at least since 1985, illegal conversion of dwelling units in New York City has caused fires resulting in the death of at least 21 people, including 5 children, and critically injured dozens more; earlier this year, 31 residents, including 13 children were removed from squalid and dangerous conditions in Dyker Heights in Brooklyn; and
- **Whereas**, Intro 1218 has been introduced into the City Council by Councilmembers Williams, Gentile and Grodenchik at the request of Borough President Eric L. Adams which would strengthen enforcement mechanisms against these illegal conversions; and
- **Whereas**, the proposed legislation would subject violators to a minimum civil penalty of \$15,000 for each dwelling unit that is converted, maintained or occupied illegally and would allow the City to sell any tax liens imposed on a building pursuant to 28-204.6 of the administrative code of the City of New York; and
- **Whereas**, the proposed legislation would grant an affirmative defense for building owners whose buildings lawfully have five or more units, who were reasonably unaware of the illegal conversions, and who upon receipt of such violation notified the occupants of such illegal units that they may be subject to legal proceedings; and
- **Whereas**, the proposed legislation would upon approval by Corporation Counsel allow the Buildings Department to inspect buildings about which complaints of illegal occupancy were received, after prior attempts to gain access to the building with the owner's consent had failed; and
- **Whereas**, the **BROOKLYN BOROUGH BOARD** was established by the Charter of the City of New York to advise the Mayor and the City Council on issues affecting the borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **BROOKLYN BOROUGH BOARD** hereby calls upon the Mayor and the City Council to adopt Intro. No. 1218, which would take the profit out of the crime, give DOB the tools to effectively take the property from the hands of the bad actors and ultimately help put an end to the illegal conversion

Announcements, 7:46PM

NYC Council Member Rafael L. Espinal with Co-Host Mayor de Blasio's Community Affairs Unit invites you to join them for a "Know Your Rights Town Hall Meeting", Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00PM. Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center (Auditorium)

You will be able to ask questions to:

- CCHR – Citizens Commission on Human Rights
- MOIA – Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- DOE – Department of Education

- NYPD – New York Police Department
- DCA – Department of Consumer Affairs

Join us for a forum with city agencies and meet local organizations working to unite and activate our community. Topics covered include:

- Concerns about immigration under the new administration
- The rights of undocumented immigrants
- Resources and protections from the city of New York

In Partnership with Senator Martin Malave Dilan and Assemblyman Erik M. Dilan

Sponsored by Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center, Latinos Americanos Unidos, Brooklyn Legal Services

For more information please contact Maria E. Matos at Maria.Matos@council.NYC.GOV or 718-642-8664.

Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez: The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force Presents Success in Collaboration. Case studies and survivor stories that inform our work. January 26, 2017 at 6:00PM at the YWCA, 30 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

BKHUMANTRAFFICKING@BROOKLYNDA.ORG

NYC Compost Project, hosted by BIG Reuse: Food Scrap Drop-Off, Mondays 8AM - 11AM.

Irving Square Park (Corner of Knickerbocker & Halsey) you drop it off, we will compost it!!!

Fruit and veggie scraps, coffee, tea, and filters eggshells, nuts and pits food soiled paper. No meat or dairy products. Avoid plastic bag waste by using a reusable or recyclable container for storage. Store scraps in the freezer to reduce mess and odor. www.bigreuse.org/compost

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams in partnership with The New York City Department of Finance and New York City Tax Commission invites you to NOTICE OF PROPERTY VALUE WORKSHOPS, Thursday, February 16, 2016, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Thursday, February 23, 2017, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Brooklyn Borough Hall, Community Room, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

At the workshop you can:

- Consult with the NYC Dept. of Finance or NYC Tax Commission to discuss your property
- Ask questions about your property's market and assessed values
- Learn how to dispute your property's assessed value
- Learn how to get your property description changed, e.g. number of units in your building or square footage
- Learn about exemption and how to apply for them

To RSVP, call 718-802-3700 or email: brooklyn-usa.org/propertyvalue

www.Brooklyn-usa.org

The Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams is partnering with Benefit Kitchen, a Brooklyn based company that is helping New Yorkers learn about their eligibility for benefits like Child Care, Public Assistance, SNAP and many others.

Download the app or visit app.benefitkitchen.com to get started.

BenefitKitchen is a financial literacy tool that connects working families with a path out of poverty. In ten minutes you can learn your eligibility and dollar amounts for up to 18 federal, state and local benefits.

www.BenefitKitchen.com

How it works is you put in your information, no personally identifiable information is requested. After you provide information such as where you live, income and expenses they provide you

with a list of eligible benefits and dollar amounts. After you review it you can then make a decision on which benefits to apply for.

Log in with an email address and take 10 minutes to answer the questionnaire. When you're done you will have eligibility information and dollar amounts for all the benefits you and your family can receive.

When prompted, use the "agency code" bbbenefits

Once you have this information, the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President can help you apply. You can contact the Constituent Assistant Center at 718-802-3700 or visit Brooklyn Job Centers on.nyc.gov/2b6ewl2.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna United Volunteers for the Community and Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York Cordially Invite you to celebrate DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, Tuesday, February 28, 2017 from 5:30PM – 8:00PM, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221
RSVP: 718-802-3809

Brooklyn Public Library: Resume & Career One-On-One Help

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, 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.

Help is available at the following locations:

DeKalb Library: Tuesday and Thursday 11AM to 1PM, 790 Bushwick Avenue (at DeKalb Avenue) 718-455-3898

Washington Irving Library: Tuesday 3PM to 5PM, Wednesday 2PM to 4PM, 360 Irving Avenue (At Woodbine Street) 718-628-8378

Bushwick Community Plan Summit!!!

Come Help Shape the Future of Bushwick!!! When: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:30am to 3:30PM

Where: Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center, 1474 Gates Avenue, between Knickerbocker Avenue & Irving Avenue

For more information, please contact: bushwickplanning@gmail.com

CM Espinal at 718-642-8664 and CM Reynoso at 718-963-3141

The NYC Council, the Dept. of City Planning, HPD and other City agencies are partners in this process.

Silent Barn: Visual Art Classes for free. 603 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206.

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer: Protect Immigrants

Right now, in our city and across the country, there are foreign-born immigrants who are living in deep fear, who are holding their breath hoping and praying that their families will not be targeted just because they have come to America to seek a better life. Immigrants and refugees make extraordinary contributions not only to the social fabric of our communities, but also to the strength and vitality of our economy.

Instead of building walls, we should be tearing down barriers. Instead of ripping families apart, we should be supporting them and keeping them together.

- Immigrants earn \$100 billion in total income – nearly 1/3 of NYC total earnings.
- Over 83,000 immigrant New Yorkers own businesses. (51% of NYC Business Owners)
- Anti-immigrant federal policies could undermine City economy.

- 990,000 Children of immigrants (55% of NYC Children)
- 2.3 Million workers that is 46% of NYC Workforce
- 451,000 are homeowners (46% of NYC Homeowners)

New York City is an international hub and our economy relies on a worldwide talent pool. When immigrants are threatened, when their ability to live, work, and raise their families is compromised our entire City pays the costly price. We must all keep standing up and speaking out, because no matter how long your family has been here, immigrants must be welcome in New York City.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned - 8:06PM – 32 members present