## Members Present

- Kim Albert
- Akosua Albritton
- Glinda Andrews
- Desmond Atkins
- Princess Benn-James
- Julia Boyd
- Gail Branch-Muhammad
- Dr. Flize Bryan
- Adem Bunkedekko
- James Ellis
- Diana Foster
- Fred Frazier
- Nizjoni Granville
- Xeerxeema Jordan
- Shalawn Langhorne
- Robert Matthews
- Kwasi Mensah
- Adelaide Miller
- Dr. Fred Monderson
- Atim Oton
- Robert Puca
- Mary Reed
- Patricia Scantlebury
- Stacey Sheffey
- Meredith Staton
- Audrey Taitt-Hall
- Greg Todd
- Ethel Tyus
- Yves Vilus
- Rohon Williams
- Vilma Zuniga
- Greg Yerman
- Deborah Young
- Robert Witherwax

## Members Absent/Excused

- Wayne Bailey
- LeeAnn Banks
- Helen Coley
- Dian Duke
- Phu Duong
- Curtis Harris
- Phil Hawkins
- Jamell Henderson
- Tarves Lord
- Sheryl Vassell
- Gib Veconi
- Irsa Weatherspoon
- Sharon Wedderburn

## Elected Officials

- Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, 35th, CD
- Assemblywoman Elect Latrice Walker, 55th, AD

## Elected Official Representatives

- Akhurapa Ambak, Councilman Cornegy’s Office
- Karen Crawford, KCDA’s Office
- Anthony Drummond, Borough President Adams Office
- Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke’s Office
- Kristia Beaubrun, Councilmember Cumbo’s Office
- Octavia Brown, Assemblyman Camara’s Office
- Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy’s Office
- Alicka Samuel, Assemblywoman Walker’s Office

## CB8 Staff

- Michelle George, District Manager
- Melanie Grant, Community Assistant
- Julia Neale, Community Assistant
The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson, at 7:15 PM.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with any necessary corrections.

**Correspondence** – Community Board 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked Ms. Walters from Concern for Independent Living to say a few words.

**Concern for Independent Living** – Megan Walters

Ms. Walters welcomed Community Board 8 and members of the community to Concern for Independent Living and stated that the facility is dedicated to serving the community. Concern serves people with mental illness, low income residents, and most recently, has begun to serve veterans. The organization is moving forward with a number of projects in Brooklyn including one at 1552 Bergen Street and will soon be expanding their service area to include the Bronx as well.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Walters for the welcome address and asked Dr. McLeod from the New York Memory Center to make a presentation.

**New York Memory Center** – Dr. Sharon McLeod

Dr. McLeod stated that every 60 seconds, someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. One in Eight (8) adults will develop the illness. Hispanics and African Americans are more likely to get the disease over the course of their lifetime than other nationalities.

Caregivers spend 17.7 billion hours each year caring for their Alzheimic loved ones, saving the government over $200 billion a year. However, these government savings come at a great cost to caregivers, as caregivers lose over $300 billion in income over the course of one year serving and caring for their loved ones. To help reduce caregivers’ lost income, the New York Memory Center has been given a grant to increase Alzheimer’s awareness to do training, education, financial planning, and discovering what resources are available in caring for loved ones.

New York Memory Center is reaching out to faith based organizations and community organizations to help with outreach and recruitment. New York Memory Center believes that faith is a large part of healing the body. She stated that the assistance of religious institutions is needed to stem the rising tide of Alzheimer’s patients. As such, the New York Memory Center is linking with 5 organizations and will link with more if necessary. They are trying to get groups to come together to work with the community. Crown Heights is one of the highest risk areas for Alzheimer’s because of other diseases such as high blood pressure, hypertension, obesity, etc. She distributed handouts of statistics on Alzheimer’s disease, and stated that one way of staving off the disease is to keep the brain active.

Mr. Mensah thanked Dr. McLeod for agreeing to speak at the Board meeting. He urged everyone to learn new things to keep the brain active.
After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Granville thanked Dr. McLeod for the information and asked for an update on Interfaith Medical Center.

**Interfaith Medical Center** – Ms. Nicole Francois

Ms. Francois gleefully exclaimed that Interfaith is back, which is great news for the community. Interfaith is hiring new management and administration because it is now tasked with showing Brooklyn that it is a hospital that is here to stay in the community to serve. Without the support of the community, the hospital would not be here. The people that were fighting to keep the hospital open won the fight but now Interfaith must keep the fight going to maintain their ability to stay open. Hospital administration is trying to prevent a medical desert: an area without a healthcare center that can accept ambulance patients.

Interfaith must now grow to meet the needs of the changing community. The hospital is working with the United Federation of Teachers to partner with some of the schools in the area to develop relationships in an effort to teach kids health education ranging from HIV awareness, CPR, and other needs.

Brooklyn Hospital now has 9 ambulette centers. Interfaith is currently working to develop their own ambulette centers. They were awarded $100 million to aid their endeavors, which is not a lot of money for hospitals. The money is not being spent haphazardly; it is being used to restructure and rebuild the existing clinics and also to build new ones.

Hospitals need to come together to work as a unit. The government is forcing hospitals to think and operate smarter to prevent them from being closed down.

Mr. Atkins stated that Boro Park has a hospital like Maimonides that is spread out amongst the entire community. He asked if Interfaith would be able to accomplish the same thing with the $100 million award. He was informed that Interfaith is now part of the Maimonides DSRIP, and is moving toward a continuum of care under their umbrella.

Ms. Tyus asked if some of the funding will go to sharing medical records. She was informed that Interfaith is participating in BHicks, that allows hospitals to share information. Moving forward, wherever you go, your medical records will follow you electronically. It is a program you can either decline or opt into.

Following a few more questions illustrating extensive interest in Interfaith, Ms. Francois gave her contact information (718-613-4768 email nfrancois@interfaithmedical.org) and asked the community to contact her if they were interested in joining the new Community Advisory Board.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Francois for the information and asked for a report from the following committees:
AGING – Ms. Kim Albert, Chairperson

The Aging Committee met on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms. Albert, present were: Jerome Michaux, Adelaide Miller, Berthel Stewart, Charles Waldron, Patricia Washington, Josephine Webb, Robert Matthews, Helen Coley, Carrie Gantt, Xeerxeema Jordan, Aneva Holmes, Evangeline Porter, Vilma Zuniga, and Patricia Scantlebury.

The Committee discussed the following:

The attendees discussed their interests in the Aging Committee which included concerns about people who are aging. Some of the concerns addressed were benefits specific to seniors like Medicaid/Medicare changes, Social Security, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), and SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption).

The committee also heard a presentation from the Crime Prevention Officer, PO Eddie Diaz of the 77th Precinct, who provided information about the some of the most common scams that occur in our neighborhoods which include “ATM Scamming” and the “Green Dot Card”. Officer Diaz mentioned a program called “Operation ID” which is a free program that will register all electronic equipment in case they are lost or stolen.

The committee heard a presentation from Ms. Batia Brandel of Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, who highlighted the services of their office which include helping applicants complete forms for NYS Victim Service programs, HEAP, Energy Share, public health insurance (Medicaid/Medicare, Family Health Plus) SNAP (Food Stamps), SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) and EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage).

Finally, Ms. Albert informed the committee of the upcoming 77th Precinct Community Council’s Holiday party which will be held on Saturday December 20, 2014 from 11 AM to 4 PM at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church which is located at 856 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

The next Aging Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Albert for stepping up to chair the committee. She stated that she has been told by a number of people how good the meetings are operated. As a community, we need to realize how important it is to pay attention to our seniors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.
EDUCATION – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chairperson and Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chair

The Education Committee met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 and December 2, 2014 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Co-Chairs Mr. Kwasi Mensah and Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, in attendance were: Adem Bunkeddeko, Desmond Atkins, Akosua Albritton, Laurel Dagrosa, Melina Bernadine, Cynthia Roberson, Khalif Ra Al-Hadi, Constance Lesold, Audrey Baker, Betty Davis, and Alli Lesovoy.

At the two meetings, the committee discussed the following:

- Mr. Atkins made a brief presentation on the topic of Civics and how it can be included in the Public School Curricula so that students can gain an appreciation of the role of government in our lives.
- Mr. Laurel Dagrosa spoke briefly about the importance of Universal Pre-Kindergarten in its potential role of better preparing our children for academic challenges that await them as they get older and compete with students from other backgrounds who tend to be more prepared.
- Ms. Connie Lesold addressed the political and legal challenges facing the Haitian Academy located in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti which was founded in New York City in December of 1979 and presently registered in the State of New York. She also handed out pertinent information.
- Ms. Sharon Wedderburn raised concerns regarding the Discipline Codes (Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures). She specifically addressed section B21, (“Being insubordinate; defying or disobeying the lawful authority of school personnel or school safety agents), covering grades 6-12, and how it could and has adversely and unfairly impacted black and Hispanic students, to the extent that many could find themselves in the “prison-to-pipeline” dynamic.
- Committee efforts to promote literacy amongst youth. Ms. Betty Davis of the Dean Street Block Association gave a spirited presentation about her company “Ritta Books” whose motto is “Get Young People Hooked on Books”. She also mentioned her book, A Journey from A to Z, which inspires literacy to our youth.
- Ms. Akosua Albritton brought up the issue of Community Schools she had read about on the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) website, which Ms. Wedderburn was able to address and provide some insight to. One of the concerns is the Council of Stakeholders’ ability to assure that service-providers to the Community Schools are from our community.

The next Education Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION – Ms. Helen Coley, Chairperson

The Environment/Sanitation Committee did not have a meeting in the month of November. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson & Dr. Flize Bryan, Co-Chair

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Monday, December 1, 2014 at Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. There was no one in attendance except for the Committee Chair, Kwasi Mensah. No items were discussed. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

HOUSING/ULURP – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson & Ms. Ethel Tyus, Co-Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the Chair Nizjoni Granville, and the Co-Chair Ethel Tyus, present were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Princess Benn-James, Fred Frazier, Adelaide Miller, Robert Puca, Margie Smith, Meredith Staton, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Deborah Young, Nerwood Bryson, Maurice Cole, Richard Cook, Shirley Fraser, Zinga Fraser, Emily Goldman, Liunette Grant, Sandra Levine, Mary Machen, Pearl Machen, E. Martin, William Favage, Yahya Raji, K. Shabake, Brandon Specketez, Adrian Straker, and Damian Webster.

The committee discussed the following item:

Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a Certificate of Appropriateness (C of A) for 863 St Marks Place (Crown Heights North Historic District) – Add Two Floors and Rear Enlargement

Representatives of Asher Hershkowitz Architects, presented an application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a Certificate of Appropriateness for measures designed to increase the size of this 2005 building from 5,718 SF to 8,746 SF by going from four stories to six (adding 23.7’ to the height) and adding 28.7’ to the rear. The committee supported those parts of the proposal that will stucco the front façade and remove the front stair to make the building match its limestone neighbors.

The committee rejected the added floors and substantial bulk of the rear enlargement for the following reasons:

• Only a minority of the other buildings on the South side of the block have any extensions of comparable size and there are no rear enlargements at all on the North side of the block;

• The proposed enlargement makes the building larger than the predominant height of existing enlargements or extensions on the block.

A number of neighboring home owners were present and asked that the singularly unique front parking space be eliminated during the project to return harmony to the streetscape by improving the building’s fit within this row of historic homes. The presenters indicated that they planned to keep the parking space.
A review of the Dept. of Building’s records on this building show that it has an active Class 1 (Hazardous) violation issued 5/4/11; but nevertheless has been occupied for years without a Certificate of Occupancy. When asked whether they had a date for the LPC hearing, the representatives denied they had a date. One business day later they had a hearing date for 12/9/14. The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter that rejected the proposal due to the aggressive size and height of the planned enlargements. The Committee voted 12:1 to withhold support for this application and hopes the full Board will do the same.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final tally of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

In addition, representatives from Pacific Park presented an update on construction progress for 535 Carlton Ave (B14) and 550 Vanderbilt Ave. (B11). Ashley Cotton presented for FCRC and Greenland USA. Rick Cook presented for CookFox Colleagues. 535 Carlton will have 298 units and will be affordable across a range of incomes (50/30/20). 550 Vanderbilt Ave. will be 278 condos ranging from studios to four bedrooms. Cook explained that under the State’s Design Guidelines (which, for this State-funded project, replace the Zoning Regulations), 550 Vanderbilt is required to have a 60’ streetwall. The groundbreaking will be 12/15/14.

Update from M1-1 Zone Subcommittee: A small task force has been identified to draft a resolution to pursue an application for a Special District. To avoid conflicts with the holidays, the next M1-1 subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 1/26/15, 6:30 p.m. at CNR.

Due to New Years Holiday, the next Housing/ULURP meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**PARKS** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson & Ms. Kim Albert, Co-Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY but no action items were discussed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson & Mr. Desmond Atkins, Co-Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

**SLA AND SIDEWALK CAFÉ REVIEW COMMITTEE (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The SLAC committee met on Monday, December 1, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the Co-Chair Robert Witherwax, present were Atim Oton, Wayne Bailey, Delissa Reynolds, Gib Veconi, Yolanda Philpotts, Elaine Bowen, Danae Oratowski, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Frank
The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. New License: Brooklyn Brasserie, 710 Nostrand Avenue (corner of Prospect Place)—Full

Details include the following:
--Hours of operation from 7 AM to 1 AM daily
--Maximum capacity of 49 in the establishment that used to house the restaurant “Exquisite”. 2 separate counters with 7 seats at each counter. The rest of the seats at tables and chairs
--Proprietor owns and operates Breukelen Coffee House on Franklin Avenue and received an endorsement from the Crow Hill Community Association

The committee voted unanimously with 15 in favor of supporting the application with the stipulation that the hours remain as presented and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion? Second?

2. New License (Corporate Change for existing establishment): Kami Asian, 385 Flatbush Avenue (corner of Sterling Place)—Beer/Wine

Details include the following:
--Simply a principal ownership change
--Business has been operating for quite some time without incident
--Hours of operation Noon to 11 PM Sunday; 11 AM to 11 PM Monday thru Thursday; 11 AM to 11:30 PM Friday and Saturday
--30 total seats inside establishment

The committee voted unanimously with 13 members in support of the liquor license application as presented and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

3. Renewal Applications:
   a. Geido, 331 Flatbush Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places) – Full
   b. Restaurant Gen, 659 Washington Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) – Beer/Wine
   c. Latino Sports Club, 665 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) – Full

The committee voted to support the 3 renewal licenses. In the spirit of full disclosure, there were two noise complaints issued against Latino Sports Club during a duration of time over the
summer when the owner was on vacation. The complaints have since been resolved. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Ms. Tyus and seconded by Mr. Atkins. It carried with a vote of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

4. Renewal Application: Catfish, 1433 Bedford Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places) – Full

The committee entertained a lengthy discussion of the application and took into consideration the Rogers Avenue Block Associations desires when voting on the application. In the two years the establishment has operated, there have been numerous complaints of noise, unruly patrons, and smoking. However, the proprietors have taken a more vested approach to running their business and seem interested in resolving the issues to be better neighbors.

After hearing from the Rogers Avenue Block Association (RABA), the committee voted 11 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the renewal application with the following stipulations:

i. The existing closing hours (midnight on weekdays, 1 AM on weekends with the patio closing at 9 PM daily) be maintained and longer hours not sought at this time.

ii. Noise-absorbing material be installed around each of the three walls of the back patio as well in the interior space.

iii. Signs be placed on the back patio stating, “This is a residential area; please be mindful of our neighbors,” and that venue staff enforce a no loud noise policy.

iv. A telephone number of a Catfish owner and manager be available for residents to call in case of complaints.

v. The large, pivoting window installed by the owners on the back wall remain closed at all times.

vi. Patrons and bar staff not be allowed to smoke in front of neighboring buildings.

vii. The proprietors and RABA undergo 3rd party independent mediation to engage in mindful communication to resolve any lingering issues.

viii. If the next 2 years of operation go smoothly, the committee will entertain an extension of operating hours by one hour each day.

Both RABA and Catfish owners agreed to the first 7 stipulations. In the time since the meeting, the proprietors have taken aggressive action at becoming more transparent and open to neighbors’ complaints as well as being eager to engage in mediation. A contact number has been issued for the owner and manager, signs are being installed, and overall, there seems to be an air of change around and within the establishment.

As a result, the committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.
A number of questions were asked by members of the Board and community residents. Questions included why members on the committee voted against the application and what steps so far have the proprietors taken to accommodate the 6 requests. They were informed that some members of the committee were in favor of either not approving the renewal at all or reducing the hours. The proprietors have taken active steps to accommodating the requests including giving contact information for staff and an owner, ordering signs, and hiring a sound engineer. The District office has been in communication with the New York Peace Institute to organize mediation efforts.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Matthews and seconded by Mr. Witherwax. It carried with a vote of 25 in favor, 7 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next SLAC committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 6:30 PM (public) at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**TRANSPORTATION** – Dr. Fred Monderson, Chairperson & Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. In addition to the Chair Dr. Fred Monderson, present were: Nijoni Granville, Michelle George, Samantha Ridge, Mark Thurton, Danae Oratowski, and representatives from NYC Transit and NYC Department of Transportation.

The committee discussed the following:

- Ways to improve bus service along the Utica Avenue B46 bus route and how to make the corridor safer for all. Utica Avenue has among the highest rates of injury from motor vehicle crashes in Brooklyn causing 5 fatalities and 54 severe injuries between 2008 and 2012. In addition to this, up to 60% of vehicles travel above the 30mph speed limit. The Utica Avenue (B46) bus corridor was identified as a potential candidate for Select Bus Service in the “Bus Rapid Transit: Phase II Study in 2009.
- Plans to expand the Select Bus Service (SBS) in New York City. There are 7 Select Bus Service routes serving throughout the 5 boroughs The Select Bus Service (SBS) has brought 15-20% faster bus speeds, 10% increase in ridership, more reliable service, and has improved passenger comfort and convenience.
- Utica Avenue Select Bus Service builds on existing bus priority and safety projects to upgrade the B46 Limited to B46 SBS which will include off-board fare collection for full route, additional bus lanes, transit signal priority, service planning changes to improve reliability, and capital improvements at SBS stations which consists of bulb replacements, sidewalk extensions at bus stops, new shelters, plantings, benches, etc. After a brief question answer period representatives from DOT stated that they would return to the Community Board after they have developed a full corridor plan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.
**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** – Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Monday, December 8, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the committee chair, Akosua Albritton, present were Robert Matthews, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Angeli Rasbury, Esther Lok, and Alli Lesovoy.

The committee discussed the following:

- The committee focused on the Administration for Children’s Services and the Dept. of Youth & Community Development in terms of their policies and programs offered to New York residents concerning early childhood education, child abuse/neglect, SYEP, adoption, foster care, runaway youth, youth in secure/unsecure detention, family literacy, and youth workforce development.
- Two essential tasks the committee must complete annually which are drafting the text for the Youth & Family Services section of the District Needs Statement and the capital and expense budget items that are submitted to elected officials and the Office of Management and Budget.
- The Brooklyn Borough Presidents’ push to get more teens active on Community Boards.
- DREAMS Youthbuild expressed strong interest in participating in the committee. Assistant director Maurice Goode submitted a highlight of 2015 activities to be shared with the committee.
- Structuring the K2 initiative. Chairwoman Albritton mentioned that a ten minute presentation by a substance recovery professional should be conducted during a general community board meeting. She further stated that there needs to be a community conversation event lasting at least 2 hours, held at a local meeting space in an effort to form an Anti-K2 community coalition.

The next Youth & Family Services Meeting will be held on January 12, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**By Laws Committee** – Mr. Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax mentioned the five proposals distributed to Board members between the November and December meetings. He stated that all comments received will be reviewed and incorporated into the final proposal to be heard in January.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and acknowledged the following elected officials and elected official representatives:

**Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo**

Councilwoman Cumbo stated that her office was able to assist in securing 700 units of affordable housing from Brooklyn Jewish Hospital site and put them into an affordable housing program. Alma Realty, which runs the development, decided to opt into a J51 tax incentive program or a different affordable housing program. In the interim, they have committed to keep the existing leases in the
affordable brackets they had been in. A final resolution has not been obtained yet and Alma Realty and the City Council are still in the negotiation phase.

To illustrate just how bad the housing crisis is in New York City, Councilwoman Cumbo cited an anecdote of a woman forced out of her apartment after many decades. There is a tactic that landlords use where they will use certain legitimate reasons to get you out of your apartment, and while you are out, will do things that affect the unit’s habitability. In the case of the elderly woman she cited, she stated that the landlord used a leak in the bathroom ceiling as the legitimate excuse to ask the woman to leave so they could fix it, and after supposedly repairing the leak, they offered her a unit in a different building. When she went back to her apartment, she discovered that it had been gutted. Instead of taking the offer, she fought the landlord in court and battled to stay in her rent controlled unit for which the landlord could have gotten much more money if he could charge market rates. She stated that the moral of the story is that we must all fight to keep our housing market affordable.

Councilwoman Cumbo announced that she attended the launch of the Community Parks Initiative along with Ms. George and Ms. Andrews on November 24, 2014. At the meeting, Parks Commissioner Silver announced that NYC Parks will spend $130 million to rebuild community parks, upgrade playgrounds, ball courts, green spaces, and more using 21st century designs and materials.

Stroud Playground has been chosen to receive some of the money allocated and during the next budget cycle, she will work to put more money in the Parks budget to get Stroud completed.

The councilwoman also commented on the recent stabbing and police shooting incident in the synagogue. The stabbing victim is in stable condition. However, the young man that did the stabbing and was subsequently shot to death by responding police officers, had a serious mental illness. He was married with 2 children. The incident is nothing to celebrate, but is rather, a very unfortunate situation. She stated that she hopes we can move forward together. She would like to have conversations to discuss with police officials alternative measures on how to allow individuals to walk away from confrontations rather than losing their lives to them. There are too many fatalities, and in some cases, it does not have be so.

Finally, the Councilwoman announced the City Council’s paper and plastic bag initiative. If passed, it will cost 10 cents per bag at the supermarket. Plastic bags are wreaking havoc on the environment and their usage needs to be curbed. The Council is hoping that charging for each plastic bag will provide an incentive to use environmentally friendly re-usable bags. For more information, questions, or for comments, email her at M35@council.nyc.gov.

**Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s Office – Mr. Charles Jackson**

Mr. Jackson announced that open enrollment to change health care plans or to sign up for a health care plan under the Affordable Care Act is ongoing. You can call the state’s healthcare hotline at 855-355-5777 to sign up for a new plan over the phone. If you are uncomfortable signing up over the phone, you can call to find a navigator organization to help you enroll in a plan. If you sign up by the 15th of every month, you will be eligible for coverage on the 1st day of the next month. February 15, 2015 is the last day for open enrollment.
Regarding specialized schools, the Board of Regents is thinking about how to put more specialized schools in the community. Students that do not score high enough in proficiency for the schools have a higher drop out rate. There are tons of good schools that do not fall into the specialized category; we need to emphasize these a little more. If you have concerns over specialized schools, call your Council and Assembly members to express your concerns.

The Congresswoman is now on the Energy and Commerce Committee. The committee oversees every agency that has to do with public health, environmental health, communications, commerce, etc. and covers both domestic and foreign transactions.

There are new scams popping up all the time. If you know of a scammer, call the District Attorney’s office to turn them in. If a scammer or potential scammer says something you find to be suspicious, for example talking about recent legislation, call an elected official to find out the truth. The Congresswoman can be reached at 718-287-1142.

Assemblywoman-Elect Latrice Walker

Assemblywoman Walker thanked everyone for their support during the election. She stated that she wanted to come out to show her commitment to Community Board 8, wanting the Board to view her as a community partner. She expects her district office, which will be located on Pitkin Avenue at Saratoga Avenue, to be open within the next few weeks. Her office covers parts of Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Bushwick, East New York, and East Flatbush. The temporary office number is 347-470-7092 and the email address is Walker4ny@gmail.com.

Ms. Granville congratulated Assemblywoman-elect Walker on the recent election and stated that she looks forward to working with her.

Councilwoman Darlene Mealy’s Office – Ms. Arna Lipkind

Ms. Lipkind announced that the Councilwoman’s recent Pearl Harbor Memorial event went very well and was appreciated by the community. Also, the Councilwoman will be hosting her annual tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at St. Matthews Church located at 1123 Eastern Parkway at 6 PM. Please call 718-953-3097 to RSVP.

Senator-elect Jesse Hamilton’s Office – Mr. Ian

Mr. Ian stated that Senator-elect Hamilton will be hosting a holiday party on December 20, 2014 at the District office located at 1669 Bedford Avenue at 6 PM. Please call 718-284-4700 to RSVP.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected officials and the representatives for their updates. She then opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad announced the Crown Heights North Association’s (CHNA) 12th annual holiday lighting contest that has 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. She stated that the contest is a great way to better the community and foster the holiday spirit. This year, apartment houses as well as homeowners can participate.
She also announced that this will be the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Nostrand Avenue Merchants Holiday Decorating Contest. Merchants along Nostrand Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway are invited to compete by dressing up their store windows this holiday season. The deadline to enter is December 27\textsuperscript{th} and judging will be on December 29\textsuperscript{th}.

For more information, she encouraged those interested to see her after the meeting or visit \url{www.crownheightsnorth.org} to download an application.

\textbf{Mr. James Ellis} announced Make Music New York, a parade down Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Atlantic Avenue on December 21, 2014 from Noon to 3 PM. The parade starts in front of the Grand Army Plaza Library. For more information, visit \url{www.northflatbushbid.nyc}.

A representative from the Citizens Committee for New York announced their grant program. Grants can be used for a variety of things and range from $500 to $3000. For information, an application, or to apply, call 212-822-9592 or email grants@citizensnyc.org.

Ms. Granville asked everyone to take a look at the newly redesigned website and offer their comments or suggestions to the District office. She thanked Ms. George, District Manager for her hard work in ensuring that CB 8 stays innovative in the technological era. Finally, Ms. Granville wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, which is located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places). All are encouraged to attend.

\section*{GUESTS}

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Asha Samuels & Dorothy Bembry-Guet \\
Eduardo Husband & Colleen Neblett-Carter \\
David Mills & Nevil Neblett \\
Carlos Roaok & Judith Campbell \\
Cynthia Roldan & Shirley Fraser \\
Issac Flores & Saundra Brown \\
Adam Camache & Sharon McLead \\
Dweynie Paul & Linnette Grant \\
Cassandra Plaisir & Professor Kenshesa Shabaka \\
Devin Ayers & Hazel Hurley \\
Antonio Meyers & Maxx Colson \\
Lula Staton & Mike Fagan \\
Leroy Reid & H. Bryan \\
Patrick Clarke & Nicole Francois \\
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