The general meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ms. Granville, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the January Community Board meeting and asked Reverend Michael Anthony Seawright to say a few words.
Union United Methodist Church – Reverend Seawright

Reverend Seawright wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed them to Union United Methodist Church and thanked the Community Board for holding the meeting there.

Ms. Granville thanked Reverend Seawright for his welcome and asked for a roll call.

Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Atkins made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried unanimously.

Correspondence – Community Board 8 newsletter and other information was distributed to the community.

Ms. Granville invited NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer to say a few words.

Comptroller Scott Stringer

Comptroller Stringer issued a heartfelt “Thank You” to members for their service on the Community Board. He stated that he personally believes that the Community Board is where the work is done for the people that don’t come out to participate. Each of the 50 members appointed to Community Boards have an ardent task ahead of them and takes their community participation very strongly.

He announced that he would like to report directly on some of his office’s initiatives. He stated that as we prepare for the Trump presidency, one of the things we need to start thinking about is the very real impact Washington DC will have on the city. We could lose up to $7.5 billion from Washington that goes directly to the safety net of NYC. 40% of those funds would come from the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS), and Dept. of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) budgets. While it does not seem like that much money, it will really impact NYC financially. Comptroller Stringer stated that his office will be happy to provide the data analysis and will continue to do more budget forecasting.

Comptroller Stringer announced that months ago, his office did an audit that looked at all city owned vacant parcels of land. There are 1,150 city-owned vacant lots with about 560 in Brooklyn. The audit suggested to the city that rather than divest the lots to midtown developers that will provide only temporary affordable housing that is not really affordable at a rate city residents can pay, we should create a land trust/land bank that can identify not-for-profit organizations and give the vacant land to the not-for-profits to build REAL affordable housing. The startup money does not even have to come from the city. Back in the Fiorello LaGuardia days, real affordable public housing was created. In the 1950s and 60s, we had the Mitchell Lama program that built integrated affordable housing in under developed areas of the city. The current plan to allow developers to build luxury units will only lead to further gentrification.

Comptroller Stringer did divulge that HPD disputes his office’s audit claims about the vacant land, claiming that only 550 of the lots can be used for building. He differed, stating that there are many people in programs and shelters and living day to day in hotels that have jobs but simply cannot afford housing. Some of these lots can be used to build housing for these people.

Dr. Monderson asked how much of the $7.5 billion will affect healthcare costs? He also stated that it is nice to propose low income housing, but suggested a calculator that identifies how many low income people get the housing. Comptroller Stringer responded by asking, “What does it really mean when you say affordable housing?” He espoused that we cannot have a “one size fits all” affordable presentation because one community might not be on par with another in terms of income. We do not have to build at the expense of the people that stayed through neighborhood crises and built the community to a desirable state or condition. He used East New York as a litmus test on what can be afforded in that community. He asked what happens to the people that cannot afford the rent that will be charged by the developers. He stated that the city will hire lawyers but
lawyers cannot help the people that do not live in rent stabilized housing. The end result is that for profit development is going to end up gentrifying communities because the people can’t afford the rent. Developers should not be given the right to come into a community and say, “this is what we are doing.” We need to have a planning process. Instead, developers need to go to the community board and ask what is needed, because the people being forced out end up living in deplorable conditions in the city shelters. If a land bank or land trust is working in other areas, it is something we should put in effect right now. We do not want to create a city for very rich people. Young people will not be able to afford to live here and the elderly will also be impacted. The result will be unsustainability.

Mr. Puca stated that Mayor de Blasio is housing 10,000 families in hotels and is paying millions of dollar per year to do this. He asked if there is something that can be done to help curb hotel spending on housing the homeless. Mr. Puca stated that he understands that homeless families need some place to live and that the shelter is not always the best option, but he stated that a lot of money is wasted using hotels instead of finding permanent housing. Comptroller Stringer responded by stating that the City Charter gives the Mayor a lot of power. The office of the Comptroller is needed to hold the Mayor and city agencies accountable for their spending. He stated that he is not trying to criticize Mayor de Blasio’s efforts but instead, is trying to have a discussion. Young children should not be in commercial hotels. We have up to 2000 vacancies in apartments in public housing that are vacant because repairs have not been completed. We spend $1.9 billion annually housing the homeless in hotels. We have the LINK program, but landlords do not want to let poor people or people on vouchers into their apartments. Systems are in place to remove families from hotels, but we lack the private housing resources needed to stem the tide. We need to crack down on the slumlords that are refusing to acknowledge the basic human rights of children and their families. On another note, Comptroller Stringer stated that we would be able to move thousands of people out of the system just by renovating NYCHA units and making them habitable.

Mr. Veconi stated that after all of the upzonings that have been completed, there are still credible people writing that we need even more upzoning. He stated that the upzoning of Downtown Brooklyn proves that upzoning is not working. He asked if the Comptroller’s Office can perform an audit to see if upzoning does what people are saying it does and not just contribute to gentrification. Comptroller Stringer responded by stating that his office commissioned a study when he became comptroller that stated that we actually lost 4000 units of housing that people could afford. The time is now to put the Community Boards to work so they can come up with a plan to build up their communities. When that model was used in the past, there was great success. This is a long discussion that needs to be held to prevent creating a 2-tier housing system. Mitchell Lama created total integration. We do not want to follow that by creating separation. We need a workforce in our communities of people with different skills, not only in Manhattan, but citywide.

Rev. Seawright asked, of the 1150 vacant properties that are available, how plausible is it that a small entity can acquire the parcels? Comptroller Stringer stated that small not for profits should have access to these properties. The thing about the process years ago was that the land was sold for $1 for development, which eliminated the costs and debts that luxury developers incur when they purchase land at hefty prices. When you are not engaging in the planning process, you are creating results that hurt the very same people you are intending to help.

Mr. Stewart asked if it is possible to revisit the way AMI (Area Median Income) affordability is calculated. Comptroller Stringer agreed with him that a change is needed in calculating the AMI. He elaborated by stating that when you have an AMI that is fact based, the challenge becomes building housing that is plausible for that community. Some of the most economically challenged neighborhoods cannot afford these prices calculated on the current fact-based AMI. We need to figure out a housing platform for the future of NYC. A lot of this is about NYC in the future: how can we attract people if the asking price is $2 million for a studio? People are not going to choose New York, they will choose smaller states and cities that are more affordable.
After a few more comments, questions, and answers, Ms. Granville thanked Comptroller Stringer for attending the meeting and answering questions from the community. She asked for an update on hiring practices by the Dept. of Corrections.

**NYC Dept. of Corrections** – Mr. Fabrice Armand, Director of Strategic Partnership

Mr. Armand introduced two uniformed Correction Officers (CO) that he brought with him to the meeting. He announced a number of job opportunities available at the Dept. of Corrections (DOC). DOC is looking to hire about 1500 new COs in the next year. They are looking to hire from the City first, and are looking for energetic individuals and people looking to have solid careers. The starting salary for a CO is $44,000/year but after 5 years, the base salary can jump to $90,000. COs are an integral part of the criminal justice system working in conjunction with the NYD and the judicial system. Tests are being administered in two testing centers in Manhattan and Brooklyn, at 2 Lafayette Street in Manhattan, and 210 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

For more information on the CO position visit [www.nyc.go/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.go/examsforjobs) for go to [www.nyc.gov/jointheboldest](http://www.nyc.gov/jointheboldest). Testing will be offered from February 1st thru February 28th (Exam No. 7322) and from April 1st thru April 29th (Exam No. 7324).

Mr. Armand also stated that when people think about the DOC, they only think about uniformed staff. However, there are numerous non-uniformed positions as well for people that have permanent civil service titles. There are positions from psychologists to clerical workers. He advised that you should always think of the DOC if you know people are looking for a new career or have need for employment.

There is a need to engage the community. Please reach out by emailing theboldest@doc.nyc.gov. The age requirement for CO is 17 and half to take the test and 20 years of age to be an officer. There is no age cap for officers.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Armand for the information and asked for a brief presentation on SHARE.

**SHARE** – Ms. Desiree Walker, Outreach Coordinator

Ms. Walker announced that SHARE is dedicated to providing support to women facing breast and ovarian cancer. SHARE is a health education opportunity for the community. The organization offers support groups as well as information and webinars. There is an outreach group that makes a one hour long presentation in community meetings if requested. The information shared by the outreach group is important to know because breast and ovarian cancer affects young women under the age of 45 as well as the age groups most people associate with the cancerous diseases. Ms. Walker also admonished that male breast cancer does exist as well, and that it is especially important to educate black and Latina communities because they are highly affected populations.

During the information sessions and webinars, SHARE talks about statistics, risk factors, symptoms, and really tries to inform people of the diseases and their options. Many people think they know what the diseases are about and what the symptoms are, but the reality is that there is information you are probably lacking, so it is imperative to get the facts in case someone you know is touched by the disease. You can help them if you are informed and educated before a diagnosis is made.

SHARE does outreach in senior centers, churches, and also schools. Ms. Walker stated that SHARE tries to get people to realize the importance of health—not only for themselves, but within their communities. Contact SHARE at 347-201-2273 if you are interested in having a presentation at an upcoming meeting or event. Ms. Walker distributed brochures with information and encouraged people to focus on health as the year starts.
Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Walker for the information and welcomed Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo to the meeting.

**Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo** – 35th Council District

Councilwoman Cumbo wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that she is pleased to share news about the district. She has initiated a Community Exchange Series, inspired by conversations around the Bedford/Union Armory. The first meeting was about everything you needed to know about understanding the Area Median Income or AMI. She stated that affordability is being based on the numbers that say the average individual in New York City is making $60,000 annually and a family of 4 is making $90,000. The next meeting in the series is how to apply for City Council funding and will be held on January 18th. On February 2nd there will be a meeting on the status of the Bedford/Union Armory. On February 15th, there will be a land use, zoning, and knowing your rights as a tenant seminar. All sessions will be held at Medgar Evers College, 1368 Bedford Avenue from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the EOJ Auditorium. Also, at a later date, the Councilwoman announced that she will be inviting Mayor deBlasio to talk about issues related to the Crown Heights community. It is important for the community to come out and discuss issues. For more information on any of these events, call the Councilwoman’s office at 718-260-9191.

Councilwoman Cumbo informed the Board that her office will be providing free tax preparation for constituents from January 18th thru April 14th from 10 AM-4 PM, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 347-682-5606 to schedule an appointment. Also, she is participating in participatory budgeting for the second consecutive year. The purpose behind participatory budgeting is to decide how to spend $1 million in the community.

The Councilwoman stated that she and her council colleagues are pushing forward with an RFP for the Text 911 bill. One currently has to call 911, but in 7 counties upstate, people can also text 911. They are looking to bring this capability downstate. Additionally, the Councilwoman shared good news, stating that she is finally close to closing a deal on the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital apartments. The Council is close to finalizing a deal to create 500 units of permanently affordable housing with Alma Realty.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilwoman Cumbo for the information and asked Senator Hamilton to say a few words.

**Senator Jesse Hamilton** – 20th Senatorial District

Senator Hamilton stated that it is a pleasure to be back before Community Board 8. He announced that he is introducing legislation to make sure that every teacher in NYS takes a course on mental health. It is imperative that teachers learn the signs of mental illness as it will better assist them in understanding their students’ behavior and assist them in teaching methods and practices.

He advised anyone who is being harassed by their landlord to please call his office at 718-284-4700. The office helps over 700 constituents a year. Senator Hamilton announced that he has joined the Independent Democratic Conference, and is now the Chair of the Banking Committee for NYS. We need to ensure that we get the banking services we need.

He asked his assistant, Ms. Elisa Heligar to announce a few upcoming events. Ms. Heligar announced that on January 14th, with colleagues in the NYS Senate and the National Action Network, the Senator will be marching in Washington DC about women’s rights, voting reform, and other issues that affect minority and repressed communities.

She stated that New York and North Carolina are the only 2 states that treat 16 and 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. As such, the Civil Rights Task Force will be addressing these issues at their next
meeting on February 23rd. If you want to join in on the committee’s discussion or any other committee, call the office at 718-284-4700. The next piece of legislation to be brought forth will be on immigration as protecting immigrants is a priority. The Senator is hosting free citizenship application assistance on January 21st from 10 AM to 2 PM. Call the office to schedule an appointment.

Ms. Granville thanked Senator Hamilton and Ms. Heligar for the information and asked for brief announcements from other elected official representatives.

**Mr. Carl Luciano** brought greetings from Councilwoman Darlene Mealy’s office. He thanked everyone that participated in the in the holiday party and the most recent Advisory Board Meeting.

**Ms. Kathleen Daniel** from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams Office announced that applications are available to become a Community Board Member. Anyone who is interested can apply online at [Brooklyn-usa.org](http://Brooklyn-usa.org). The deadline for new and renewal applications is February 14, 2017. If you are unsure about your renewal status please contact her at 718-802-3771. Capital Budget Applications are also available online and will be due by February 5, 2017.

She also announced that Borough Hall will be providing FREE tax preparation services. To find out if you are eligible for these services please contact 347-682-5606 or visit [www.growbrooklyn.org](http://www.growbrooklyn.org).

Lastly, she announced that last year on Dec 1st, there was a lawsuit made to monitor heat related incidents in apartments in Brooklyn. Now we are able to keep track of heat related issues to ensure that landlords are meeting the rightful heat requirements.

**Mr. Reginald Belon** from Congresswoman Clarke's Office announced that the Congresswoman has pledged to continue to advocate for the Affordable Care Act. She is sponsoring the congressional black caucus scholarships for high school and college students. For more information, please contact the district office at 718-287-1142.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected official representatives for their comments and asked for a report from the following committees:

**Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but a report was not submitted for the month of December. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Environment/Sanitation Committee**

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, December 15, 2016 at the Community Board 8 Office but a report was not submitted for the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2016 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**Health and Human Services Committee**

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the chair Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present was: Mr. Noah Potter.

The committee discussed community concerns about the sustainability of healthy food, primarily fresh produce. One of the topics raised was urban agriculture and how individuals and families can learn how to grow their
own food indoors or outdoors. Mr. Potter has researched and collaborated with groups within the city to come up with ideas.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are welcomed to attend.

**Housing/ULURP Committee** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair; Ms. Ethel Tyus, Vice Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the chair Nizjoni Ganville and Vice-Chair Ethel Tyus, present were: Wayne Bailey, Princess Benn-James, Dian Duke, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Crystal Hudson, Sharon Joseph, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adelaide Miller, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Irsa Weatherspoon, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Matthew Pitt, Keith Barnes, Carol A., Zinga Fraser, Shirley Fraser, Kate Kelly, Mary Malhey, Elizabeth K., and Adel Nicholson.

The committee discussed the following applications:

1. **Application to Dept. of City Planning for a FRESH Program Certification for 1519-1525 Bedford Ave**

Zoning Attorney Ron Mandel, of Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP, presented owner Adam America’s (AA) proposal to site a FRESH program food store at the project location on Bedford Avenue between Lincoln Place and Eastern Parkway. The presentation was designed to secure a letter of support from CB 8 for DCP to certify the project. If the project is certified, a restrictive covenant will be added to the deed. The area was rezoned R7D under the Crown Heights West Rezoning. Mr. Mandel explained that there is a minimum 6,000 SF space requirement, of which 30% must be used for fresh foods. There is a 20,000 SF maximum for a FRESH store. The program provides the developer with a bonus of one additional SF of floor area for every SF of FRESH store. AA is pursuing a 7,066 SF store and the bonus floor area is included in the 11-stories planned. Community members living near the project on Lincoln Pl and on Eastern Parkway voiced their concerns that the 11-story project will:

- increased foot traffic to their quiet block,
- increased demand for parking spaces,
- cater to a market that will be over-priced for current community residents, and
- increased noise from delivery truck traffic, among other issues.

The project representative was queried regarding complaints that gasoline smells continue to emanate from the site despite the November 19, 2016 letter from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s asserting that the site was being remediated under the Brownfield Cleanup Program. Mr. Mandel assured the committee that the clean-up was complete and that he would provide a copy of the report to the CB 8 Office.

The proposed store owner/operators, Marco Lalech and Mark Nunez, explained their business model. They indicated that:

- their planned ‘Bedford Market’ will have different product selections from their ‘Union Market’ model,
- the store will have a maximum of seven ‘check-out’ aisles,
- store hours will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and deliveries will be completed between 7 a.m. and noon,
- the main entrance will be on Bedford Ave; and
- offerings will be locally sourced, seasonally available goods
Board members requested and the owners agreed that the store will hire locally and provide the CB 8 office with job vacancy notices; and also provide the Board office with statistics/verifiable data on their local hiring’s.

The Committee voted 17 in favor of supporting the project with one abstention. It hopes that the full Board will support its recommendation.

Ms. Oton mentioned that there are currently two other fresh food markets owned by this developer that were already unaffordable. Mr. Veconi followed up with an inquiry about the affordability of this new market and whether or not it will cater to residents who fall within the median income bracket. AA representative, Hilary clarified that a different model has been put in play for this particular location to ensure that the price points coincide with the median income for this community.

Ms. Taitt-Hall asked if the products that the market sells will cater to the large West-Indian population in the surrounding community. Hilary responded that it will have a variety of grocery and food products for people of different ethnicities. They don’t plan on stocking only one type of food item.

Mr. Atkins and Ms. Mahoney asked how many affordable units will be in this building and if the FRESH Program has any sort of financial incentive. Hilary responded that one of the benefits of the program is the space for 8 additional units, one of which will be affordable. Of the 148 total units, 38 of them will be affordable.

Ms. Foster expressed strong concerns about whether this market will truly be affordable. Mr. Cox added that there should be another method proposed to determine the affordability of the markets products. Mr. Sachs mentioned that if this market happens to go out of business, it will have to be replaced with another unless it can be proven that the store is not viable at that specific location.

Mr. Veconi stated that this building is part of the CHW rezoning proposal and that he would like to see this be an affordable grocery store. He then made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation with the request that DCP ensures that this is an affordable grocery store for the people that live in the community. The motion was seconded by Mr. Akins.

Mr. Ellis asked how the affordability of the community be measured. Will a cost of living analysis be conducted? Hilary responded that there is no definition of what an affordable food store is or could be. There is no mechanism or legal framework through which they can track that.

Mr. Thurton asked how long the lease agreement was. Hilary stated that the lease term is 20 years and 6 months.

After a few more questions and answers the full board took a vote.

Mr. Veconi made an amended motion to support the committees’ recommendation and recommend approval with the stipulation that the store offer groceries at a variety of price-points that are affordable to the various income levels within the community. The motion was seconded by Mr. Puca and carried to a final vote tally of 35 in favor, 2 opposed with no abstentions.

2. 565 St. Johns Place (Application to BSA for Building Enlargement)

Mr. Michael Nahmias appeared for Attorney Eric Palatnik and made a presentation requesting CB 8’s support for BSA approval of the owner’s plan to add two-stories to this existing four-story building Keith Barnes, R.A. The applicant is claiming that the majority of the work has been completed. However, that assertion is not supported by the Dept. of Buildings (DOB) data. The DOB website shows an open violation for work without a permit. The Committee asked several questions that Mr. Nahmias was unable to answer, including:
what was the reason for DOBs stop work order of October 2013,
why is the BSA application being prepared only now, and
did the work that was done match the application filed with the Department of Buildings.

Based on the need for answers to the above questions as well as others, the applicant was asked to provide the additional information to the Committee at its February 2, 2017 meeting.

3. Application to LPC for CoA to Legalize Façade Work Done at 860 St Johns Pl (Crown Heights North Historic)

The applicant did not appear. The application is on LPC’s January 10, 2017 hearing schedule as Item #7. Upon LPCs request duplicate copies of the CB 8 & CHNA rejection letters have been emailed to LPC.

The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

M-CROWN Sub-Committee Update

The last meeting of the MCROWN was held November 28, 2016 at 1000 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY. The committee discussed monitoring mixed use developments. There was no meeting for the month of December. The next M-Crown Sub-Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Committee met on Thursday, January 3, 2017 at St. Johns Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Glinda Andrews, present were: Vilma Zuniga, Mary Aiken-Reed, Larry James, Ijendi Obasi, and Thomas Montford.

Mr. Larry James. Director of St. Johns Recreation Center discussed upcoming changes, renovations, and events taking place at the center. He mentioned that renovations for the building have been pushed back to February 1, 2017

• The Gym will be closed for 3 months.
• Weight/Cardio & the Children pre-k rooms will be closed the next 3 months.
• Skate nights - skates will be provided; includes a DJ and music - January 21, 2017 @ 6 pm - 10 pm.
• Silent disco - scheduled for January 28, 2017 - 6 pm to 10 pm
• 60 head sets are available for the Silent disco based on first come, first serve basis
• Drop-in program is still running (previously known as after school).
• Next project is to upgrade the boiler
• Capital project for comfort station is on hold

Mr. Obasi from the NYC Department of Parks spoke about finding and using vacant lots and turning them into gardens. He is currently working on a garden at 1123 St. Marks between Utica and Schenectady Avenues. He also mentioned that he needs ten active members to start a garden.
Glinda Andrews informed the committee that their support is needed to help plan the Health fair which is slated for May 20, 2017. The Parks, Health and Seniors Committees have joined together to plan this Health Fair.

The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at St. Johns Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**Public Safety Committee**

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 19, 2016 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the chair Ms. Shalawn Langhorne and vice-chair, Mr. Desmond Atkins, present were: Mark Thurton, Xeerxeema Jordan, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Captain Abbassi, P.O. Laverne Green, Sergeant Moyer, P.O. Greene, P.O. Lowell, and P.O. Maju.

Ms. Bembry-Guet inquired about the recent increase in police activity at the Kingston Pharmacy located at the corner of Kingston and Atlantic Avenues. Ms. Bembry-Guet hopes the Pharmacy stays in business because many elderly residences utilize it. Captain Abbassi reported that several robberies have taken place in front of Kingston Pharmacy during daytime hours. The Pharmacy was not raided by the police. The police will have more presence at and around Kingston Pharmacy to protect the elder customers.

Captain Abbassi was asked what his objective was for 2017 and his tenure at the 77th Pct. He stated that he has two goals which are to maintain a good relationship with the community and police and to reduce gun violence within the confines of the 77th Precinct.

Residents also voiced concerns about the increasing amount of panhandlers in the community. Captain Abbassi stated that Sergeant Bertram is the supervisor for the Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) Program and that he can assist with these concerns. Sergeant Bertram can be contacted via email at Anthony.bertram@nypd.org.

In reference to fire concerns, Ms. Langhorne and Mr. Atkins proposed that the Public Safety Committee should monitor the number of fires and provide services and guidance for its victims. In November 2016, a family in Community Board No. 8 fell victim to a fire. Mr. Thurton suggested that the committee contact local Elected Officials, Insurance Companies and other organizations to find out what their procedures are for fire victims and their road to recovery as these organizations should have information on steps that victims should take in the event of a fire. Some of this information includes procedures for filing for short/long term housing, insurance guides for property damage, schooling for kids during displacement, etc. The Public Safety committee will gather that information and provide it to Community Board No. 8.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**Seniors Committee**

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The committee did not send a report for their January meeting. The next Seniors Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)**

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Mr. James Ellis Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail
Branch-Muhammad, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

**New Applications:**

1. **Malabar Kitchen LLC, dba Alta Calidad, 552 Vanderbilt Ave @ Dean (Full)**

   Details:
   - 39 seats inside
   - Hours of operation: Sunday 10:30 AM-11 PM, Monday thru Thursday 11 AM-12 AM, Friday 11 AM -1 AM, Sunday 10:30 AM -1 AM
   - Replaces Chuko
   - Also seeking Sidewalk Café Permit

   Sidewalk Café:
   - Initially proposed 22 seats, with hours of operation until 11 PM on Sunday, midnight Monday thru Thursday, 1 AM Friday and Saturday, with an 8 foot clearance of corner street lamp
   - Proprietor negotiated to 19 seats, curtailed hours to 10 PM Sunday thru Thursday and 11 PM Friday and Saturday. They ensured a 10’ clearance

   Applicant Response/500 foot statement:
   - Different cuisine (modern Mexican)
   - Sit-down, dine-in, as opposed to delivery focused
   - With 550 Vanderbilt opening, there is a need for more restaurants

   Deliveries: sensitivity to narrow Dean St, bus stop out front, which means limited hours for deliveries.

   The committee voted 13 in favor to support the application with the following stipulations:
   - Sidewalk Café limited to 19 seats
   - Close by 10 Sun-Thu, 11 Fri-Sat
   - Maintain 10 feet clearance between corner of café and streetlight

   A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to accept the committees’ recommendation with said stipulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote tally of 31 in favor with 6 abstentions.

2. **Calabria, 266 Kingston Ave @ Lincoln (B/W)**

   Details:
   - Roman style pizza
   - Hours of operation Sunday thru Thursday 11 AM -1 AM, Friday 11 AM -5 PM, Saturday 6 PM – 2AM

   The committee voted 13 in favor of supporting the application provided, additional missing documentation was received by tonight’s meeting. The information was received and the committee’s request was satisfied. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

   A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to accept the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final tally of 35 in favor with 3 abstentions.

3. **OMNIBUS DENIAL:**
Many potential applicants give CB8 notice of their intent to apply for SLA licenses, but never submit an application and never appear before SLAC while occasionally still proceeding with their application before the NYS Liquor Authority. In order to clear our agenda of these phantom applicants, without abdicating our obligation to review them, we occasionally send a pre-emptive letter to the SLA, stating that CB8 has not had an opportunity to review any such application and therefore cannot support any such application, should the SLA receive one.

The committee voted 12 in favor to support sending a letter to the SLA pre-emptively denying approval for the following applications:

- **Cuatro Rios LLC, 759 Nostrand Avenue (Lincoln and St. John’s) – Beer/Wine**
- **Crown Pacific Café LLC, 75 Utica Avenue (corner Pacific) – Beer/Wine (backyard)**
- **Vibez Palate LLC, 197 Utica Avenue (Park and Sterling) – Full**
- **Carlton Street Rest One LLC, 516 Carlton Avenue (corner Pacific) – Full**

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to support the committee decision to send a letter to the NYS Liquor Authority to deny support for said applicants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sachs and carried to a final vote tally of 37 in favor with 1 abstention.

### Renewals:

1. **Sunshine and Co., 780 Washington Ave, corner of Sterling (Full)**
2. **Two Saints, 753 Nostrand Ave, corner of St Johns (Full)**
3. **Way Station, 683-685 Washington Ave, St Marks/Prospect (Full)**
4. **Geido, 331 Flatbush Ave, Park/Prospect (Full)**
5. **Restaurant Gen, 659 Washington Ave, corner of St Marks (B/W)**

The committee voted 12 in favor of supporting the above 5 renewal applications in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Sachs to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final vote tally of 33 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

### 6. Latino Sports Club, 665 Franklin Ave, corner St Marks (Full)

**Issues:**

- Neighbors/tenants complain about noise, smoke, rear yard use, 3rd party promotions
- Proprietor denies noise, smoke, rear yard use
- Landlord supports proprietor
- 3rd party promotions monitored, with security on hand

**Discussion:**

- SLAC members encouraged proprietor to be more responsive to complaints

The committee voted 12 in favor with 1 abstention to support the renewal application with the following stipulations:

- No use of rear yard by customers for any purpose
- Do not allow customers to leave establishment with alcohol
- Install sound proofing within 90 days
Tenants are given direct contact information for complaints regarding business operations. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

7. **Amorina, 624 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of Prospect (B/W)**
   Modification to operating hours: Sun-Thu 11PM, Fri-Sat 12AM

The committee voted 12 in favor to support the renewal application with the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote tally of 35 in favor with 3 abstentions.

**Sidewalk Cafe:**

1. **Crabby Shack, 613 Franklin Avenue, (near Dean Street)**

   Details:
   - Outside operations to cease at 11PM daily
   - Closed on Tuesdays
   - Tables limited to 9 tables with 18 feet

A resident asked how much space will be available for passers-by once the sidewalk cafe is in effect. Mr. Witherwax responded that at least 8 feet of space between the sidewalk cafe border and the curb will be available.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support this application for a sidewalk cafe. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried to a final vote tally of 33 in favor, 1 opposed with 3 abstentions.

The next SLAC Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. Please note that this is the 2nd Monday of the month. All are invited to attend.

**Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee did not meet for the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Youth and Education Committee**

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the vice-chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall, Adjua Starks, and Katie Mazer.

The committee discussed the upcoming College Career Fair which is slated for October 2017. The location is still being determined. The committee is exploring the possibility of including a segment that focuses on high school students moving on to college and future careers. Ms. Taitt-Hall agreed to check with her colleagues at United Federation of Teachers (UFT), to get a sense of what kind of support they could provide that would contribute to the College Career Fair.
The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and opened the floor to public comments and announcements.

**Public Comments/Announcements**

**Representatives from Schiller Institute** announced that they will be having a “Strength to Love” Unity Concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral located at 856 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY at 4PM. For further information please contact 718-709-8722 or visit [www.FFTROCC.org](http://www.FFTROCC.org).

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and advised everyone to consider participating in participatory budgeting. Last year, there was scant CB 8 participation so a lot of the funding went to other communities. A few projects were funded, but there should have been many more. As a community, we must come together and fight for what we believe in. She adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

**GUESTS**

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