The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the May Community Board meeting and thanked Union United Methodist Church for hosting it. She asked Rev. Ball to say a few words.
Union United Methodist Church – Rev. David Ball

Rev. Ball welcomed everyone to Union United Methodist Church, and offered words of encouragement that we treat each other with respect and decency and that we maintain order throughout the meeting. Union United Methodist Church is in the community trying to make a difference, especially for the lives of children. The church offers a variety of youth programs. He stated that their hope is to be a beacon of light and life in the community.

Ms. Granville thanked Rev. Ball for his words of kindness and wisdom. She also thanked Roy Simmons from New Heights Bar and Restaurant on Schenectady Avenue and St. Marks Avenue for providing cases of water for the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes – A motion to accept the minutes for the April general meeting of Community Board No. 8 with any necessary corrections was made by Dr. Monderson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville invited Elected Officials to say a few words.

Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright – 56th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Wright announced that her very first bill has been passed. Bill A05823 which “amends the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring notice to adjoining owners of construction, excavation or demolition work of the people of the State of New York”. The bill has not passed on the senatorial level as of yet but she is hopeful that it will.

She also announced that she has developed an advisory committee to develop a plan of action for the community to tackle an array of issues involving health, economic development, food, justice etc. She encouraged members of the board and other community leaders to join. Please call her district office at 718-399-7630.

Assemblywoman Wright also introduced her offices’ Community Liaison, Mr. Jarrell Brandon and encourages everyone to get to know him.

She asked everyone to look out for her Summer Reading Program and Movie in the Park events that she is working on for the summer.

District Leader Olanike Alabi - 57th Assembly District

District Leader Alabi announced that she is hosting a Town Hall Meeting on May 23rd at 6 PM at the Teen Challenge Center located at 444 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. On the agenda is Public Advocate Letitia James, Acting Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzales, the NYC Dept. of Transportation, and Specialized High School Outreach. For more information, email her at olanike.alabi@gmail.com.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for the announcement and asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development Committee – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair
The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

**Health & Human Services Committee** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health Committee met on Monday, May 1, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair Kwasi Mensah, present were: Shalawn Langhorne, Linda Wilson, Noah Potter, Zara Watkins.

The committee discussed plans for the upcoming Health Fair. Some of the items they discussed pertaining to the Health Fair included K-2, Healthy Cooking Segment, and Blood Pressure Screenings. The Health Fair will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY from 11AM to 4PM.

Mr. Mensah reported that he attended the health committee meeting at Community Board 16 regarding a proposal to save hospitals like Brookdale, Interfaith, and Kingsbrook which are currently in jeopardy of being closed. He urges the community come together in an effort to save our hospitals.

The next Health Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM.

**Housing Committee** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair Nizjoni Granville, present were: LeeAnn Banks, Yahya Raji, Adam Sachs, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Irsa Weatherspoon, Meredith Staton, Maurice Cole, Elizabeth Ireywalles, Olubukola Adewumi, Michael Bailey, Linda Ferrette, M. Scott, Valerie Nero-Reid, Julia Neale, and G.E. Hall.

Mr. Yahya Raji, Executive Director of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) made a presentation on Tenants Rights, Disability Rent Reduction, Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE). BNIA also surveys buildings to check their conditions and decide whether they need repairs.

A representative from NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) addressed issues with the new 421-A applications. Mr. Raji stated the differences between 420, 421-A, and J57 programs. 420 applications provide 15 year tax breaks for affordability and a 421-A applications provide 30 year tax breaks for affordability. J57 applications also provide 15 year tax breaks with the exception that rents are affordable.

Mr. Raji suggested that a survey of vacant buildings be conducted and expressed the need for Community Board 8 to have a city planner on staff. He stated that there is a need to preserve affordable housing and prevent sales. We can begin the survey process by obtaining a list of affordable units from HPD and DHCR. Affordable housing can be applied for through [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect).

The committee also discussed Tenants Rights. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that many tenants are not aware of their rights. For example owners and tenants should know that they should be shown a court order in order to be removed from the property. Mr. Raji stated that the District Attorney’s office will pursue legal action if there are at least 10 tenants being threatened with illegal eviction.

Mr. Raji stated that BNIA has the numbers to prove that it is less expensive to subsidize a tenant or compensate a landlord rather than to place a person in a shelter. For example, Rogers Avenue Shelter (located at 284 Rogers
Avenue, Brooklyn, NY) averages out to $180 a night per unit. He also gave an update on the information provided for first time homebuyers and homeowners. BNIA offers Homebuyers and Homeowners Education programs. They also offer programs and information for people transitioning into landlords for their property. They discuss the grants that potential buyers are eligible for. New courses start on May 18, 2017.

The next Housing Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation which is located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Land Use Committee** - Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use committee met on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair Ethel Tyus, present were: LeeAnn Banks, Diane Duke, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Crystal Hudson, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adelaide Miller, Danae Oratowski, Adam Sachs, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Deborah Young, and guests.

The committee discussed the following applications:

1. **ULURP # 170086ZSK - Special Permit Application for Kingston Lounge at 120 Kingston Ave (CPC CEQR DCP183K, SEQRA Classification type I, Crown Heights North Historic District)**

   Mr. Jordan Most, of the office of Sheldon Lobel, P.C., returned to update CB 8 on the progress with restoring the landmarked Kingston Lounge to permit its ‘historically and culturally significant commercial use’ as a jazz club or other community space, including replicating the illuminated signage with a non-flashing design on Kingston Ave and on Bergen St. Mr. Most presented the Committee with a Negative Declaration issued by the City Planning Commission on April 24, 2017. He reminded the Committee that the building was erected 1900 – 1902, prior to the passage of City’s Zoning Resolution in 1961; and that the Lounge’s location would make it a non-conforming use under current zoning. The other three corners at the intersection of Kingston Ave and Bergen St. have commercial overlays. Given the amount of time the building has been vacant, the prior use could not be grandfathered in. The studies and reviews undertaken over the past two years were required to reinstate the prior commercial use on the ground floor and cellar. The Declaration recognizes that the plan to develop the site, a vacant six-story building is, according to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, appropriate to and will have no significant effect on the surrounding historic district. The Proposed Action will permit restoration of UG 6 commercial use on the ground floor and cellar, with four dwelling units on the second and third floors.

   Issuance of CPCs Negative Declaration signals that it has completed its technical review and that CB8’s advisory role in the ULURP has begun. The Applicant is to advise CB 8 of the date for the Borough President’s hearing, if one is to be scheduled.

   On motion made by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Staton, the Committee voted 16 in favor of issuing the Special Permit with none against and no abstentions. We hope the full Board will support the Committee’s recommendation.

   Ms. Wedderburn asked for an explanation of a Negative Declaration. Ms. Tyus responded that it is when the Landmarks Commissioner declares that there is no issue with the application.

   Mr. Atkins, Dr. Monderson and other community residents raised concerns about the Jazz heritage of the space which played a huge role in the community’s history. They expressed the importance of keeping that heritage around even though the space is under new ownership. Mr. Most stated that the owners are
in the food service industry and that they would probably operate that aspect of it. The musical aspect of the restaurant is still being assessed but a musical component will be present. Mr. Most added that the intent of the owners is to replicate the historical aspect of the lounge.

Mr. Atkins expressed additional concerns regarding the name of the location and made the point that the owner’s original statement was that the establishment would be a jazz club. Ms. Tyus asked if the name of the establishment will be Kingston Lounge. Mr. Most said that it would as it was a requirement of the NYC Department of City Planning. Mr. Ellis stated that the intent behind the requirement of DCP was to preserve the live music element of the establishments’ heritage. Mr. Witherwax added that the committee wants to make sure that the live music component be maintained despite changing dynamics of establishments over time.

Mr. Atkins then made an amendment to the original motion to add that the recommendation sent to the State Liquor Authority include the word “jazz”. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and failed with a final vote of 15 in favor, 22 opposed, with no abstentions.

Ms. Tyus reminded the community that the documentation presented before the committee specified that the establishment will be a Jazz club.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation with the inclusion of the understanding that the applicant will move forward with a live music component. The motion was seconded by Ms. Banks and carried to a final vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

2. Application to LPC for a CoA for a Rooftop Enlargement at 299 Park Place (Prospect Heights Historic District)

Mr. Demetrios Comodromos, R.A. of Method Design presented owner Charles Walter’s proposal to enlarge an existing rooftop addition to accommodate a hot tub. Mr. Comodromos explained that a mock-up of the enlargement was done previously prior to the new requirement for Alteration Type 3 applications to prepare mock-ups to demonstrate whether the planned addition will be visible from the sidewalk. The mock-up will be done again to satisfy LPCs requirements. The parapet will be raised 18” to equal the mandated 44” height of a safety railing. The Committee had questions regarding whether hot tub users will be visible from ground level in the backyards of the doughnut hole. Mr. Comodromos averred that notice has been sent to the abutting neighbors and copies of said notices provided to the CB 8 Office. Mr. Veconi, as PHNDC representative, indicated that the project plans have not been shared with the Prospect Heights neighbors; but that PHNDC would meet and review this project prior to the May full Board meeting.

Given the uncertainty regarding the visibility of the planned enlargement, Ms. Young moved to table the item. Ms. Granville seconded the motion; and the Committee voted 16 in favor with one abstention to table the proposal. Mr. Comodromos agreed to return to the Committee’s June meeting.

Mr. Veconi made a correction to the item by clarifying that the plans were shared with PHNDC but PHNDC did not meet with the applicant to discuss them. Prior to the meeting they did however make recommendations to the applicant.

Mr. Ellis made the motion to ratify the letter and table the item so that the applicant can return in June for review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and carried unanimously with 38 in favor.
3. Application to LPC for a CoA for Vertical and Rear Enlargements at 993 Sterling Place (Crown Heights North Historic District)

Ling Li, R.A. presented owner, Candice Cho Colucci’s (aka 993 Sterling LLC) plan to a build a two-story rear addition and a one-story vertical addition which has 12’ front yard set-back which will match the existing height of 995 Sterling Place. The building is a two-story Romanesque-Revival style row house, designed by Axel Hedman and built c. 1899. Although Ms. Li presented an animated 3D mock-up attempting to demonstrate that the proposed additions will not be visible from the street, several neighbors attended the meeting and complained that the additions actually will be visible from Sterling Place, New York Avenue and Park Place. The project purportedly does not change the existing front façade and details of the building (except for the additional story as shown on p. 9 of the applicant’s presentation). The plan will replace the current white windows to match the existing dark brown window frames of the neighboring buildings and to restore the historical-style windows. Ms. Young of the Crown Heights North Association provided a copy of a letter to Ms. Li refusing support for the project. Ms. Young also presented a petition of 42 signatures requesting that these horizontal and vertical additions be rejected based on the substantial adverse impact it will have on the intact streetscape of this quiet block. Ms. Li said the overall plan would convert the existing two-story, one-family brownstone into a four-unit building. The DoB file shows a rejected plan to convert the building to five units. On motion made by Ms. Banks and seconded by Ms. Young to withhold support for the project, the Committee voted 16 in favor, with none against and no abstentions, and the Committee hopes the full Board will follow its recommendation. Ms. Li indicated that they do not have a date for a hearing at LPC and that she would prepare a shading study.

Mr. Ellis made the motion to support the committees’ recommendation to withhold support of the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote of 37 in favor, none opposed, with 1 abstention.

Ms. Granville announced that the Housing /ULURP Committee will be divided into two separate committees, the Housing Committee and the Land Use Committee. Ms. Granville will chair the Housing Advocacy Committee until September when Adam Sachs will be appointed Committee Chair. The first meeting of the Housing Advocacy Committee will be May 10, 2017 at 6 PM. at CNR. Ms. Granville announced that Ms. Tyus will chair the Land Use Committee.

The next Land Use committee will meet on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

M-CROWN Sub-Committee Update

Mr. Veconi provided an update on the progress toward having the area rezoned for mixed use – light manufacturing, commercial and residential. CB 8’s proposal includes the ability to transfer development rights and obligations within the zone (the six-block area bounded by Grand Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Franklin Avenue and Bergen Street). In order to more fully inform the community’s position on the details of the proposal needed to move it forward, interested Board members are asked to attend the next Land Use Sub-Committee/M-CROWN Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at CNR at 6:30 PM.

The next M-CROWN Sub-committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. It will include an update from the Dept. of City Planning and a presentation from Urban Fellow Nina Psoncak.
**Parks & Recreation Committee** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 6 PM at St. John’s Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

**Public Safety Committee** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair; Mr. Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair

The Public Safety committee met on Monday, April 17, 2017 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. In addition to the Chair Shalawn Langhorne present were, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Mark Thurton, P.O. Green and Xeerxeema Jordan.

The committee discussed crime rates within the vicinity of the 77th Precinct. Mr. Thurton reported information from the NYPD Crime Statistics. He stated that the crime rate has decreased and that no murders have been reported for the year 2017.

Police Officer Green of Community Affairs Unit at the 77th Precinct stated that they are preparing for the annual J’ouvert festival and Labor Day Parade and they have been working closely with event planners to ensure safety measures are in place for its participants.

Mr. Thurton stated that several intersections along Eastern Parkway have missing “No Walk” or “Don’t Walk” signals. He has submitted complaints to the Department of Transportation in hopes of them installing these signals at the intersections of Eastern Parkway/Bedford Ave, Eastern Parkway/Rogers Avenue and Eastern Parkway/New York Avenue.

Ms. Langhorne announced that in June the committee will have representatives from various city and state agencies present to give updates on public safety issues as they relate to the community and “Raise the Age” legislature.

Ms. Langhorne also announced that on May 16, 2017 the Brooklyn Movement Center will be hosting their “Beyond Policing” event at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue at 6PM.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6 PM at the 78th Precinct which is located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Seniors Committee** – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair


The committee discussed the Senior Home-Sharing Program which is a state and city funded program offered to senior homeowners and those seeking shelter. The program matches seniors with suitable roommates, ages 60 and above. The rents collected help homeowners manage their bills. The goal of the program is to reduce foreclosures and help seniors keep their homes. The program has been around for many years and has been utilized in some areas of Brooklyn such as Sheepshead Bay. It is now being introduced to Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights residents. The program is run by a non-profit organization called the New York State Foundation for Senior Citizens (NYSFSC). For additional information about the Senior Home-Sharing program please call 212-962-7559.
Ms. Branch-Muhammed announced the upcoming gardening event at Weeksville Gardens Community Center which will be held on Friday, May 19, 2017 at 1640 Pacific Street from 11AM to 1PM. All were invited to participate.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All, regardless of age, are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice-Chair

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, May 1, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair James Ellis, present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, Fred Frazier, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Sheryl Vassell, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon and Deborah Young

The committee discussed the following applications:

1. **Renewal Applications**
   a. Sumi Sushi, 287 Flatbush Avenue (St. Marks Avenue/Prospect Place) -- beer/wine
   b. Ode to Babel, 772 Dean Street (Washington Avenue/Underhill Avenue) – full
   c. Bearded Lady, 686 Washington Avenue (corner St. Marks Avenue) – full
   d. Café Rue Dix, 1451 Bedford Avenue (corner of Park Place) -- full

The committee voted to support all four renewal applications in the hopes that the full Board support its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final vote of 33 in favor, none opposed, with 5 abstentions.

2. **New Applications**
   a. Café Nyneve, 105 Kingston Avenue (Dean Street/Bergen Street) – beer/wine
      i. Proposed hours: 8 am-12 am, 7 days a week; breakfast, lunch, dinner
      ii. 74 seats total, all two tops (bar is just a counter, no seats); no outdoor space or sidewalk café
      iii. They pulled Certificate of Occupancy for 103 Kingston, but 103 & 105 are connected on the same lots; applicant is in the process of getting a Letter of No Objection (LNO)
      iv. Owners plan on filing for sidewalk café in the future (Mr. Staton noted there was sidewalk café set up, but owners say they are not using)
      v. acoustic performances by local artists (there’s a piano); installing special foam in ceiling for soundproofing. Performances would be 1 or 2 times a week from 6-11 PM

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the application as presented. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked if the establishment has a sidewalk café. Mr. Ellis responded that an application for use of the outdoor space will be submitted at a later time.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final vote of 34 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.
b. Crown Pacific Café, 75 Utica Avenue (corner of Pacific Street) -- beer/wine  
i. Proposed hours: Sun 12pm -10 pm, Mon-Thurs 8 am – 9 pm, Fri and Sat 8 am -11 pm  
ii. currently in operation but with no alcohol service  
iii. there is backyard space that can seat 15-20, but not currently in use  
iv. Committee recommends submitting application for indoors only, removing backyard until we can see schematics and proof that neighbors have been notified about outdoor seating

The committee voted 13 in favor of supporting the application without the use of the outdoor space. It hopes the full Board supports its application.

Mr. Mensah asked if outdoor service will be available. Mr. Ellis responded that their current application prohibits service in the outdoor area.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote of 34 in favor, none opposed, with 5 abstentions.

c. Crabby Shack, 613 Franklin Avenue (Dean Street/Bergen Street) – full (upgrading from beer/wine)  
i. Hours of operation: 11 am -11 pm Sun – Thur; Fri & Sat 11 am -12 am; they want to start opening for lunch. Total seating 25 people 
ii. Owners are interested in creating batch drinks: margaritas, rum drinks, etc.  
iii. Owners in process of getting sidewalk space approved for 18 seats. Proposed sidewalk hours 11 am - 11 pm, 7 days a week  
iv. This will trigger a 500 ft hearing; community benefit is that they are the only restaurant in neighborhood serving crab/this style of food, and neighbors are asking for lunch hours

The committee voted 15 in favor of supporting the application and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

A resident asked if official notification of the proposed usage of the outdoor area had been given to the community. The owner responded that they did indeed notify their neighbors by sending them letters and in addition reached out to surrounding business owners.

Ms. Wedderburn made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried to a final vote of 35 in favor, none opposed, with 4 abstentions.

d. Bottle Rocket, 794 Nostrand Avenue (St. Johns Place/Lincoln Place) – full  
i. Proposed hours: 9 am- 12 am Sunday, 10 am – 12 am Mon – Wed, 10 am – 2 am Thur & Friday, 9 am – 2 am Saturday  
ii. There will be security on Thursdays as well as Fri & Sat  
iii. no outdoor space  
iv. Live music, acoustic only 8 pm – 2 am. Committee members pointed out that some amplification would be realistically needed; the applicant agreed to add to application

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the application with the condition that the music ceases at midnight Sunday thru Thursday and at 1 AM Friday and Saturday. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Wedderburn inquired about the origin of the establishment’s name. The representative responded that it originated from a movie title. Mr. Veconi then asked if bottle service will be offered by the establishment. Mr. Ellis stated the establishment will offer single service only.
Ms. Sheffey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and carried to a final vote of 36 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

e. Diwan Grill, 678 Franklin Avenue (St. Marks Avenue/Prospect Place) – beer/wine
   i. Proposed hours: 11:30 am - 10:30 PM daily
   ii. There is an outdoor space, but their lease does not include use of backyard, it’s for garbage
   iii. Security cameras in future but not installed now
   iv. There is a Letter of No Objection for the building

The committee 15 in favor of supporting the application with an amendment to change the closing hours to 12 AM Monday thru Saturday. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

A resident asked if there were any plans for the usage of the outdoor space because there is construction occurring. Mr. Witherwax responded that there are currently no plans for the usage of the outdoor space. Ms. Sheffey clarified that the outdoor construction is occurring at the establishment next door from Diwan Grill.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committees’ recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried to a final vote of 34 in favor, none opposed, with 4 abstentions.

3. Sidewalk Café Applications

   a. DoraLu, 637 Nostrand Avenue – full
      i. indoor operations had been previously approved; owner was present to present her plans for a sidewalk café and simultaneously obtain support for an alteration application to allow for alcohol service at the café
      ii. Hours of operation: 11 am – 11 pm 7 days a week; 9 tables with 18 seats
      iii. no outdoor music
      iv. Significant discussion about sidewalk space—specifically distance between service corridor and tree pit

The committee voted 15 in favor of supporting the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

A resident expressed concerns about notification of this application as she resides on the same block of the establishment and had no knowledge of their application to the State Liquor Authority. Mr. Ellis clarified that the applicant is only required to notify adjacent and neighboring buildings of their establishment. The resident expressed strong opposition of so many commercial businesses along Nostrand Avenue being granted liquor licenses. Mr. Ellis made note that Community Boards only play an advisory role when it comes to Liquor License applications.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried to a final vote of 25 in favor, 5 opposed, with 7 abstentions.

The next SLAC meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Transportation Committee – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Dr. Fred Monderson, Chair and Robert Witherwax,
Vice-Chair, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Holly Fuchs, Phu Duong, Jacqueline Wells, Meredith Staton, Elizabeth Haynes, Regina Kinsey, Elijah Gray, Robert LaPointe, Deborah Young, Greg Todd, Desmond Atkins, Tom Boast, Adam Sachs, Alan Gerber, Mark Thurton, Irsa Weatherspoon, Frances Langley, Cherie Washington, Linda Ferrette, Kwasi Mensah, James Ellis, Valerie Nero-Reid, Mary Grannum, Edison Stewart and Isaac Biesenstein.

The committee discussed the Department of Transportation’s preliminary plan for the newly proposed CitiBike rack locations in Community District 8. Representatives from DOT were in attendance and announced the following locations for CitiBike racks:

**Sidewalk Locations**
- North Side of Park Place, West of Vanderbilt Avenue
- West Side of Underhill Avenue, South of St. Johns Place
- South Side of Pacific Street, West of Bedford Avenue (Armory Lot)
- South Side of Prospect Place, East of Underhill Avenue
- North Side of St. Marks Avenue, West of Rogers Avenue
- North Side of St. Johns Place, West of Washington Avenue
- North Side of Pacific Street, North of Classon Avenue
- South Side of St. Marks Avenue, West of Classon Avenue
- North Side of Prospect Place, East of Franklin Avenue

**Roadbed Locations**
- East Side or Carlton Avenue, East of Dean Street
- South Side Lincoln Place, East of Classon Avenue
- North Side of Bergen Street, East of Vanderbilt Avenue
- Lowery Triangle, East Side of Underhill Avenue
- South Side of Eastern Parkway (Service Road), East of Franklin Avenue
- South Side of Bergen Street, West of Classon Avenue
- South Side of Sterling Place, East of Bedford Avenue
- West Side of Franklin Avenue, South of St. Marks Avenue

A Department of Transportation (DOT) representative also announced that the official presentation would be available tomorrow on DOT’s website at [www.nyc.gov/bikeshare](http://www.nyc.gov/bikeshare) and the community was encouraged to give feedback within the next few weeks because the plan will be finalized in June 2017.

The next Transportation committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. DOT will present the preliminary locations for the CitiBike stations in District 8. All are invited to attend.

**Youth and Education Committee** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair Sharon Wedderburn, and Vice-Chair, Kwasi Mensah, present were: Audrey Taitt-Hall, Laurel Dagrosa, Desmond Atkins, Yves Vilus, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adjua Starks, Keisha Jacobs, Pamela Harmon, and Nequan.
The committee discussed the upcoming College Fair, which is set to take place in October 2017. The exact day in October and location is still being determined. The goal of the College Fair is to address educational development in students of all grade levels. Ms. Taitt-Hall suggested that the Community Education Council (CEC) become a sponsor. The committee also discussed ways that they can organize workshops to make the College Fair more appealing to parents.

Mr. Atkins reminded the committee about the importance of civics classes being made available to students because they would allow for a greater appreciation of how government works. Ms. Wedderburn added that youth should actively participate in the Participatory Budgeting process so that they would gain the opportunity to see tangible results from active civic participation.

Ms. Wedderburn announced that on April 6, 2017, Chancellor Farina held a town hall for School District 17. He reported that there are currently 100 schools teaching algebra to 5th graders. He encourages parents to contact the School District 17 office to find out where these schools are.

The next Youth and Education committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and opened the floor for Elected Official Representatives and Public Comments.

**Elected Official Representatives/Public Comments**

Mrs. Bella Pori from Assemblyman Mosley’s office stated that tomorrow, May 12, the Assemblyman will be having a Mother’s Day Lunch at 12 PM, at his office at 55 Hanson Place. Also, on May 16th at 6:30 PM, the Assemblyman will be having Town Hall on Facebook Live. The beauty of the Facebook Live Town Hall is that you do not have to leave your home to participate. Simply log on to [www.Facebook.com/assemblymanwaltermosley](http://www.Facebook.com/assemblymanwaltermosley)

Mr. Leroy Reid wished everyone a Happy Mother’s Day.

Mr. Duane Frankson announced that Berean Community Baptist Church is getting ready to open a new space in August. At the Berean Community and Family Life Center building on Bergen Street and Rochester Avenue, they are looking to open a health and wellness center. It will be a “three by three” design center, and Berean is asking the community what programs and services would be best used in that space. They would like to do more surveys and conduct more interviews with community residents to determine what to do with the space.

Mr. Malcolm Bliss of Solarize Crown Heights, a program sponsored by Senator Jesse Hamilton and the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, is a program designed to make solar energy an option for as many homes as possible for a number of reasons. First, solar energy reduces your carbon footprint, you pay less in electricity bills, and there are many tax breaks available. As an example of tax breaks, he stated that you get a $5,000 break from New York State and reduction in your property taxes. There are also federal tax breaks available as well. He directed everyone’s attention to the CB 8 newsletter, which has pertinent information on the program and information on how to apply. He also distributed flyers and information on the program.

Ms. Elisa Heligar from Senator Hamilton’s office announced that May is Mental Health Month. In reference to that, the Senator is hosting the Reflection of Hope award where individuals and organizations that help people
suffering from mental illness are honored. The event will be held on Thursday, May 25th from Noon to 3 PM at Metropolitan College of New York located at 60 West Street, Manhattan. Also, the Senator is still offering free legal immigration services in his office. Call 718-284-4700 to schedule an appointment.

Mr. Jess Moss of the Bergen Street Block Association, thanked CB 8 and the electeds for their assistance in helping oppose what would be the 30th shelter in Crown Heights at 1173 Bergen Street. He stated that since the scheduled opening in March, they have won 3 restraining orders delaying the opening. The next court date is this coming Monday, May 15th at Brooklyn Supreme Court. The Block Association is organizing a community meeting at Bedford Central Church in the coming days. Mr. Moss referenced a DNA info article where the Dept. of Homeless Services criticized Crown Heights for opposing the shelter while praising Park Slope residents for reaching out to them to open dialogue. He asked how the community could work proactively with DHS on any future shelter openings in CB 8 if they are going to criticize us for opposing new shelters on the grounds of over saturation. He asked if CB 8 can respond officially to the DHS criticism and praise of CB 6 when the circumstances are entirely different.

Mr. Jonny Reed from ID Shield stated that ID Shield is a comprehensive restoration plan if your identity is stolen. It does not just focus on finances as other companies do, but focuses on everything that matters to you. The program is backed with a $5 million service guarantee. Mr. Reed stated that shredding your important information is not enough to stop thieves from stealing your identity as they have machinery that can reassemble shredded documents.

Mr. Desmond Atkins thanked CB 8 for working for many years to have Bergen Street repaved. This season, the Board managed to expedite the paving of Bergen Street from Albany to New York Avenues. Traffic now passes down the street quietly and the houses no longer shake from heavy traffic. Residents on these blocks have been waiting over 5 years for this. He stated that when the building shakes, it means the city has not taken the time to properly maintain their streets.

He reiterated Mr. Moss’ point that Prospect Heights and Board 6 were praised for working with DHS and Prospect Heights praised for accepting 174 Prospect Place, a new shelter. What DHS failed to mention was that Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) had come before the Board many months before they were scheduled to open and had informed us of their plans. They met with the block association and the elected officials to tell them program specifics. The same did not happen with Core Services at 1173 Bergen Street.

Ms. Robyn Berland, member of Friends of Brower Park, announced a special event in Brower Park on Sunday, May 21st, the anniversary of the day Shirley Chisolm ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress. She distributed flyers for the event and asked everyone to come out and speak about their dreams for this country and their experiences. The event will be held from Noon to 4 PM.

Mr. Jerry Polanski announced a free refrigerator replacement service for income qualified people. As part of the program, you can get free energy efficient lightbulbs and other Energy Star items to make your home more energy efficient.
Ms. Karen Chambers from the Kings County District Attorney’s office thanked CB 8 for their assistance in advertising the Begin Again program recently held. 600 people came out to Begin Again in April and 400 warrants were cleared.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel from the Borough President’s office announced that June is Caribbean Heritage Month. There will be a Men’s Health Symposium and Expo. We need men and women to come out to this event even though it is geared toward men. Women are a driving force in men’s lives and are needed to convince them to take care of their health. Mr. McDaniel also announced that our regular CB 8 rep, Ms. Kathleen Daniel, stepped down from her position for a while she runs for office in the 41st Council District. However, you can reach out to him at 718-802-2681 or call his cell at 917-942-1692.

Dr. Fred Monderson announced that Medgar Evers College has opened an exhibit on the body of his work in the archives room. He encouraged everyone to visit the exhibit.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements and asked for the report from the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Interim Chair

Ms. Weatherspoon stated that all the votes have been tabulated and the following officers have been elected as the new Executive Body of Community Board 8:

Chairperson: Ms. Nizjoni Granville
1st Vice Chair: Ms. Shalawn Langhorne
2nd Vice Chair: Mr. Robert Witherwax
3rd Vice Chair: Mr. James Ellis
Secretary: Ms. LeeAnn Banks
Treasurer: Ms. Ethel Tyus
Sergeant at Arms: Mr. Wayne Bailey

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Weatherspoon and the committee for their work on the Nominating Committee. She also stated that the community missed a very good Housing Committee meeting last night. Despite the wealth of information distributed, there were only about 12 people present. Hopefully, we will have more people at the next meeting. She urged more community participation because we need people to express their concerns for the community for it is extremely hard for 50 people to speak for a community with nearly 100,000 residents. The work is done in committee. She encouraged visitors to visit the CB 8 website at www.brooklyncb8.org to learn more about the committees and to obtain a meeting schedule.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7 PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.
| GUESTS |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Hazel Hurley    | Shirley Mondesir| Adjua Starks    |
| Ainslee Dublin  | Kesha Harmin    | Stacie Joyner   |
| Carolyn Johnson | Leroy Gripper   | Theresa Midburn |
| Susan Silverman | Cassandre Davilmar | Audrey Thomas |
| Marva Babel     | Isaiah Michael  | Tayo Belle      |
| Dorothy Bembry-Guet | Jordan Most | Makeba Junior   |
| Patrick Britton | Nynere Minnear  | Regina Kinsey   |
| Malcolm Bliss   | Yaneth Lombana  | Yasmin Schwartz |
| Denis DeVerteuil | Haratia Trahan | Jarrell Brandon |
| Leroy Reid      | Charles Hickman | Kahlil Winslow |
| William Frierson| Sandrina George | Cindy Bradshaw |
| Akosua Albritton| M. Scott        | Roger Myers     |
| Nilen Alexander | Chuck Moss      | Stephanie O. Oluku |
| Hui Li          | Katharine Perko | Becca Brenman   |
| Roy Simmons     |                 |                 |